

Will there be a community building on the Newcastle Great Park?

- Yes, discussions are ongoing about where it should be and the range of services and facilities there. No decisions have been made yet and we would welcome any suggestions or ideas that you have. We will be establishing a 'Community Facilities' community panel, which will look at community buildings and play areas.
- If you would like to be involved in the panel contact me on the details at the end of the newsletter. Don't worry if you're not on the panel. I'll keep you informed on the Newcastle City, Newcastle Great Park web page. (see the end of the newsletter).
- Your closest library will be the new Gosforth Customer Service Centre and Library that opened recently.

The opening times for the library are:

Monday to Thursday	8.30am – 8.00pm
Friday	8.30am – 5.00pm
Saturday	9.00am – 5.00pm
Sunday	10.00am – 2.00pm

The Police also do a Surgery at the Customer Service Centre on the first Wednesday of each month 3pm – 5pm.



Will there continue to be more information and consultation with residents?

- As discussed in the last Newcastle Great Park Newsletter, our job is to make sure that as the population grows, people are able to get involved in its future planning. We are developing a number of ways to make sure this happens.
- As you are aware we held our first update event in October. Our next update event is in May 2008. You'll be kept informed.
- A researcher has been out asking your views on what your priorities are for the Newcastle Great Park community fund. This information will be used to signpost residents to existing community activities and facilities. Where none exist, groups and organisations will be encouraged to take forward priorities and apply for the funding.
- The Newcastle Great Park Advisory Committee is developing community panels. There will be 3 panels working on different themes. They include:

Open spaces i.e. ecology, landscaping and water courses

Transport, accessibility and the town centre

Community Facilities i.e. community facilities and play areas

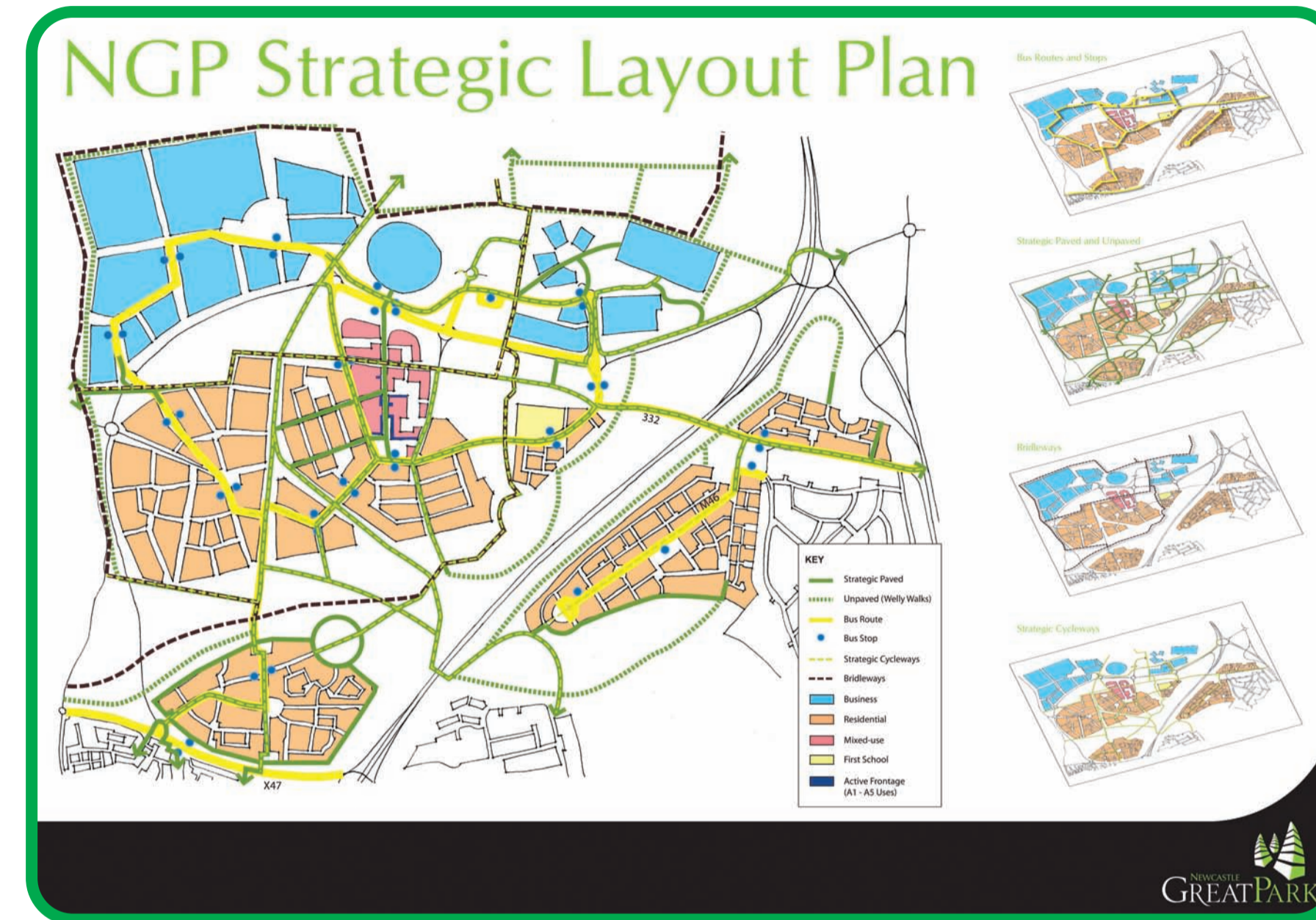
The community panels will help shape the Newcastle Great Park as it develops to meet the community's needs. If you would like to be involved in any of the panels contact Sue Wannop (see end of the newsletter). If you have already given a researcher or Sue your contact details Sue will keep them on file until we are in a position to form the panels.

