

IN THIS MONTH'S
SURVEY:

- Community safety
- Drugs and alcohol
- Quality of life
- Council services and performance
- Scrutiny
- Museums and heritage
- Fairtrade

**DON'T FORGET TO
RETURN YOUR
QUESTIONNAIRE
BY: MONDAY 17TH
MARCH.**

IN THIS NEWS-

**What the Council has
done with your views:
The NEWS
Getting Involved**

**Updates:
Environmental Policy
Recycling
Budget consultation
People's Millions bid**

NEWS:

Bus Tour

Readers' Panel

Viewpoint North East

FEBRUARY 2008

What has the Council done—"the NEWS"

In 2003 NEDDC moved from a black and white newspaper format (called NED News) to a full colour magazine as its regular communication vehicle for residents of the area. The magazine is called 'the NEWS' and it is circulated to all homes in the NEDDC area 4 times each year.

We have asked Citizens' Panel members questions about the format and content of NED News/the NEWS since 2003. This information is used to inform decision making regarding improvements and changes to the publication.

You said: In the September 2007 questionnaire, we asked whether members receive a copy. Reassuringly, the vast majority (91%) were aware of receipt – a figure that has risen significantly since 2003.

Members tend to read all of the publication (39%) or some of it (41%), with very few just

flicking through (11%), reading very little (3%) or none of it (2%). Again, the proportion reading all of the publication has



risen over the years

We asked respondents to rate 'the NEWS' on a range of aspects. The response to each of these aspects was positive with very few considering the publication to be poor on any feature.

To gauge the balance of future content of the magazine, we asked whether respondents would like to see more articles or fewer for various topics. The subjects that most people would like to see more of in the

future were very consistent with those mentioned in previous years. They were: Features on the local area, new Council services on offer, community news, walks in the local area and information on other public sector services

We did: This information is being used as part of the review of the corporate communication strategy taking place between now and the end of March. Other issues also raised in the September survey, such as the type of media people use, will also be used.

Also, the next issue of "the NEWS" will include a 'Community Corner' feature as a direct result of the consultation held during the Bus Tour (see more in the article on page



Feedback—Getting Involved

North East Derbyshire Council are keen to provide opportunities for local residents to participate in decision making in the local area. Questions were included in the September survey to get views on the ways in which we do this and to explore the barriers to participation.

You said: Almost half (46%) were satisfied with the opportunities to participate in local decision-making. However, half of the respondents (50%) still felt that they couldn't influence decisions affecting the local area. However, only a quarter (26%)

would like to be more involved in such decisions. For the majority their level of involvement would depend on the issue in question.

We are doing: The findings were very useful to us and they will enable us to better target our approaches to consultation and engagement. One of the key areas we were keen to discuss with the Panel was how we could get more people involved. Clear messages in response were better feedback and showing the link to how their views had made a

difference. Steps are already being made to do this through this new style of newsletter, enhancing our website and the development of Ask Derbyshire to deliver findings and outcomes of consultations.

We also asked whether Panel members were aware of Neighbourhood Partnerships. These Partnerships are currently being developed further taking into account comments made and will be called Community Partnerships. For further information on how you can become involved in these please email us on: consultation@ne-derbyshire.gov.uk

Updates: Recycling and our Environmental Policy

As a result of the September 2007 survey, North East Derbyshire District Council will be increasing the number of recycling sites across the district from 24 to 30 sites. Also a strategic programme of recycling awareness is continuing across the district with the aim of encouraging recycling behaviour in areas where the amount of material currently recovered is low. Four promoters are calling at homes to encourage recycling and answers questions that householders may have.

Initial figures indicate that this approach of direct contact with the community is already paying dividends.

Environmental Policy

In May last year we asked you questions about our draft Environmental Policy. In November the Council's Executive Committee approved an Environmental Policy Commitment. This document has eleven overarching statements that will underpin and act as threads running through a full Environmental Policy.

The statements were improved, prior to submission to the Executive, based on the feedback you gave us from a variety of mechanisms including the Citizens' Panel.

For more information go to our website at www.ne-derbyshire.gov.uk



Join the Readers Panel

North East Derbyshire District Council produces lots of leaflets and forms for use by the public each year. We'd like to make sure that these documents are the best they can be by testing them through a "Readers Panel" first.

Members of the Readers Panel will be sent either existing leaflets or forms or they might be asked to look at ones we are de-

veloping for the first time. They will get the opportunity to tell us whether these are clear, easy to read and to understand, as well as whether they are attractive and eye-catching to look at.

Anyone can join our Readers Panel as long as you are prepared to look at, and comment on, at least 4 documents each year. Members of the Readers Panel do not

have to be members of the main Citizens' Panel but you can be a member of both if you would like to be.

For more information please email me on consultation@ne-derbyshire.gov.uk Or call on 01246 217018.



Update: Budget Consultation

We recently held focus groups with Panel members to ask about their priorities for the Council budget.

Thank you to all the members that attended these groups. The information they gave us was extremely useful and will be used to shape the budget for the coming year.

The budget is formed by the Cabinet Working Party which comprises leading Members and senior council officers. The outcomes of the groups discussions have been reported in detail to this Working Party. Generally the views were in-line with the outcome of other consultations that

we have conducted and with Members understanding of the views their constituents hold. The outcomes of the group have, however, helped to validate these views and it is encouraging that our consultation has produced consistent results from a variety of sources.



Update: People's Millions

Back in November we asked you all to vote in the People's Millions for a scheme in Holmewood.

