
MEETING	DRINGHOUSES & WOODTHORPE WARD COMMITTEE
DATE	26 JANUARY 2012
PRESENT	COUNCILLORS HODGSON, REID AND SEMLYEN
PRESENT	64 RESIDENTS

1. DROP IN SURGERY

- 1.1 Residents had the opportunity to talk to Cllr. Anna Semlyen, Cllr. Gerard Hodge, Cllr. Ann Reid, Matthew Ward and Michal Czekajlo from Neighbourhood Management Unit, Jackie Armitage from Street Environment Team, PCSO Christopher Upton, PCSO Richard Tempest, Tony Clarke from City Strategy, David Warburton from Design Conservation and Sustainable Development Team, Peter Taylor from First York, Paul Brand from Sustainable Transport Team.
- 1.2 Representatives from St Leonards Hospice, Chase Residents' Association and NHS Foundation Trust were present at the surgery.

2. WELCOME AND MINUTES

- 2.1 Cllr. Gerard Hodgson welcomed everyone to the meeting and gave basic housekeeping information.
- 2.2 Jackie Armitage, Street Environment Officer was introduced to the meeting. Jackie has taken over from Suzanne Prance who is on maternity leave.
- 2.3 Two issues were raised in relation to accuracy of the minutes from October 2011 meeting. The number provided to report illegal parking was incorrect. *That has been checked after the meeting and the number provided is correct.*

The issue with buses struggling to get through the street is related to Moorcroft Road, not Bramble Dene.

3. POLICE UPDATE

- 3.1 PCSO's Chris Upton and Richard Tempest passed apologies from Inspector Neil Drummond and PC Jon Bostwick who could not attend the meeting.
- 3.2 New non emergency 101 number and the way it works were described to the meeting. New system enables residents to contact particular officer directly. You will need to know officer full name or collar number to be able to contact him, or her. If the officer you trying to get in touch with is off duty, you will be directed to his/hers answering machine. When officer is back on duty he/she will contact you.
The 101 police number costs 15p however long the call.

Residents were given opportunity to ask questions.

Q How do I report vandalism, by calling 999, or 101?

A If you are witnessing somebody damaging your property, you should ring 999. In case when you woke up next morning and noticed that your property was damaged, you should then ring 101, as this is not an emergency.

Q What is the difference between 999 and 101, as you still have to action?

A Non emergency number is intended to ease the emergency 999 number. Since the introduction of 101 number we have discovered that 999 response time has improved significantly. Response team is now operating from Acomb Police Station, that enables response officers to patrol the area more frequently.
There are three dedicated PCSO's who cover the area of Dringhouses and Woodthorpe and one more officer will be recruited in the near future.
In addition to non emergency number, if you need our support, or would like to get our details, please chat to us, or simply stop us on the street. Our Facebook page is now in operation; you can follow us on Twitter, or e-mail us.

Q Police should improve their advertising techniques. You have to acknowledge the fact that many residents have no internet access. There should be a leaflet drop for every household to explain the changes to non emergency number; otherwise people will keep using 999.

A We will look into that.

Q Who are the PC and PCSO's for Dringhouses and Woodthorpe area?

A PCSO Angela Hollywood is responsible Dringhouses and PCSO Louise Harness for Woodthorpe. PC for the area is Jon Bostwick.

Q Does the new 101 number work similarly to previous Police control room?

A When you ring 101 it will take you directly to the North Yorkshire Police control room.

Q I have reported an issue with parked cars obstructing Moorcroft Road more than once, but no one came back to me and the situation has not improved.

A Please leave your details with us after the meeting and we will take that forward.

4. **BUSES**

4.1 Peter Taylor from First Group York offered to answer questions and take any feedback from residents.

Q Why changes to the route 12 in Woodthorpe were made without consultation with local residents?

A I am not sure where the idea about the route change originated from.

Q Why some of the drivers are allowed additional running time?

A My colleagues in Leeds are looking at network changes and that issue will be addressed.

