

Great Places

Delivered to 77,000 homes in NewcastleGateshead

Improvements Begin

In Arthur's Hill and Wingrove



Newcastle: Benwell & Scotswood | Elswick | Kenton | Byker | Walker | Walkergate | Fenham
Wingrove | Westgate | Blakelaw | Fawdon | South Heaton

Gateshead: Bridges | Deckham | Dunston & Teams | Felling | Lobley Hill & Bensham | Saltwell
Pelaw & Heworth | Windy Nook & Whitehills | High Fell

Schoolkids create nature spot in Walker

Kids from West Walker Primary School have begun work to create a nature spot and maze on a site which is part of the £450m Walker Riverside regeneration programme.

The twelve youngsters, aged between four and eleven, began to transform the site on Church Street by planting a mix of grass seeds and wild spring flowers.

In the future, new, sustainable homes will be built on the site. But, until building work starts, the Walker Riverside partnership wanted to create an attractive site for local residents to enjoy.

Dawn Howe from the Newcastle City Council Regeneration Team at Walker Riverside explained:

"This site is a recently demolished area and until building work begins in around two years time, we wanted to create an appealing spot for local people to enjoy.

"When the grass on the site is long enough, the Walker NEAT Team will mow a maze that is sure to prove popular with local youngsters."

Mrs J Stroughair of West Walker Primary said:

"What a fantastic opportunity for the children at West Walker to be involved in developing their local area. Everyone has had a great time and we will look forward to seeing the grass grow on our way to school."

Below: Children from West Walker Primary School planting wild grass and flower seeds



Improvements begin in Arthur's Hill

Work has begun on improvements to homes in the Arthur's Hill and Wingrove areas, with around 181 homes benefiting from a facelift in the first phase of work which is due for completion in spring 2008.

The work is being managed by Newcastle City Council supported by Bridging NewcastleGateshead and Newcastle New Deal for Communities. Croydon Road and Wingrove Road are the first streets in the area to benefit from improvements which include new walls and railings.

Funding permitting, it is hoped that the rest of Arthur's Hill will be transformed through the scheme in future years.

To encourage local children to stay safe during the improvement work, a new team of danger-spotting superheroes has been launched.

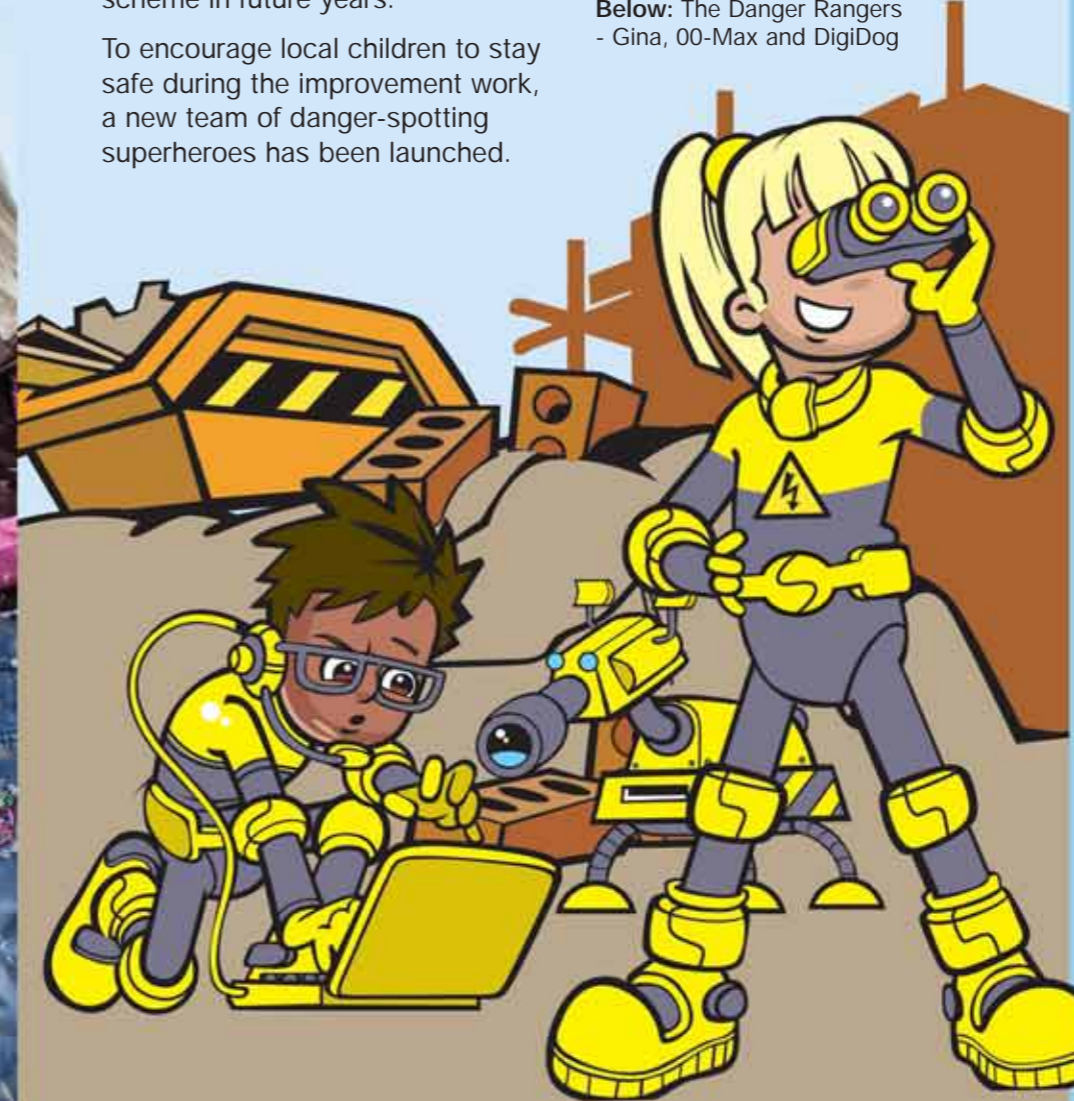
The Danger Rangers - Gina, 00-Max and DigiDog - have been introduced at a series of action-packed fun days which started at Wingrove School in May.

