

Appendix 2 - Chopwell and Blackhall Mill 10 Year Plan

You said (key themes and concerns highlighted through community consultation)	We will do (key actions proposed , these may be dependent on resources or the local community's involvement and help)	Progress so far and relevant contact information	Timescale (in months / years if possible)	Cost (identify whether required or secured (£))
Housing				
Provision of good quality new homes on appropriate vacant sites to support healthy and diverse communities	Secure development of key allocated housing sites – Heartlands (220 homes), South Chopwell (216 homes) and Middle Chopwell (89 homes)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Heartlands site - allocated to Gateshead Regeneration Partnership – site investigations undertaken, results expected May 2018 South Chopwell – initial discussions with developer held 	July 2018 options	£45K secured
	Further site feasibility works		Oct 2018	£25K (+VAT) reqd
	Masterplan development (where required)		Dec 2018	£25k (+VAT) reqd
	Necessary infrastructure and remediation works to relevant sites		TBC	TBC
	Potential remediation works for former Collinson's site		TBC	£50K reqd
Explore/secure development of other small council owned sites	Further site feasibility works	Initial site identification underway	TBC	TBC
	Necessary infrastructure and remediation works to relevant sites		TBC	TBC
Private rented sector housing	The Council's Private Sector Housing Team will respond residents' concerns about <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Property condition, Tenants requests for help about the standard of their rented home, Carrying out inspections and taking necessary action to ensure homes are up to standard Ensuring tenants receive the support that they need to manage and sustain their tenancies.	Concerns can be raised by contacting privatesectorhousingcivic@gateshead.gov.uk or contacting the Private Sector Housing Team on 0191 4332350	Ongoing	Within service budget
	The Council's Private Sector Housing Team will respond to requests for help from private	Concerns can be raised by contacting privatesectorhousingcivic@gateshead.gov.uk or	Ongoing	Within service budget

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	landlords and tenants about tenancy related matters that may be causing the tenant to be at risk of becoming homeless.	contacting the Private Sector Housing Team on 0191 4332350		
	The Council's Private Sector Housing Team will deliver the Housing Benefit Tenancy Service; targeted and proactive inspections of those private rented homes most likely to be of a poor standard, and most likely to be occupied by the most vulnerable. Offers upfront tenancy support and can take action where homes are found to be of a poor standard.	Concerns can be raised by contacting privatesectorhousingcivic@gateshead.gov.uk or contacting the Private Sector Housing Team on 0191 4332350	Ongoing	Within service budget
	The Council's Private Sector Housing Team will investigate allegations of noise or anti-social behaviour associated with private homes and take action to resolve these.	There is a dedicated officer covering Chopwell and Blackhall Mill (Alan Liddle – 0191 433 3914). Concerns can be raised by contacting privatesectorhousingcivic@gateshead.gov.uk or contacting the Private Sector Housing Team on 0191 4332350		Within service budget
Council owned stock	The Gateshead Housing Company will investigate allegations of noise or anti-social behaviour associated with Council owned homes and to take action to resolve these.	Concerns can be raised by telephoning the local housing office 0191 4336202 or e-mailing blaydonoffice@gatesheadhousing.co.uk	Ongoing	Within service budget
Community housing stock management	Explore/consider any opportunities for community ownership/management schemes.	None identified to date	Over the life of the plan	
Address fuel poverty and improve home comfort	The Council hopes to be able to implement a scheme aiming to reduce fuel poverty and improve housing comfort and quality by offering energy efficiency measures such as solid wall insulation and solar panels. This is dependent on funding being secured.	An outline bid for European funding called "A sustainable future for Chopwell" has been submitted to the European Regional Development Fund, with the outcome due at the end of this month. If the funding bid is successful, the project aims to be live in 2020.	Subject to successful bid Jan 2019-Dec 2021	Subject to successful bid £15.3m capital of which: • £8m external (sec) • £7.3m Council £625,606 revenue of which: £265K reqd towards 50% match