Q The service operating from the top of Moor Lane ceased. Number of residents was using it, including me. Why has that happened?

A I do not have the answer to that, but will feed that back to my colleagues.

Q Who is responsible for updating bus timetable on Moorcroft Road?

A This is within the remit of City of York Council.

Q Is the timekeeping of your buses being monitored? I have heard from couple of bus drivers that no one supervises their timekeeping; as a result some buses are running 20 minutes late.

A Yes, we do have operating system that monitors the timekeeping and are aware of existing problems.

Q Park & Ride service that operates in Dringhouses does not stop where it used to before. Who should I contact to report that?

A Park & Ride buses do not stop at all bus stops.

Q It would be beneficial for residents if the Park & Ride buses could stop at every stop to give a lift to people who are on their way to the city centre.

A Park & Ride service is intended for drivers who parked their cars at the Park & Ride site and are going to the city centre. There are multiple services operating on Tadcaster Road that serve local residents.

Q Are you able to track your buses and send additional bus in case on is delayed?

A We do have the tracking system, but are unable to provide additional bus in an event of delay.

Q What do you use the tracking system for?

A Tracking system is used to identify delays.

Q Would it be possible to increase the frequency of the route 12 service to every 15 minutes?

A I will feed that back to my colleagues.

5. PARK & RIDE

5.1 Tony Clarke, City Strategy Capital Programme Manager gave an update on Park & Ride works at Askham Bar.

5.2 Askham Bar will be redeveloped under the Access York project. In addition to five existing Park & Ride sites Askham Bar will aim to:

- Reduce congestion on radial routes and in city centre;
- Improve air quality and environment;
- Provide high quality public transport options;
- Support economic growth.

5.3 Askham Bar Park & Ride is oversubscribed at the moment. 1100 additional parking spaces will be provided under the new development. Site will be relocated closer to A64.

Existing bus stops will be retained and new Park & Ride access junction will be built.

5.4 Timescale of the project.

- Funding Re-Confirmed (Nov 2011);
- Highway Layout Consultation (Feb 2012);
- Complete Design (Spring 2012);
- Tender (Summer 2012);
- Construction (2013);
- Opening (Spring 2014).

5.5 Highway works consultation will commence on 30th January 2012.

Residents, businesses and user groups will be consulted. Displays of the new site layout will be displayed in libraries, Tesco and York College.

Staffed exhibition at Park & Ride will take place on 7th February 2012.

Comments from the consultation will have to be submitted by 24th February 2012.

Final design of the site will be submitted to April 2012 Decision Session for approval.

5.6 For further information please visit

www.york.gov.uk/askhambar , contact Tony Clarke on 01904 551641, or Matt Rudman (Assistant Project Manager) on 01904 551624, or e-mail accessyork@york.gov.uk

Residents were given opportunity to ask questions.

Q What will happen with the existing Park & Ride site?

A Existing site will stop functioning and the land will be sold off.

Q Existing Park & Ride site is oversubscribed sometimes, and that is due to students using it. You should increase its capacity, but A59 site should be looked at first, as A59 it is often getting blocked.

A Both sites will be completed at the same time.

Q Buses have big impact on the congestion. Could you not look at alternative transport methods, such as railway, or trams?

A The reason why we are not going for tram trains is the cost. Park & Ride sites are much cheaper and more effective.

Q Could you explain how the Monks Cross barriers system works?

A The system requires you to use the bus; otherwise you will not be able to leave the car park. When you enter the bus you will be issued a ticket which will entitle you to leave the car park. You will have to insert that ticket at the barrier on exit.

Q Could you not install the similar system at Askham Bar Park & Ride site?

A The cost of it would be too high.

Q What will be the Askham Bar Park & Ride site closing time?

A It depends on the last bus time and it is 8pm. Site will be gated after 8pm for security reasons.

Q Some visitor possibly will not be aware of the site closing time. What will happen if someone arrives at the Park & Ride site late?

