

17th December 2008



Dear Resident

SURPLUS SCHOOL SITES IN THE OUTER WEST LAND-USE CONSULTATION FEEDBACK

In October 2008 we hand-delivered a short questionnaire to over 4,000 households in the Chapel House and Chapel Park areas in order to find out residents' views on the possible future use and development of three surplus school sites, comprising:

1. Part of the former Chapel House Middle / Thomas Bewick Schools;
2. Former Chapel Park Middle School; and
3. Former Parkway Special School.

The questionnaire asked you what you think would be the best uses for these three sites.

1,638 responses were received. This represents an excellent rate of return and means that the results are a good representation of the views of the community as a whole. We would like to thank all those who took the time to fill in the questionnaire. Your comments will be very helpful in drawing up policies for these sites in the future. We have prepared this newsletter to inform residents of the findings of the research and what we plan to do next.

What Happens Now?

Council officers will review the outcomes of the research and consider options for the future use of the three sites, in consultation with local councillors. Wider matters such as addressing funding needs and meeting the City's targets will need to be considered when looking at options for the sites.

We will keep you informed through Ward Councillors and Ward Committees, and another newsletter will be circulated when we have agreed the next steps.

We will also consult you again in our role as local planning authority - for example, during the preparation of development briefs and on any planning applications for the sites.

For more information contact:

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The full consultation report is available on the Council's website on the following "Where You Live" pages: www.newcastle.gov.uk/core.nsf/a/wardinfowesterhope, www.newcastle.gov.uk/core.nsf/a/wardinfodenton and www.newcastle.gov.uk/core.nsf/a/wardinfonewburn

Prize draw winner

The winner of the prize draw for £50 of Eldon Square vouchers is a resident of Dorchester Close, Chapel House.

1. Part of the Former Chapel House Middle School and Thomas Bewick School Site (adjacent to the proposed new school)

The most frequent suggestion for the former Chapel House Middle School and Thomas Bewick School Site is for this land to be **kept in educational use** (for use with the new Knoplaw Primary School). This was an option requested by around half of all respondents.

Response	% of responses
Land kept in educational use (for use with the new Knoplaw Primary School)	49
Open space improvements only	24
Housing and some open space improvements	12
Housing	9
No strong opinion	5
Other	3

Preferences for Housing Development

Residents who selected options which included housing for the site most commonly selected **housing for the elderly** (11%) as their preferred type of housing development.

Response	% of responses	
Housing for the elderly	11	The figures are shown as a percentage of all responses
Family housing	6	
Starter homes	5	
Affordable homes	4	
No strong opinion	1	

Two-thirds (67%) of residents felt that allotments should **NOT** be included as part of any open space improvements within the site.

2. The Former Parkway Special School Site

Residents are most likely to prefer land at the former Parkway Special School site to be land kept for **educational use plus some open space improvements** (36%). Whilst this was the most popular single option, **open space improvements** featured in 66% of responses and the **development of at least some housing** featured in 39% of preferences.

Response	% of responses
Land kept for educational use plus some open space improvements	36
Housing and some open space improvements	16
Open space improvements only	14
Housing	14
Land kept in educational use plus some housing	9
No change	5
No strong opinion/Other	5

Preferences for Housing Development

Residents who selected options which included housing for the site most commonly selected **housing for the elderly** (22%) as their preferred type of housing development.

Response	% of responses	
Housing for the elderly	22	The figures are shown as a percentage of all responses
Family housing	13	
Starter homes	8	
Affordable homes	6	
No strong opinion	2	

Three quarters (75%) of residents felt that allotments should **NOT** be included as part of any open space improvements at the site.

3. The Former Chapel Park Middle School Site

Residents were most likely to request that the former Chapel Park Middle School site should be a **local park** (36%). Whilst this was the most popular single option, a **local park** featured in 47% of responses and the **development of at least some housing** featured in over one third (37%) of preferences.

Response	% of responses
A local park	36
Open space improvements only	16
Housing	13
Housing and some open space improvements	13
Housing and a local park	11
No strong opinion	5
No change	3
Other	1

Preferences for Housing Development

Residents who selected options which included housing for this site, most commonly selected **housing for the elderly** (22%) as their preferred type of housing development.

Response	% of responses	
Housing for the elderly	22	The figures are shown as a percentage of all responses
Family housing	11	
Starter homes	7	
Affordable homes	6	
No strong opinion	3	

Approaching three quarters (73%) of residents felt that allotments should **NOT** be included as part of any open space improvements at the site.