

# Neighbourhood Agreement

between

**The Residents of The Green, Wallsend  
Conservation Area**

**&**

**North Tyneside Council**

**&**

**SEC**

**&**

**Northumbria Police**

**&**

**North Tyneside Primary Care Trust**

**March 2009**



**North Tyneside Council**

**[DN:  
Insert The Green at  
Wallsend Logo]**



*Total Policing*

## INTRODUCTION

This Agreement applies to The Green, Wallsend Conservation Area. It sets out how the residents of The Green can be involved in influencing the decisions that affect their homes, their neighbourhood and their community.

The central feature of the Conservation Area is the village green itself. References in this Agreement to “the village green” are to those areas of common grassland within the Conservation Area which are registered as village green under the Commons Registration Act 1965.

This Agreement identifies how the residents, North Tyneside Council, SEC, North Tyneside Primary Care Trust and Northumbria Police have agreed to work in partnership to achieve the best possible standards for The Green.

This Agreement has three parts:

### **Part 1: Generic Neighbourhood Agreement**

The minimum standard that local residents can expect to receive from North Tyneside Council and its partners in the delivery of a number of services.

### **Part 2: Tailored Neighbourhood Charter**

The standards of service delivery that are tailored to suit the priority issues in The Green detailing who is responsible for each element i.e. North Tyneside Council, its partners or the community.

### **Part 3: Character Appraisal**

It is fundamental to this Agreement to acknowledge the Character Appraisal of The Green, which was carried out in October 2006 and has been formally adopted by North Tyneside Council. A process of change within a Conservation Area is inevitable and the purpose of a Conservation Area character appraisal is to define as clearly as possible the historic (and by implication, archaeological), architectural and natural components of the conservation area that are considered especially important and contribute most to the area's character.

It identifies how the residents, North Tyneside Council, SEC and Northumbria Police have agreed to work in partnership to achieve the best possible standards for the neighbourhood.

North Tyneside Council welcomes any comments or suggestions. For further information or copies of this Agreement, please contact Angela Gent on 0191 643 7072.



## **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

This Agreement has been developed through regular involvement with Wallsend Green Neighbourhood Agreement Group and Cllr Michael J Huscroft.

This Agreement provides information on the neighbourhood, including key services provided, community facilities, groups or organisations and any relevant planned activities by North Tyneside Council (through its Council and Area Plans) and other partner organisations (including local businesses if appropriate). It also sets out a summary of the priority outcomes for the neighbourhood as agreed between local residents, North Tyneside Council and other relevant partner organisations.

## **PART 1    GENERIC NEIGHBOURHOOD AGREEMENT**

Attached as separate document.

## **PART 2 – NEIGHBOURHOOD CHARTER**

### **Purpose of this Part**

This part of the Agreement sets out how the residents, North Tyneside Council and relevant partner organisations have agreed to work in partnership to achieve the best possible standards and delivery priority outcomes for The Green at Wallsend over and above the areas contained in the Decent Neighbourhood Standard. This element of the Agreement will be the subject of regular meetings to meet the needs and priorities within The Green at Wallsend as agreed between the residents, North Tyneside Council and relevant partner organisations (including local businesses if appropriate).

### **The Residents' Vision**

The Green is an ancient village green registered as such under the Commons Registration Act 1965. The village green is also the central feature of The Green, Wallsend Conservation Area. The Hall is the largest and most important building fronting onto the village green. Both the village green and the Hall are owned by North Tyneside Council.

Ownership of the village green vested in North Tyneside Council's predecessor by virtue of a direction of the Commons Commissioner given on 11 April 1973 pursuant to that Act. North Tyneside Council's ownership of the village green itself is thus as a trustee for the local inhabitants. North Tyneside Council owns the Hall too as a trustee for the benefit of the people of Wallsend.

All decisions and actions by North Tyneside Council which may have any effect upon its character or appearance should be made:

- (1) in the knowledge that the village green itself is one of the Borough's most ancient features
- (2) consistently with the principles to be found in the Character Appraisal
- (3) with proper consultation of the residents using the framework created by this Agreement
- (4) with the benefit of the substantial social capital represented by the local knowledge possessed by the residents themselves as those chiefly affected by such decisions.

North Tyneside Council agrees to be receptive to this approach and to initiatives started by residents.