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Work to reduce/tackle the number of empty dwellings in the neighbourhood	Explore opportunities to bring back empty homes into use	Initial scoping underway– Properties to be targeted that will increase critical mass in terms of ownership to support viability of above energy scheme.	Ongoing	£300k reqd to support programme of empty homes acquisitions (Purchase and Repair) To seek additional grant from Homes England.
	The Council's Private Sector Housing Team will respond to residents' concerns about empty properties and take action to ensure these are maintained in a safe condition, protected from unauthorised access, free from refuse accumulation, and brought back into use at the earliest opportunity	Concerns can be raised by contacting privatesectorhousingcivic@gateshead.gov.uk or contacting the Private Sector Housing Team on 0191 4332350	Ongoing	Within service budget
Environment and Public Realm				
Improve the appearance of Chopwell's Public Realm	The Council will undertake a spring initiative to clean and tidy up the villages, working with the local community for maximum impact and sustainability	Initial internal discussions have commenced	To be scheduled	£20K reqd for additional equipment/hire and activities above agreed standard levels - then within service budget
	The Council will respond to requests for service for general cleaning and grounds maintenance enquiries.	Residents can report concerns by telephoning 0191 4333000 or e-mailing: customerservices@gateshead.gov.uk	Ongoing	Within service budget
	The Community has local gardening group as part of the Chopwell Regeneration Group (CRG)	A range of small community planting events were held in 2017 Volunteers can join by contacting them at team@chopwell.org	Ongoing	
	Chopwell Regeneration Group and Friends of Chopwell Park will oversee community litter picks.	A number of litter picks have been held in the village. Volunteers can join local groups by contacting them directly at team@chopwell.org and friendsofchopwellpark@gmail.com	Ongoing	

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Ensure the winter maintenance programme is effective	The Council will work with the local community on delivering an effective winter maintenance programme (gritting/grit provision)	Local community influenced and engaged in an effective winter maintenance programme during the recent bad weather	Ongoing	Within service budget
	Some residents have volunteered to help clear roads/spread grit as part of the winter maintenance programme.	The community has held discussions and volunteers have been identified.	In preparation for winter 2018	Within service budget
Chopwell Park improvements/actions	Friends of Chopwell Park to work with the Council to explore any opportunities for taking greater long term responsibility for the Park/Pavilion	Some initial discussions have been held regarding the issue of a licence for using the Park Building condition is being assessed to gauge the building's future viability	Currently being pursued May 2018	£10K reqd (to improve/repair Pavilion if future viability is established)
	The community would like to develop a "Pump Track" and create a cycling hub in Chopwell and Blackhall Mill.	Friends of Chopwell Park exploring feasibility and will continue to work with the Council towards this ambition	Ongoing	
	The Chopwell community will establish a community orchard along with community education to upskill residents for the future with support from the Council	Initial planting done and discussions ongoing	Ongoing	
Economy				
Support for local businesses	Undertake a feasibility study for local business development and support to inform future priorities and development opportunities	A feasibility study to identify which businesses are likely to have the best chance of success in the area and complement the existing business offer is being undertaken by Newcastle University on behalf of the wider community.		
	Help with local business promotion and networking opportunities	Initial discussions have commenced on holding a local business engagement event to progress specific actions within this plan		
		Local businesses are being encouraged to join 'Gateshead Business Network' (a free-to-access membership group for the whole of Gateshead). Members receive business news updates, event alerts and information on funding opportunities. Each member is provided with an online company profile and access to information on other Gateshead Business Network members.		

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		Consideration is being given by Chopwell Regeneration Group to establishing a local business group if there is sufficient interest.	To be developed	
		Local businesses can advertise free on the 'chopwell.org' website and to raise awareness of new offers or projects on its Facebook page. Local businesses could develop these links further and use Chopwell Regeneration Group events to publicise their businesses. Contact team@chopwell.org for more information	Ongoing	
	Work with the local community to explore and support any opportunities for the community to take a more direct role in running local businesses if required/desired. This would be subject to ensuring appropriate due diligence was in place	Chopwell Regeneration Group has expressed an interest in considering opportunities	As opportunities present	
Creating local training opportunities	Explore and support local training opportunities	A pilot bike recycling project aimed at unemployed people in Chopwell has been established. The potential exists to develop further skills training initiatives	Ongoing	
	Chopwell based businesses will be targeted/encouraged to access the support available through Gateshead College (which has European Social Fund funding to deliver training to North East based businesses looking to develop the skills of their workforces (including self-employed and business owners).		Subject to funding	£2.5K reqd
Creating/sustaining local business accommodation	Explore feasibility of introducing a property improvement scheme to incentivise owners to undertake external shop-front improvements and/or internal fit-out (linked to demand identified in the feasibility study above)		Subject to funding	£50k reqd
	An external 'window dressing' scheme could be introduced to improve the appearance of vacant commercial properties		As above	Included above
	Explore and support the local ownership and/or management of key commercial buildings - the Chopwell Hotel, betting shop & flats. This may	Some initial community discussions have started	Dependent on funding being available and	£150K reqd (relating to the Chopwell Hotel)