- We have developed a web page for the Newcastle Great Park on the Newcastle City Council website.
The link is www.newcastle.gov.uk/greatpark

- We also have an Newcastle Great Park email address that you can pass on your comments and issues:
great.park@newcastle.gov.uk

Where are the future developments on the Newcastle Great Park?

Good news! We have approved planning permission for the school and Eastern Village. Plans for the first part of the local centre are also progressing.



Useful Contacts

The Newcastle Great Park web page is on the Newcastle City Council website:
The link is www.newcastle.gov.uk/greatpark

The Newcastle Great Park email address to pass on your comments and issues:
great.park@newcastle.gov.uk

If you would like to contact me about any of the above articles you can do this by:

Telephone: Sue Wannop on (0191) 211 6263
Email: sue.wannop@newcastle.gov.uk

Newcastle Great Park email:
great.park@newcastle.gov.uk

Or you can write to me at:
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Newcastle Great Park Community News

April 2008



Welcome to the second edition of 'Newcastle Great Park Community News'.

Update Event

In October we held a drop-in event at St. Aidan's Church at Brunton Park to give you an update on the Newcastle Great Park's future plans. A range of officers was there from Newcastle City Council and partner organisations to talk to you on a one to one basis. They included:

- The consortium (the developers)
- Planners
- School planning team
- Community facility support (community buildings)
- The Travel Plan Officer
- The Highway Adoptions Officer
- Plus a range of other services offered by Newcastle City Council

The response to the event was really positive with 150 people attending. The following questions were raised at the event.

What is happening with Public Transport?

A new Transport Working Group made up from Newcastle City Council, a representative from the North Gosforth Parish Council, the consortium and the Public Transport Authority Nexus will be looking at the transport plans for the Newcastle Great Park. They'll be looking at public transport information and accessibility.

- A public transport review is also currently being undertaken by the consortium and Nexus.
- We are pushing ahead to start a Park and Ride scheme on the Newcastle Great Park, which will take you to the city centre. The site is east of Sage. The operation of this is currently being considered.
- Some residents have said that free travel was promised by the consortium. This was not part of the development agreement. The consortium did subsidise the 332 service to Sage. Residents are able to use this bus service.
- Others thought that a Metro station and line would serve the Newcastle Great Park. This may be confused with the Metro complementary route which is planned and will provide a bus service to the Metro at Kingston Park and Regent Centre.
- You can access current Newcastle Great Park bus timetables on the Newcastle City Council, Newcastle Great Park web page. The link is: www.newcastle.gov.uk/greatpark

How will we encourage sustainable travel routes as an alternative to using cars and public transport?

- Sustainable routes such as cycle lanes and tracks will appear in and around the Newcastle Great Park as it develops.
- Cycle literature will be available as the sustainable routes are developed and proactive and effective promotion of the cycle lanes and tracks will be encouraged.
- Existing cycle lanes on the Newcastle Great Park will be enforced. Information on abuse, such as parking in the lanes, will be passed to the Police.
- We will ask for your views shortly on public transport and sustainable travel via the 'Transport accessibility and town centre' community panel. Don't worry if you are not part of the panel as we will also ask your views on the Newcastle City Council, Great Park web page www.newcastle.gov.uk/greatpark



Why is the Council not responsible for highways and lighting?

- Until we take over responsibility for the maintenance of the roads and street lighting, Melbury and Warkworth Woods remain private developments owned by the consortium and they are responsible for maintaining them.
- We are working towards adopting roads and street lighting. With the co-operation of the consortium, we expect the Warkworth Woods agreement to be in place by May 2008. Once there is an adoption agreement for Melbury, then this will take place in stages.
- Before final adoption, we will be working with the consortium to resolve issues with street name plates, lighting, highways and parking throughout the developments. After formal adoption, we will maintain the agreed areas of highway and lighting. Meanwhile, if you have any street lighting problems, please contact the consortium officer on **0191 217 3860** or **Sue Wannop on 211 6263** or email us on: great.park@newcastle.gov.uk

What is happening now about traffic issues?

