

**Notes of the WASHINGTON PRIDE MEETING held at The Millennium
Centre, Concord on Friday, 24th November 2006 at 2pm**

Present:-

Councillor Sleightholme - Chair
Councillors Gray, Williams, Whalen, Timmins, Fletcher, W. Stephenson
John Rostron – Community and Cultural Services, Sunderland City Council
John Usher - NEXUS
Vince Hills - NEXUS
Gary Lines – GO NE
Ken Robinson – Northumbria Police
Karen Graham – Development and Regeneration, Sunderland City Council

Apologies

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Fraser Kemp, Sharon Hodgson, Jean Stephenson, James Walker, Inspector Reay.

Notes of the Last Meeting

The notes of the last meeting were accepted as a true record.

Chairman's Report

The Chairman updated the group on the following;
14th April, the British Heart Foundation are looking for volunteers to help with a collection in the Galleries. For more information, contact Cllr Sleightholme.
The Bridge organisation has celebrated its 21st Birthday this week.
There have been more awards in the Washington in Bloom.

Police Report (Sergeant Ken Robertson)

3 month report now

	2005	2006
Burglaries to dwellings	35	76
Shops	72	50
Motor Vehicles	83	53
From motor vehicles	57	41
Violent Crime	248	240

They have arrested two main targets and as a result, there were 4 burglaries in November in total.

The Tavern has changed licence and this is now under review.

Issues – Litter in Concord

Q: If adults are caught dropping litter they will receive a fine, why are children exempt?

A: PCSO's patrols giving priority to public reassurance.

Same in Biddick – Washington Comprehensive,

DS meeting with heads about controlling children at dinnertime.

Washington School has written to all parents regarding litter, reducing dinner breaks in order to keep children in over lunch.

Contractors in Oxclose

Car parking is a danger to children as they could be run over.

LW Chair of Governors – works will go on until April 07. Looking to meet with director of Development and Regeneration to look at area as a whole and extended use of cars.

Going to meet every 2 weeks to look at progress now and when building is finished.

Cllr LW looking at discussions including liaison with residents.

CCTV in Concord

A review of Concord CCTV was requested. The one in the Bus Station is Nexus owned – they have agreed to point it towards the pubs when requested.

Looking for a CCTV at Tavern corner – Police in favour of this.

Disabled Parking – Concord

The enforcement of parking bays not happening – not with badges

- Extend parking and allow disabled badge holders to park in loading bays. As the loading bays are closer to the Funeral Homes and Doctors.
- Need to make people aware this is happening
- Jan-Feb parking orders in place. Consultations will happen on this.

Bill Stephenson – PCSO's

It was asked if there was a chance of getting more in order to lower the level of disorder, more patrols, high visibility.

The group were informed that there would be 2 additions making 6 in total.

A total of 1 Sergeant, 6 Police Constables and 6 PCSO's were located in the North and South areas.

Parking – Blackfell School

It was stated that parents are parking on yellow lines, leaving the engine running whilst going into school to pick up children. It was asked if this was an offence? The group were informed that this was an offence.

The group were informed that the head teacher has been informed of these concerns.

Bus Operators Update on Bus Changes – NEXUS & GO NE

There are issues regarding the reduction in rate of service.

Issues with No.56 bus - Bill Craddock wrote to Martin Harris regarding bus changes and could an alternative bus go along the No. 188 route.

VH – Visited lady whose issues were raised regarding the Donwell link up and taxi link services. A regular service can be set up e.g. every Wednesday afternoon with link up.

Stopped 6 buses, all the Washington buses especially children getting to school and it costs £2.80 taxi fare to get to school.

Taxi Link

77 people in Washington and Birtley

Offer to talk to groups, networks and associations on Link Up and Compass

A passenger had made a complaint after they were left standing at a bus stop by the High Trinity Church in Usworth.

It was stated that in cases like this a taxi should be sent immediately when they know someone is on their own and possibly in danger.

Nexus reiterated that they couldn't influence decisions on bus companies.

They are waiting for legislation to give them more control 'Equality Partnerships'. The PTA letter can look at whole area and what to serve, when and where.

They are looking at increasing the staffing at call centres, they will be providing 2 more buses and they are working with Compass Community Transport to help address the issue of regular group travel.

Compass has 10 vehicles and can be used by any group - community groups, football clubs, regular trips.

Looking to do vehicle coverage with volunteer and community groups

General Issues on Bus Travel

- Why do buses sit for 8 minutes every hour at turn around point rather than continuing the service?
- 491/492 experimental does not go to Galleries or Concord.
- Barmston – no direct service to any city.
- Lack of direct services.
- Express services only stop at Waterview Park instead of Springwell and Barmston.
- Sunday – buses start at Galleries where nobody lives.
- Nexus subsidises morning and evening trips but have had to cut funding for concessionary travel.
- Wrekenton taxi bus serves local area.
- Springwell residents have written a letter to the Director of Regeneration about rectifying services. If they remove cushions and chicanes, then bus companies would reconsider re-routing through Springwell again.
- Harraton – there had been one bus per hour – No. 393 – but that also has been taken off route. A letter of concern had been sent to bus company regarding the elderly and the disabled but in the bus company's reply, it felt that the complaint had not been taken seriously.
- It was pointed out that anyone trying to get Sunderland Royal Hospital for early morning appointments, from Springwell, was finding it very hard indeed.

Go North East are looking to put bus back on through Springwell Village (X2).

PTA Meeting

Nexus commissioned feasibility study on the use of the Leamside Line route. Meeting in Durham County Hall next week.

There are moves to retain this route as a starting point – this is supported by Fraser Kemp. The public need to get behind this i.e. petition and letters to the press.

Report from John Rostron – Sports Services Manager

National Government driving Council services towards neighbourhoods, looking at health and wealth inequalities and getting the whole population more active. By 2020 70% population will be active at least 3 times per week. Building School for the Future and Extended Schools will increase the number of community rooms and their potential uses.

Washington has been chosen as pilot on how to look at community sports and leisure and they are looking at re-directing Sport & Leisure budgets to leisure, wellness and community outreach centres

The first stage is mapping – who, what, where and when of sports and leisure in Washington. They have currently mapped that there are over 150 groups active in and around Washington. There is lots of football and martial arts, but there are 20 types of sport through clubs and fitness centres and over 40 venues including schools, community associations and welfare centres.

They are now looking at where there are gaps in the capacity of centres to try to work out where, when and what extra can fit in.

Council needs partners to get involved in identifying need and capacity and to help deliver training to groups.

The next steps are to present to the Area Committee in the New Year

Q- what are the future plans for the sports facilities Usworth School?

A – The current plans are to demolish the baths and sports hall and will be replaced by sporting facilities – at the minute football pitches.

JR is looking at alternatives for those who currently use Usworth School - he will negotiate on behalf of groups with other providers.

In partnership with Usworth Sixth Form there are discussions about looking at the unused running track and possible reinstatement.

The Millennium Centre is currently undergoing huge works to redevelop sporting equipment and facilities with SAFC who are putting in place a football officer

Q - Is it just aerobic activity?

A - No – all activities can count as physical activity including a green gym, allotment, walking and shopping.

Q - Is there a Website to access into

A - Yes but not up and running yet. They are going to be listing all activities across city – health trainers, practice nurses etc., to signpost where they are activities. There will also be articles on changes in the Echo, SHG Newsletter, and leaflets.

Washington Partnership Report (Karen Graham)

Primary Care Centre provision – there is a proposal for a new Primary Care Centre to be located in the Galleries area.

Consultation – David Hall T.P.C.T.

Bid – provisionally successful – start March 07