

**Planning, Contract & Works Meeting, 13<sup>th</sup> February 2019**

Television Licence Refund Scheme

Although the clerk previously advised that this motion would be brought back to the council in order to seek a legal minute reference (in view that the January PCW's minutes were not agreed as a true record), the clerk has subsequently raised the matter with the Northumberland Association of Local Councils to confirm if this is absolutely necessary. It may be that the council's actions in publicising the cessation of the scheme and in making no further budget provision is implicit of their decision.

Prudhoe East Centre

A site meeting took place on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> February, attended by Cllrs Gilmore, Scott, Greig, Couchman, Simpson, Grey and Cuthbert and also including County Cllr Gordon Stewart, Kate Steel (NCC Strategic Assets) as well as representatives from Prudhoe Poppets, Community Buddies, Mortal Fools and Northumberland Citizens Advice. Carol Quinn, Catherine Hubbard-Coates and Ashley Brown (NCC Youth Service) were also in attendance. A report of the site meeting and responses from the groups visiting will be brought to the April meeting of the PCW's Committee.

Space Net at Highfield Park

The Space Net has been ordered. A start date will be confirmed asap, the play equipment provider has been advised that installation during any school holidays must be avoided.

Planning Application, 19/00046/OUT Land at Junction with Western Avenue and Cranbrook Drive, Western Avenue, Prudhoe, Northumberland

The Clerk has contacted NCC Planning Enforcement twice since the February meeting to request an update on any site meetings carried out, copying in County Cllr Ken Stow; as yet no communication has been received.

Edgewell Cemetery

Work to the beech trees in the old cemetery has been carried out. The resident complainant is still unhappy about the lack of light. The Clerk has advised that they put their concerns in writing to the council.

The cemetery committee is scheduled to meet on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> March at 7:00pm and this will be a full agenda including the new Service Level Agreement costs, cemetery fees, the new footpath planned into the old cemetery and memorial stability testing.

Litter Bins

The litter bin outside Prudhoe Community High School was tipped over and damaged; hopefully the damage, which was preventing this new bin from being opened, has been rectified.

Those litter bin installations that are outstanding are:

Castlefields – double capacity

Halfway Bus Shelter (travelling west) – slimline

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New Bus Shelter at bottom of Beaumont Way

This will be ordered in the new financial year in consultation with County Cllr Ken Stow, who has agreed to contribute from his small schemes fund (minimum £2,000).

Northumberland Estates (NE) Front Street Development

Following a letter sent to NE on 18<sup>th</sup> February, a reply was received confirming that NE were not aware that the large site, previously with planning permission for housing, had been designated 'protected open space'. Since then we have received confirmation from County Cllr Gordon Stewart that this is an error but nothing formal has been received from NCC Planners yet.

In respect of the 2<sup>nd</sup> site, off Front Street, which is designated for housing, parking and retail, NE has confirmed that they are actively marketing the site to retail operators and there is interest from the housing sector. Additionally, that they are in discussions with a contractor regarding site preparation and infrastructure design, with a view to investment, expecting significant progress this year.

Looking at the both sites together, NE has written that with regards the larger site the proposal for housing looks to include a mix of starter type housing as well as affordable units and they have been speaking with a provider of elderly accommodation also, all of which NE feel would be beneficial to the town. This development is described as being necessary for the viability of the town centre scheme, from a financial as well as an accessibility point of view; the road into the town centre site housing and for delivery is through the larger housing development off Station Bank.

NE has advised that they will update the council as plans progress.