- The consortium is constructing a speed table on Barmoor Drive to help slow traffic down. This will be monitored to see how successful it is. Northumbria Police would also like you to know that they will be active in controlling traffic speed on the estate.
- Parked cars on Brunton Lane to the east side of the A1 are causing problems for residents. Parking surveys have shown us that there are problems at the junctions of Warkworth Woods and Melbury. Also people are parking in the cycle lanes. We intend to introduce double yellow lines at the junctions of Warkworth Woods and Melbury which will also cover the cycle lanes where they emerge on to Brunton Lane. This will keep the road clear for cyclists.
- The Police remind you that it is an offence to cause an obstruction or park dangerously. There must be enough room for emergency services. Some residents are also ignoring the 'No Entry - except buses and cycles', signs on Featherstone Grove. Please respect them.
- We are also investigating access to the west of the A1 on Brunton Lane. The Transport Working Group will be looking at this issue more closely. This will be subject to public consultation in due course.
- Comments have been made about off-road bikes on the Greenside site which is off Kingston Park road. To stop them the consortium has put up signs to say 'No Bikes' and have also employed security guards to patrol the site along with the Police. We are paying for a metal stile to stop the bikes getting on to the land.

What else is happening about Policing on the Newcastle Great Park?

- There will be more visible policing on the estates other than just responding to crime - though, we do need to reassure you that there is a low crime level in the area.
- The Police will attend the Newcastle Great Park Residents' Association meetings whenever they can with crime statistics. If you are interested in joining the Residents' Association or have issues to raise, **contact Andy Robson mobile 07962138797 or Dick Godfrey on (0191) 2170225.**
- There will also be a link to the Police website on the Newcastle City Council, Newcastle Great Park web page (see previous link).
- If you want to speak to the local Beat Manager ring **08456043043** and ask for the Beat Manager who is responsible for the Newcastle Great Park.



What are the results from the noise survey?

- There have been a number of recent concerns about traffic noise from the A1 affecting homes. Residents of Brunton Mews raised concerns about traffic noise from the A1 affecting their homes because of the widening of the carriageway and installation of the noise bund on the east side of the A1. Whilst new home owners on the Great Park had concerns about traffic noise being audible from within their homes.
- Our Environmental Health Officers have carried out noise monitoring over a four to five day period at each of these locations to investigate these problems.
- Noise levels at Brunton Mews properties were found to be 59dB(A) i.e. less than half the value that would trigger a Land Compensation Act claim for noise intrusion from a new road. Noise levels at the Brunton Mews properties were increased by planes coming into land at Newcastle Airport. Internal noise levels within the homes were found to meet the World Health Organisation 'good noise criteria' both during the day and at night. The garden areas marginally failed to meet the good criteria because of the open views across the fields onto the A1.
- The noise assessment for new homes in the Sharperton Drive area showed that noise levels were within PPG24 noise exposure category A. This means that noise levels are so low as to not require any special sound insulation treatment and the design of the houses has more than achieved the original design criteria for internal and external noise climates.
- One of the ways that noise from the A1 may be reduced is by laying a noise reducing road surface. We will lobby the Highways Agency to include this in their forward plans for the carriageway maintenance.

If you require a full noise survey, contact Ed Foster using the details at the end of the newsletter.

What is happening with the new first school?

- The new school will be located at the east end of Brunton Lane, south of the existing properties and west of the A1. You will be able to see the school location on the map at the end of the newsletter.
- Brunton First School will open in September 2009. It will initially be for three year groups, reception and years one and two, extending to five years on a year by year basis. There will also be a private nursery on the same site.
- There is a temporary governing body which includes residents from the Newcastle Great Park. Their first job is to recruit a Head Teacher and in due course other staff.
- Newcastle City Council will own the land and building and the Governing Body will manage the school.

Will there be noise from the school?

- A sound barrier will be created by planting trees between the rear of the existing properties and the school boundary. The type of trees used will be Hazel, Hawthorn, Holly, Blackthorn, Dog Rose, Elder and Guelder Rose. When planted they will be between 40-60cms high. After 15 years the maximum height will be four metres. For those living near the school the noise level from the school should be minimal and limited to certain times of the day.
- Residents have raised concerns about the proximity of overhead cables to the school. The overhead cables will not pass close to the school site. There have also been concerns from residents about potential increased vermin whilst the school is developed. As construction work is not disturbing existing sewers there will be no increased vermin beyond that found on a normal building site.

How do I get my child into the new school?

- If you wish your child to join the new school in September 2009, application forms will be available from September 2008 from the Schools Admissions and Transfers Team 0191 277 7428 or email admissions.education@newcastle.gov.uk or you can get them from another local school.



What is the tree strategy for the Newcastle Great Park?

- As for the Newcastle Great Park as a whole, the consortium's plan is to extend the woodland from the plantations north of Brunton Lane, so that a link is made between the woodland at Gosforth Park and at Woollington Park. This will not be a continuous belt, but a more interesting mix of woodland and open space. Also there are proposals for woodland in the Ouseburn Valley. This will extend the range from the current mix of conifer and mixed plantations, to include oak-ash woodland, alder and willow carr. This spread of woodland will be supported by extensive planting of hedgerows and trees.
- Approximately a quarter of a million trees will be planted on the Newcastle Great Park. To date about 60,000 have been planted.
- You will be able to find out more about tree planting on the Newcastle Great Park at an update event we intend holding in May. You can find out more about the event later in the newsletter.