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	enable the community to lead on more comprehensive refurbishment programmes		owners being receptive	
	Explore potential of selective demolition of derelict commercial properties (subject to necessary permissions). This would improve the public realm and concentrate the local provision of viable business accommodation			TBC
	Explore opportunities to improve the availability of light industrial / workshop space in the area new units could be built if there is sufficient demand e.g. on Whittonstall Road		Subject to funding and demand	Potentially up to £570K reqd (based on 4 600sq ft workshops)
Employment Support	Explore and support ways of improving local employment support services (currently limited - digital job search assistance provided by volunteers every Wed & Fri for two hours at Chopwell Community Centre) by extending operating times and securing input from partners.	This would be subject to partner organisation being willing/able to commit resources to enhance provision.		Costs estimated at £2,500 pa reqd for extended hire of Chopwell Community Centre.
Improve broadband connectivity	Ensure that broadband connectivity is secured for all premises in Chopwell	The majority of premises in Chopwell can now obtain superfast broadband.		
Support local tourism/ economy	Collectively we will consider how best to use and promote Chopwell Woods as a unique economic asset with great potential. This could include exploring a new entrance into the woods via Chopwell with clear signage and a car park that may bring more passing trade and potentially footfall to Chopwell. Local businesses can tailor their offer to these visitors.	Some community discussion and exploration has started.		
	Examine the potential for a farmers / traders market	The community is currently exploring this idea with lots of interest from local craft makers		
Citizenship				
Work with and develop local community groups, organisations and community assets	The Council will continue to work with and support local community groups and local assets as part of the support offered through Neighbourhood Management and Volunteering Team's boroughwide role	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working relationships already established with Chopwell Community Association, Blackhall Mill Community Association, Friends of Chopwell Park and Chopwell Regeneration Group • Place Based Social Action bid submitted for Community Action – unfortunately unsuccessful 	Ongoing	Within service budget

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	Explore/secure additional development capacity for dedicated community development for Chopwell and Blackhall Mill			
	Explore/secure additional development capacity for dedicated community worker to tackle poverty in Chopwell and Blackhall Mill	Chopwell Community Association/Chopwell Regeneration Group have bid for a part time worker – currently developing funding request		
	Explore opportunities to offer local activities for young people in the villages. This could include utilizing Chopwell Community Centre's Youth Wing more or other local assets such as Chopwell Park. This will depend on resources being available and suitably qualified staff	Some initial discussion underway and links closely with the aspirations of Friends of Chopwell Park and their work within the Pavilion. Initial discussions held with Big Lottery		
	The community hopes to work with Digital Voice to try and find out more about what young people in Chopwell actually want to see and benefit from here before deciding what projects we would like to put in place.			
Increase local volunteering	Promote and increase local volunteering to help support/resource the many local community projects that are already happening, planned or desired.	Ongoing relationships established between the Council and many local community groups		
	The Council's Neighbourhood Management and Volunteering team will promote volunteer opportunities and signpost suitable volunteers to appropriate tasks and roles. This includes individuals, groups and corporate enquiries.	For further information please contact Kate Marshall by e-mailing katemarshall@gateshead.gov.uk		Within service budget
	The Council's Neighbourhood Management and Volunteering team will support volunteers and voluntary groups to maximize and sustain across in the neighbourhood.	For further information please contact Kate Marshall by e-mailing katemarshall@gateshead.gov.uk		Within service budget
	The Council will host Volunteers Month throughout June 2018 which will include recording of volunteer hours across the month, promoting available funding for projects (accessible through the Community Foundation's Volunteers Month Grant 2018)	Community Foundation funding will be live from April/May 2018. For further information please contact Kate Marshall by e-mailing katemarshall@gateshead.gov.uk		Within service budget