A We have tried to operate during late evening hours, but it has not proven successful.

6. PLANNING PANEL

6.1 At this moment Roger Jennings, Dringhouses and Woodthorpe Planning Panel Clerk called for volunteers to join the Panel. There are couple of vacancies currently. Volunteers will be expected to give up two hours of their time once a month to attend Planning Panel meeting. New members will receive necessary training and guidance.

6.2 The purpose of the Planning Panel is to exam the feasibility of all planning applications in the area. Planning Panel recommendations are submitted to City of York Council who has to consider them when making decision on the application.
Dringhouses and Woodthorpe Planning Panel usually meet on Mondays.

7. **PUBLIC CONSULTATION REGARDING LAND AT DRINGHOUSES SIDINGS/MAYFIELD POND**

7.1 David Warburton, Head of Design Conservation and Sustainable Development presented facts related to the Mayfield's Pond site with the help of PowerPoint presentation.
Apology was given to the meeting for the City of York Council officer's actions which resulted in the current situation.

- Planning application for the development of the sidings was submitted in 1996.
- The title of the land was not transferred to City of York Council, but the authority is committed to recover it. Legal matters are being looked at currently.
- The site has not been registered as Public Open Space.
- YNET is informally managing the land.
- Recent work was done to improve and put the site in good order.
- On 8th March 2012 the report will be submitted to City Strategy to agree the actions that are necessary to secure future management of the site. There are number of organisations who could manage that land and City of York Council has responsibility to set up the framework for the future management of the site.

Residents were given opportunity to ask questions.

Q What is the expected cost implication for the land transfer back to City of York Council?

A There will definitely be cost implication, but we have no estimate figure. Officers work time will form part of that cost.

Q That land was not managed for 10 years and that is because you were unable to sort paper work out and choose reliable contractor.

A I can ensure you that the matter will be looked at appropriately now.

Q I bought my house on Hob Moor Terrace because it was located next to the open public space. Can you guarantee that this land will become an open public space again and the fence will disappear?

A City of York Council is committed to recover all that land, but it might be impossible. Under current Property Law regulations any tenants on land, who occupy it have the right to fence it.

Q Could you give me clear information on what is going on with that land?

A City of York Council Legal Department is in active negotiation with tenants/owners and the objective is to obtain the land back.

Q When was that land last tested for Japanese Knotweed presence?

A There was a problem with Japanese Knotweed previously and it was dealt with by appropriate contractor. The land was inspected and there is no evidence of that invasive plant.

7.2 Anne Leggett, Chair of the Chase Residents Association introduced herself to the meeting and spoke about Mayfield's Pond site with the help of PowerPoint presentation.

Anne declared that she is only the voice of the Chase Residents' Association and the presentation is on behalf of the Chase Residents' Association Committee, as part of an on-going public consultation.

7.3 The site occupies an area of around 7 ha and is located approximately one mile south west of York at grid reference SE 586501. It is bordered by Mayfield Grove, Ainsty Avenue and Aintree Court and split into two main areas by Nelson's Lane.

7.4 PowerPoint slide with the area of Public Open Space outlined in blue was presented to the meeting.

This land was dedicated to the community as Public Open Space on a Section 106 Planning Obligation included when the Planning Permission 7/013/03321H/FUL, dated 2/6/1997 was granted for a Housing development known as Farrier's Chase on the site of the Dringhouses Sidings. A commuted sum of £36,000 was allocated for maintenance of the land.

