

Newsletter 1

May 2010



Shieldfield Green Udecide

A fresh approach, a fresh look at the Green but **Udecide** what goes ahead...

Shieldfield Green is the biggest piece of open space in Shieldfield and has a long and important history in the area – funding has now been secured to make improvements to the Green to enhance the area and offer more people the opportunity to enjoy this important local facility.

Shieldfield Green Udecide is a new project which will help to connect you, your ideas and hopes for the Green with the £100,000 of investment money that is available for improvements.

This leaflet has been prepared to let you know about the project, answer some frequently asked questions and tell you how you can get involved...

What is a Udecide project?

It is a way of giving people the power to decide how a certain pot of money is spent so it can make the biggest difference to their community. The process of making those decisions is called a Udecide project.

Why Shieldfield Green Udecide?

People have been talking about what would improve the Green for many years but it is only now that funding has become available – the Udecide process is very open and inclusive and works hard to make sure that everyone's voice is heard.

Where did the funding come from?

Over £100,000 of funding has been provided by the developers working on the site on Back New Bridge Street. The money is paid by the developer to the City Council as part of the planning permission for their development – it has a specific purpose, in this case it is to provide improvements to open space in Shieldfield.

What is happening?

The first stage of the project was to get a working group together and they met for the first time in March. The working group will plan and run the project. This group is made up of people who live and work in the area. A list of the members appears at the end of the leaflet but we would also like to hear from anyone else who would like to join. If you are interested in getting involved please contact the Udecide team.

The second stage is to plan and run lots of opportunities to find out what local residents and people who use the Green think about the space now and what it could be like with money spent on it.

The next stage is to turn all those ideas into some design options and then get you involved in choosing the best option.

When will it happen?

The working group has started to meet – the first event they are planning which is to raise awareness and open the consultation will be on the Green itself on **Saturday 29th May** – look out for the posters and information and put the date in your diary!

The consultation will continue through community meetings, drop-ins, school projects and street based work through to the end of July. Designs and options will be worked up and we hope to get you involved with the decision making in the autumn of this year.



How can I be involved?

You can share your ideas about the Green with us at any of the meetings and events we organise – look out for posters and leaflets in the area or contact Udecide or any member of the Working Group for details.

Make sure we have taken your contact details down because once options have been drawn up, we'll contact you and invite to take part in the decision making.

Who is on the Working Group for the Shieldfield Green Udecide?

Local residents:

Anne Clark; Brian Neal; David Gilchrist; Carlos Sabido; Juliette Strange; Norah Sweeney.

People who work in the area:

Ann Hind, Gill Snowdon; Dawn Henderson; Father Allan Marks; Cass Winlow; Peter Wood; Sheila Furno; Gail Sexton; local councillors.

Organisations and groups supporting the project:

Groundwork; the Udecide Team, Northumbria University; Christ Church and St Anne's Parish, Caring Hands Charity, Your Homes Newcastle.

The working group is co-chaired by Gill Snowdon, YHN Area Housing Manager and Cllr Stephen Psallidas.

Where do I get more information?

Contact the Udecide Team:

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If you need this information in another format or language, please contact Ali Lamb as above.