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Improve community communication and networking	Explore opportunities to establish a joint community forum/regular meeting to network, facilitate greater joint working and offer a more co-ordinated engagement mechanism for the village	Some initial community discussion is underway Initial discussions held with Big Lottery		
Transport				
Work with transport providers to minimize fares and ensure timetabling/routes and reliability reflect local needs	Set up a West Gateshead Bus Alliance (to consider west specific bus services involving the Council, Go North East and Nexus to deal with issues raised around fares, routing, timetabling, reliability, information etc.	Expected to begin July 2018	Ongoing once established	Within existing budgets
	Review of bus services (in conjunction with the Alliance above)	Dependent on above – expected Spring 2019		Within existing budgets
	Develop real time bus information and smart ticketing	First Stage ERDF Funding Bid Submitted If successful – expected Jan 2019 – 2021		Incorporated in ERDF bid above
	Extending bus priority (for example bus lanes)	Schemes linked to new housing developments along A694	Up to 2030	£0.95m (secured subject to housing dev)
Encourage sustainable travel	Create a community electric vehicle hub with charging facilities and pool cars (linked to ERDF bid above)	First Stage ERDF Funding Bid Submitted If successful – expected Jan 2019 – 2021		Incorporated in ERDF bid above
	Engagement with Chopwell Primary school	Contact made and school invited to participate in the borough's Active Travel Promotion (ATP) programme		Within existing budgets
	Cycle route improvements linked to new housing development	Schemes linked to new housing developments	Up to 2030	£0.3m (secured subject to housing dev)
Improve/increase parking provision within the neighbourhood	Explore potential new parking facility for Chopwell Woods	Some initial community discussion underway		To be confirmed
Address inappropriate/illegal parking	Joint activity between the Council and Police on effective enforcement (includes opportunities for community involvement)	Reports can be made to the Council by e-mailing ParkingandRegulation@Gateshead.Gov.UK or telephoning 0191 433 3155. More detailed information re: times, days of the week, vehicle details/colour etc helps enforcement. Alternatively the Police can be contacted where motorists obstruct the highway/footpath.		

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Tackle speeding in the neighbourhood	Review and undertake traffic/speed control measures where necessary	Speed surveys done on Mill Road (2016) and South Road (Feb 2018) – both surveys did not identify speeding as a concern		Within existing budgets
	Joint activity through community, Police and Council initiatives	Local community volunteers can participate in the Voluntary Speed initiative by contacting Northumbria Police.		Within existing budgets
	Neighbourhood Police will continue to conduct laser speed checks and community speed checks Mill Road, Chopwell is also a camera enforcement site.			Within existing budgets
Local Highway Improvements	A range of junction improvements on the A694 linked to housing development	These are dependent and linked to timescales for new housing developments along the A694	Up to 2030	£2.9m (secured subject to housing dev)
Community Safety				
Tackle the perceived ASB problems within the neighbourhood	Undertake regular police patrols will in the area Look at effective use of the ASB tools and powers legislation to target perpetrators and protect victims	Weekly operations meetings held between the Council and Police identify hot spot ASB areas.	Ongoing	Within service budget
	Neighbourhood Policing Team will talk with local residents and young people about the issues surrounding ASB. This will include how to report concerns and what happens when they do.	The West Neighbourhood Policing Team will attend the event on 13 March 2018 to meet residents	Ongoing	Within service budget
	The Council's Private Sector Housing Team and Neighbourhood Policing Team will conduct specific targeted enquiries into individuals and premises of concern.	The Council's dedicated officer (Alan Liddle – 0191 433 3914) has been appointed and has started investigations with the Neighbourhood Policing Team.	Ongoing	Within service budget
Tackle perceived alcohol/drug problems within the neighbourhood	Explore feasibility/ desire for a pub watch scheme			
	Arrange test purchasing operations with the Local Authority where necessary/identified	Residents are requested to report concerns to provide greater intelligence to act.		
	Gather community intelligence and conduct intelligence led operations	Residents are requested to report concerns to provide greater intelligence to act.	Ongoing	

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Roll out Neighbourhood Watch and Community Messaging within the neighbourhood	Support the community to establish a dedicated Neighbourhood Watch for Chopwell and Blackhall Mill Regular police attendance at these meetings When invited	Initial meeting took place 28 Feb 2018 with approx. 60 residents Next meeting is planned for April Article in council news re community messaging		
Perceptions of police and council working together	Northumbria Police, the Council and partners will hold a targeted engagement initiative focussing on the River Streets in the summer 2018	Initial planning and scoping now well underway A targeted community event is scheduled for 4 July 2018 Feedback events built in after the first meeting	July 2018	Circa £2K secured
Health				
Roll out the Well Newcastle Gateshead programme within Chopwell	Work with Newcastle Council to ensure that a Community Asset Based Approach is taken in this work. Intention to establish a locality stakeholder group to inform the work of the WNG steering group so as to ensure that activities undertaken are based on what the community requires.			
Promote/facilitate healthy lifestyles and community led initiatives	Community led walking group to be established			