

### **East Coast Main Line (Proposed Timetable Changes)**

The East Coast Main Line timetable that was out for consultation and which the Town Council strongly opposed, will not be introduced in May 2022. This is a result of a combination of issues that need to be rectified before a significant timetable change can be introduced to operate reliably for customers.

More than 5,000 people and organisations submitted their views to LNER and over 130 stakeholders joined the briefing sessions that was hosted. A summary of the feedback will be shared in due course, together with updated proposals for the timetable change.

### **Wildflower Areas**

Sadly, the Town Council wildflower beds have not gotten off to a good start. Wildflower seeds planted by Hollybush in the bed near Prudhoe Golf Club were accidentally cut by NCC operatives as there appeared more grass than flower and they did not realise it was work in progress.

Likewise, the one-metre strip that borders Priestclose Woods onto the maintained grassed area bordering the B6395 (Eastern Gateway) has been cut by our grass-cutting contractors, along with the same scheme at the Western Gateway. The Clerk is consulting with the wildflower contractor as to whether seed can be broadcast on top of what is there (overseeding) or if the work has to be repeated.

The Clerk has asked that all future wildflower planting is cordoned off and marked.

### **Highfield Park Skate Park**

A representative from CANVAS is expected to visit during September. The Clerk is seeking progress on the plans and a new timetable.

### **Waterworld Play Area**

There is no update on the lease, which was expected within one month at last communication on 24<sup>th</sup> August. A spinning bowl is missing in need of repair and a mirror expected as a sensory feature has not been installed. Confirmation of handover with NCC Local Services and all paperwork in regards inspections and warranties remain outstanding.

### **Bus Shelter on the Glade**

A site meeting with NCC Streetworks and Externiture is to be held on 22<sup>nd</sup> September. By the time of the Ordinary meeting, this will have been held.

### **Bus Shelters at Stonyflat Bank**

The Clerk has signed the title plans for land transferred from Karbon Homes for the bus shelters, as agreed. These are with our solicitor now.

As above, a site meeting with NCC Streetworks and Externiture is to be held on 22<sup>nd</sup> September. It is hoped these shelters can be progressed quickly on resolution of the land issues and licensing of the contractor.

### **Borderlands Meeting**

A Front Street walkabout was held with the Clerk, Cllr Bryan Futers, County Cllrs Angie Scott and Gordon Stewart, and Anne Lawson, Tony Kirsop and Neil Quinn (from NCC Town and Community Regeneration).

Areas of discussion included:

- The East Centre
- Land off Broomhouse Lane Development
- The Town Trail
- Empty shop with permission for change of use for PYP (not pursued)
- Ebenezer Chapel
- The Walled Garden
- Events calendar
- Community-led housing on field designated for social housing (West Rd)

The presentation and stakeholder mapping session held in October will answer any further questions; this project is at the very early stages.

### **Round Table Discussion – Climate Change**

Matthew Baker (NCC Climate Change Service Director) and Hannah Davison (NCC Climate Change Lead for Tynedale) attended the Town Council's Round Table discussion on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> September 2021.

NCC has declared a Climate Change Emergency and has a [Climate Change Action Plan 2021-23](#) with the main aim of being Carbon Neutral by 2030. As a priority among policy and governance is the need for behavioural change. NCC hope to engage residents and their workforce, and they have linked with the Carbon Literacy Trust to roll out training. It was discussed that Local Councils and Local Cllrs are at the heart of behavioural change as they know their communities best. Also that training could be delivered to the Clerk, to then train Cllrs.

Encouraging engagement with the free tree giveaway and the Green Energy Scheme was highlighted but also looking at the way local council's deliver services with less impact on the environment, i.e. lower emissions. As many town and parish councils are managing the same services (cemeteries, litter bins, bus shelters, play areas, events, public toilets, allotments, etc.) there is an opportunity for the Climate Change Team to look at this as a whole.

The Climate Change Team took away ideas to feedback and to link up with directly in the community.

### **RBL 100 Years – Schools Visit**

Cllr Bryan Futers, accompanied by the Clerk led a visit to schools in Prudhoe to give them the opportunity to celebrate 100 years of the Royal British Legion and to thank the Prudhoe & District Branch for what they do. Although this was a belated celebration, it was a wonderful occasion and sense of community.

The visiting party was made up of members of the Prudhoe Branch of the RBL and RBL Women's Section and representatives of the armed forces and local cadet forces, who looked very impressive in uniform. We were also very lucky that Debra Smurthwaite was able to attend to play Reveille on the bugle and Moira Wooldridge to take photograph.

The visiting group were delighted to hear celebratory songs, prayers, and poems and also received lots of amazing creative work from the young people, which is now on display in Prudhoe library window.

Following the visits to St. Matthew's RC Primary, Highfield Middle School, Prudhoe Castle First School, Prudhoe West Academy and Adderlane Academy those able went to Ball's Restaurant for lunch.

Mickley First School and Prudhoe Community High School, who were not able to take part, were disappointed and sent congratulations and well wishes to the Prudhoe Branch of RBL with the hope that something could be arranged at Remembrance time.

### **The Glade Working Group**

The following members and officers met on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> September. Sarah Eden (Clerk), Cllr Bryan Futers, Cllr Jane Johnson, County Cllr Gordon Stewart, Paul Murray (PCP/Prudhoe Traders), Iain Watt (PCP/Co-op), David Hunt (NCC Local Services), Colin Nattrass (NCC Street Lighting), Peter Irving (NCC Property Services), Sam Talbot (NCC Green Spaces).

### ***Lighting***

Colin suggested that it would be quicker and more cost effective to replace the six floodlights with LED floodlights. It was AGREED that ensuring the area was well lit was a priority in regards safety and security. It was discussed that the expectation was that NCC would be responsible for paying for this to be carried out. It was also discussed that as there is a live supply already, that the Town Council manages, it may be better to tap into this.

The lit structure and wall tiles were discussed. Although NCC Officers could not locate any fittings for these, it was accepted that at one time there had been a lighting scheme and the question was asked whether this could be fixed. It was AGREED this needed further investigation, but that it was aesthetic more than functional.

### ***Surfacing***

It was discussed that Local Services would do their best to clear and grit the area as part of winter services, but that the area could not be added to Highway responsibility as the work would be carried out by hand. The deteriorating and often slippery surfaces were discussed, along with the unusual hard landscaping features. There was a general feeling of not spending a lot of money if the scheme is not meeting the needs of the town alongside investigating the scope for something much better. However, it was felt that if surfacing was a health and safety issue this should be addressed by NCC without delay.

It was AGREED that a further meeting with PTC, PCP and Prudhoe Traders could establish a more aspirational view of the Glade, potentially as an area more suitable for events and also seeking the views of the community. It was discussed that there could be some crossover with work expected on a Place Plan for Prudhoe, as part of Borderlands.