- 7.5 The presentation forms part of a 12 week consultation which started on 28th November. 346 consultation documents were sent out with over 70 returned so far. The public consultation is due to finish on 27th February 2012. No decisions have been made yet on the future management of the site. In the meantime the Chase Residents' Association is developing a draft management plan in consultation with the local community. Consultation forms were provided for meeting attendees who wished to contribute.
- 7.6 Initial footfall survey was undertaken. It indicated that the main usage of the site is by dog walkers, followed by the school run and commuting to work. Surveys took place in cold weather and so there were no fishermen on the site but we are aware that the pond is considered to be a popular fishing venue. The site is very well used by people at all times of the day including young, old, and less able and cyclists. Therefore it is essential that all these peoples' views are taken into consideration when planning for the future. The heavy footfall puts added pressure both on the site and the wildlife that live there. Overall the results of the public consultation so far are very positive, however over the last 15 years the residents have seen the area under managed and degrade to the condition that it is in now. The land is valued by the Chase Residents and they wish to see it managed and improved.
- 7.7 Number of pictures of the site and its wildlife now and in the past were presented to the meeting.
- An old photograph of the pond around 1979 showing the remnants of an Old Claypit originally part of the Nelsons Brickyard, circa 1882, which was in use as a fishing Pond

by The British Rail Angling Club when the land was sold in 1996 at that time it was known as the Railway Pond.

- Photograph of the remnant of a larger area of mature trees around the pond with an access from Nelsons Lane for fishermen.
- Photograph of newly created, landscaped area behind Hob Moor Terrace which had previously been the Hob Moor Brickworks circa 1887. The clay pit had been used as a landfill site and therefore was capped with clay and planted with new trees and bushes which would be naturally found in such an area. Oak, Birch, Field Maple, Hazel. This area had a hard surface footpath/cycleway through it from Nelsons Lane to Little Hob Moor.
- Photograph of the meadow behind Hob Moor terrace 1996, before the bulldozers came.
- Photographs of creation of the capped site behind Hob Moor terrace as POS.
- Photographs of site levelling, clay capping, topsoil and building work start in 1997.

7.8 Works were done by the developers as specified in the planning permission 2/6/1997.

The houses on the development were completed circa 2000 however due to 2 takeovers of the building companies concerned the site was not accepted by City of York Council as complete until 2003.

At this point the land should have been transferred to a suitable person or organisation to manage as a Public Open Space to a high standard for the benefit of the community. Unfortunately, this did not happen and 9 years later the land still belongs to the developer, however recently residents of the area have been working with City of York Council to ensure the original intention of the Section 106 is enacted. This has been complicated by the land being in a degraded state and was not fit to transfer to a suitable person /organisation and more recently that an area behind Hob Moor Terrace was sold without the agreement to another developer. City of York Council are now in the process of finalising these issues and the land should be available to transfer hopefully by March 8th 2012. The Council intend to retain ownership of the land themselves and then to appoint a suitable person/organisation to manage it.

7.9 Existing problems on the site are:

- The site was landscaped as part of the adjacent residential scheme. For several years it had an attractive appearance as the new planting became established. However, the site has not been managed and parts of it now appear overgrown and unkempt.
- The meadow has become tussocky with some species, including the yellow rattle disappearing.
- The pond suffers from a lack of oxygen during hot summers.
- Some of the fishing platforms are in a dangerous condition.
- The trees have not been managed.
- There is little under storey in the woodland areas.
- The footpaths are degraded.

7.10 Initial responses to the consultation indicate that residents would like:

- The land to be managed preserved and protected.
- The management plan to take residents' interests into consideration.
- The site used for a range of community events.
- To be involved in all aspects of the management, including practical conservation work, survey work, interpretation, and fundraising.
- To explore the possibility of working in partnership with a range of organisations to manage the site.

7.11 The site has no legal status as a Nature Reserve and it is a priority to restore the site as soon as possible so that it can be recognised and registered as a (S.I.N.C.) Site of Importance for Nature Conservation.

The aim of the Chase Residents' Association is to ensure that the conservation interest of the site is maintained, enhanced and restored.

7.12 Examples of work that needs doing on:

- Maintain the fish population.
- Manage the open water habitat by clearing, dredging and re-profiling the pond.
- Improve the oxygen levels in the pond by selective clearance of some trees.
- Establish diverse marginal and open water vegetation.
- Improve the fishing facilities.