### **North Tyneside Council's Commitment**

- North Tyneside Council will give fair and open-minded consideration to ways in which previous actions taken by it or its predecessors to the detriment of the character or appearance of The Green may be reversed or ameliorated
- North Tyneside Council will take reasonable steps (beyond any required by statute) to notify residents in advance of all proposals capable of affecting the character or appearance of The Green, including but not limited to planning applications, road traffic regulation orders and all other formal or informal exercise of statutory powers
- North Tyneside Council will co-operate with the residents by the timeous provision in advance of all reasonable information to enable the residents (a) to take an informed view of all proposals capable of affecting the character or appearance of The Green and (b) to make representations in sufficient time to be capable of contributing to the decision-making process and North Tyneside Council will further give conscientious and open-minded consideration to all representations which are so made
- North Tyneside Council will endeavour to state and to honour reasonable timescales within which actions once agreed shall be taken
- the Head of Serving Communities or such other officer of similar seniority as North Tyneside Council may from time to time nominate will act as the medium through which the residents may communicate with North Tyneside Council in any way relating to the performance of this Agreement and North Tyneside Council undertakes that all such communications will be promptly passed on to the appropriate officers who will give them all proper consideration in accordance with the promises given by North Tyneside Council in this Agreement

### **Recording of Specific Points of Agreement**

This Agreement is intended to create the framework for addressing and resolving specific issues which arise in future concerning any aspect of the management of The Green. Where pursuant to the terms of this Agreement the relevant parties to it have arrived at a specific agreement or understanding concerning any particular thing that will be recorded as a schedule to this Agreement and signed by the relevant parties and publicly available online. Such agreements may be reached and recorded at any time on an *ad hoc* basis but in addition it is intended that there should be as an absolute minimum annual meetings to identify relevant issues and to review the operation of the Agreement generally. Matters already agreed appear below.

## **Roads and pavements**

North Tyneside Council:

- will work with the community to consider the development of a suitable traffic calming scheme for The Green and surrounding areas including exploration of the feasibility of closing the main road on the village green to through traffic.
- will carry out all works to roads and pavements on and around the village green in a manner and to a design and standard consistent with its statutory status and character
- will inspect road and pavement defects within one working day of being reported
- will work with the community to consider issues in relation to parking and to develop measures to address concerns raised by residents

## **Grass Cutting**

- North Tyneside Council will continue to mow the village green in accordance with the “Ornamental Grass” standard and the general principles set out in the North Tyneside Council document “North Tyneside Council Grass Cutting Standards”
- North Tyneside Council will remove litter from the village green before each mowing (to prevent its shredding and dissemination during the mowing process); any litter which, despite this, is shredded will be collected immediately after mowing
- North Tyneside Council will trim the edges of the village green rather than chemically-treat them.

## **Trees**

- North Tyneside Council will continue to maintain the trees on the village green.
- North Tyneside Council will engage with the residents in a comprehensive review of tree planting and management on the village green in view of the widespread concern amongst residents that the village green has become overplanted to the detriment of its essential character.



### **Street Lighting**

North Tyneside Council and SEC will:

- install and maintain lighting on The Green fully in accordance with the agreement already reached with the Wallsend Green Neighbourhood Agreement Group and attached to this Agreement
- complete standard lighting repairs within five working days of being reported

### **Street Furniture, Signage and Markings**

North Tyneside Council will engage with the residents in a comprehensive audit and review of street furniture and signage on and around the village green in view of the widespread concern amongst residents that such items have proliferated in an uncontrolled manner to the detriment of its essential character, the most recent examples being the use of broad white paint to create the “Keep Clear” sign in Hunter’s Lodge and the “Disabled” parking bays in front of the Hall.

### **Bird’s Mouth Fencing**

North Tyneside Council will:

- complete the removal of the boundary features replaced by the bird’s mouth fencing edging the village green
- create spacing in the fencing at regular intervals to facilitate access to the village green, particularly by elderly or disabled people
- consult with residents about the feasibility of applying and maintaining white paint to the fencing

### **Litter**

North Tyneside Council will:

- collect litter twice-weekly from the village green
- provide sufficient litter bins to accommodate the litter which is observed to accumulate between collections
- determine the style and location of those litter bins in consultation with the residents
- provide sufficient dog fouling bins and determine the style and location of those bins in consultation with the residents

### **The Civic Hall**

- North Tyneside Council will ensure that the external uplights to the building will not be used as a permanent feature. They will be used as required for special occasions. The intensity of the lights will be toned down.
- North Tyneside Council will install replica units of the blue lamp standards
- North Tyneside Council will remove the recent white painted road markings designating disabled parking bays and mark the bays instead by discreet signs at the end of each bay

### **Health Care Properties**

North Tyneside Council will assist the residents in seeking to initiate discussions with North Tyneside Primary Care Trust and the Village Green Surgery about the following concerns felt by the residents:

- level of overnight illumination of buildings
- litter and waste management
- maintenance of external appearance

### **The Crow Shoot**

North Tyneside Council will commission a piece of work to investigate options relating to the potential restoration of the Crow Shoot.

### **Local councillors**

The Elected Mayor and councillors have an important part to play in neighbourhood working. The Green at Wallsend is part of Wallsend ward. Your ward councillors are Cllr Michael J Huscroft, Cllr Nigel Huscroft and Cllr Margaret Finlay. Information on how to contact councillors can be found on [www.northtyneside.gov.uk](http://www.northtyneside.gov.uk) or by calling 0845 2000 101.