Well we are very pleased to tell you that although the Holmewood project didn't win in the main vote, it's hopes were kept alive with the news that it could still win £80,000 as the best runner-up out of all the projects featured on Calendar News during that week. It was a tense week but at last we found out that it had secured the lottery windfall as the runner up with the highest number of votes.

Councillor Nigel Barker, who helped to lead the project, said: "This is fantastic news for Holmewood. We want to say a very big thank you to everyone who voted for this project and made it possible for us to win the £80,000. Winning has given a real boost to the community of Holmewood and building

the games area will make a real difference to the village."

The Holmewood project, called the Holmewood Youth Environment and Neighbourhood Action Zone (HYENAZ), involves working with the local community to renovate an existing hard surfaced court to the rear of the community centre on Old Colliery Lane, providing a Multi Use Games Area (MUGA) and Teen Shelter. An update on the progress of the project will be given in the next newsletter.

BUS TOUR NEWS

Thank you to everyone that joined us on our bus tour of the district last December. Members of the Citizens Panel and local community groups were shown many improvements and



schemes that you have helped influence as a result of some of the questions we have asked you in Panel surveys.

Everyone seemed to enjoy the trip so much that we are considering repeating it later this year. If you would like to put your name down for a place, please contact me on consultation@ne-derbyshire.gov.uk or 01246 217018.

There were so many interesting questions on the day that we have decided to share some of them with you below and overleaf.

Questions Asked on the Citizens' Panel Bus Tour

We would like to recycle plastic.

The following recycling sites have banks for recycling plastic bottles:

Parkside Shopping Centre, Killamarsh
West End Pub Car Park, Eckington
Civic Centre, Dronfield
Greendale Shops, Dronfield
Market Street, Clay Cross
Library Car Park, Heath Road, Holmewood
Village Hall, Ashover
The Old Pump, Barlow
Miners Welfare, Shirland
Arkwright Centre Car Park, Arkwright
Allendale Road Shops, Wingerworth

Can we recycle Christmas cards through the doorstep collection service?

No. This year you can take your Christmas cards to WH Smiths, Marks & Spencers, Tesco and TK Maxx for recycling. There will be designated points in each store and this recycling will benefit the Woodland Trust. If enough cards are recycled then this will help 24,000 trees to be planted. Cards can be recycled from today until the end of January 2008.

Can we recycle envelopes through the doorstep collection service?

Envelopes can not go in the Blue Bag, as the envelope gum ruins the recycling process. Full paper envelopes, those with no windows, can go in the green bin.

What are the recycling collection dates for the New Year?

The dates are available on line at <http://www.ne-derbyshire.gov.uk/environment--planning/refuse-collection/holiday-collections>.

I cannot manage to put my blue box out on the kerbside. Can I get any help with this?

The council has a scheme to assist disabled & infirm persons in presenting their blue box. Applications can be made on line at www.ne-derbyshire.gov.uk or by calling the Council's Environment Line on 01246 217610

Questions Asked on the Citizens' Panel Bus Tour

- Should we take the labels off all of the jars and cans we put in the blue box?** Ideally yes, but if the label is still on the item it can still be recycled. It is more important that the item is clean.
- Can I get a composting bin and information on composting?** The Council can be contacted via (01246) 217610 or the website for information about compost bin offers.
- What pressure can the Council put on local supermarkets to reduce packaging? M&S have sponsored Disability Go which is good but they are one of the worse culprits for excess packaging.**

It is consumer power that shouts the loudest. Feedback and opinions from the customer is the most powerful, as companies should listen to what the buying person needs and wants. Also, write to your local MP to raise the issue of packaging when at Government.
- How can I get information on cavity wall insulation?** The Council can be contact on (01246) 217263 for free and impartial energy efficiency advice. There is also information on our website.
- And discount schemes and grants for energy measures?** The Council can be contact on (01246) 217263 for free and impartial energy efficiency advice. There is also information on our website.
- What should I do if I do not receive a copy of 'the NEWS'.** Non delivery will be looked into. If you do not receive a copy please call Jill Ward on 01246 217019.
- Can we have "Community Corner" in each edition of 'the NEWS' where community and voluntary groups give short explanation of what they are about and contact details?** Yes. This is something we will try to include in the next issue and see what the reactions are.
- Can we promote smart water, handyman scheme and security checks more widely.** Yes this will be promoted.
- Can we find ways of encouraging inter-generational working?** This is a really useful suggestion. From the consultation work we do we look at adding this type of work into the methodologies we use in the next financial year. In particular we will discuss the possibility of setting up technology training sessions when we are talking to the secondary schools in the area.
- We have really enjoyed the bus tour and next time a trip like this is organised can NEDDC involve voluntary and community groups in helping to set it up?** This is a really good suggestion. We are already having discussions on how we might take this forward. When we are nearer to a time when another tour might take place we will come back to you to discuss how this will work.
- Can we have more accessibility info?** The Council has entered into a contract with DisabledGo to provide accessibility surveys for 330 venues and businesses in the North East Derbyshire District. This information can be found on line at <http://www.disabledgo.info/>. The Council is also looking at obtaining sponsorship in the new year to fund a paper version. For further information please contact the Equality and Diversity Officer on 01246 217641 or by emailing equality@ne-derbyshire.gov.uk
- What support is provided to help people come to terms with the unexpected loss of independence through disability?** There is a mentoring scheme that Derbyshire Coalition for Inclusive Living. Contact details are: Michele Newsome 01623744664

Please complete your questionnaire and return it in the pre-paid envelope by
Monday 17th March.