- Provide a pond dipping platform.
- Establish wood piles as habitat.
- Maintain trees in a safe condition.
- Establish a pollarding and coppicing regime.
- Clear scrub in a rotational programme.
- Improve woodland under story and ground flora through scrub and tree management.
- Removal of non-native species, potential translocation or new planting.
- Install new bat and bird boxes.
- Maintain and enhance the diversity of the meadow area.
- Cut the meadow once a year and remove the arising's.
- Re-seed areas to reintroduce species recently lost such as Yellow Rattle.

7.13 Proposed next steps:

- Establish a management group.
- Fundraise.
- Establish a working / maintenance group.
- Establish a separate fishing management group.
- Seek trust or charitable status.
- Establish a programme of community activities and events on the site.
- Investigate working in partnership to offer training in conservation.

7.14 The Chase Residents' Association have a full draft plan in preparation and further information is available at stand. It is essential that whoever is selected fulfills all the relevant criteria to ensure effective management in the future.

Expected criteria for a suitable management person or organisation are:

- Be capable of developing a 5 year management plan and revising it as the needs of the site and the community evolve.
- Be able to demonstrate long term viability for their organisation.
- Be able to demonstrate a successful history of a similar scheme.
- Be financially secure.
- Be capable of fulfilling their management plan with the required knowledge, personnel, tools and machinery.
- Be able and willing to fund raise and apply for grants.

- Be able and willing to consult and involve all the local community.
- Be able and willing to encourage and supply educational opportunities for the local community.
- Be able and willing to work in partnership with other local organizations to foster a spirit of community.

7.15 The Chase Residents' Association vision of the site:

- A safe, attractive, bio-diverse place for local residents to enjoy.
- Managed to maintain and enhance its wildlife value - a SINC site.
- A balance between the ecological value of the site and its use as public open space.
- A site that can be used and appreciated by all members of the community.

Residents were given opportunity to raise questions.

Q Pictures on your presentation were taken either in spring, or in autumn. It is slightly misleading, as the site does not look like that currently.

A Presented photographs were taken in August and September last year.

Q If you clear all the site of the shrub and shrubbery its inhabitants will be affected.

A We intend to recreate the pond. Please take part in the consultations, as your comments and knowledge are vital.

At this point Barry Potter, Chair of York Natural Environment Trust congratulated Anna Leggett and other members of the Chase Residents' Association for the work they have done so far.

Q Question directed to elected members.
Do you support the view that this site should primarily serve local community?

A You all should be involved in the consultation. This site should benefit to everyone who wants to use it e.g. walk, cycle, fish etc. Residents who live nearby should be involved in the management of the site.

8. HAVE YOUR SAY

Residents were given opportunity to raise questions.

Q Under the Section 106 the Mayfield's Pond site was granted for the housing development. I would like to hear the City of York Council officers point of view on who the Mayfield's Pond site should serve primarily.

A Under the Section 106 statement residents of the new development should benefit primarily. We cannot change Section 106 agreement statement.

Q Your Voice does not include the agenda for that meeting, why was it only available online? I think that the newsletter with the agenda should be delivered to every household, as previously.

A It is a result of the budget savings that had to be made. Neighbourhood Management and the way meetings are advertised are currently going through the review.

Q I do litter picking on Cherry Lane and have observed the degradation of the appearance of the street.

A We will take a note of that.

Q Could you give me an update on the Woodthorpe Shops canopy renovation? I have asked about that at the last meeting.

A We will find out and get back to you.

Q Who owns the area behind the garages at Woodthorpe Shops?

A The car park immediately behind the shops is owned by the Co-op. We assume that the area behind the garage is also owned by them, but that needs to be confirmed.

Q What is the date of the next meeting?

A It has not been decided yet. We think the next meeting will be in June/July time. It will be advertised appropriately.

The meeting was closed at 9:30pm.

Chair, Cllr. Gerard Hodgson

[The meeting started at 6.30 pm and finished at 10.00 pm].