The pupils learnt about the dangers on building sites and built their own ideal homes from scrap materials such as boxes, straws and wallpaper.

The children voted for their favourite design, and three winners were presented to the Lord Mayor of Newcastle Councillor Peter Arnold.

Front cover: Edna and Tommy Redhead in front of their home in Croydon Road

Below: The Danger Rangers - Gina, 00-Max and DigiDog



Residents help to design neighbourhoods

In April, Planning Aid North (PAN) began working with local residents living in the BNG areas in Teams, Bensham & Saltwell, and Felling. Through a series of training events, local people will be able to find out how good design can benefit their neighbourhoods.

The project kicked off with drop-in events in Felling, Teams and at Gateshead Leisure Centre. By the end of the events, around 110 people had signed up to be involved in the training programme.

Planning Aid North is now busy organising the training events which will take place over the summer months. As part of this, there will be the opportunity to visit examples of successful places elsewhere in the region.

At the end of these sessions, local people will have a much better understanding of how design can make their neighbourhood a better place.

Following this, there could even be the opportunity for residents to get involved in helping Gateshead Council to choose the preferred developer to turn the plans for their area into reality.

If you would like to be involved in the free design training, there is still time to get your name down. Just telephone Andy McMillan at Planning Aid on:

07779 226 924
for more information.

NewcastleGateshead... Work In Progress

NewcastleGateshead

- The second North East **Landlords' Conference**, which took place in April, proved to be a big success, with around 200 landlords and people working in the private rented housing sector attending. The event gave information to landlords on private renting regulations which help to provide better quality private rented homes. Bridging NewcastleGateshead also provided information about its recent research of landlords. The event was organised by Gateshead and Newcastle Private Rented teams - which are both supported by Bridging NewcastleGateshead - together with North Tyneside Council.



West Newcastle

- 98 private residential properties in the **Bishop's Road** area of Benwell are undergoing external improvement works to help transform the area. The scheme which started in February 2007, covers part of Armstrong Road and Atkinson Road, Bishop's Road, St James Crescent and St James Gardens. For further information about the Bishop's Road Neighbourhood Improvement Scheme, please contact Helen Anderson on 0191 277 7864 or email helen.anderson@newcastle.gov.uk



Proposal for St Lawrence Square, Byker

- This year Benwell Neighbourhood Management Initiative organised two weeks of **clean up activities**, one for North Benwell Terraces, Gill Street and the Courts and another for High Cross. The programme of activities built up pride in the area and included daily litter picking, junior warden activities and a residents' coffee morning. The first week ended with a fete in Ladykirk Community Garden. Everyone joined in the activities including a dedicated group of volunteer residents, Newcastle City Council, Bridging NewcastleGateshead, Your Homes Newcastle, Home, Newcastle Private Rented Project and Northumbria Police.

Planning a new Heart of Walker



East Newcastle

- Consultation on the proposals for **St Lawrence Square, Byker** will take place throughout July, until 2nd August. Full details of the proposed scheme will be available at
 - Newcastle Civic Centre
 - Ouseburn Regeneration Centre, Spillers Quay
 - Byker Community Housing Office, 45/47 Brinkburn Street
 - East End Pool and Library, Hadrian Square
 - East End Customer Service Centre, 135-137 Shields Road
 - Brinkburn Centre, Brinkburn Street.

A drop in session will also take place - from 4pm -7pm on Wednesday 1st August at Brinkburn Centre. For further information contact Claire O'Shea or David Cross on 0191 275 5600.

- On 23rd and 24th May, residents, community groups and architects and planners working in **Walker Riverside**, came together to discuss 'what will go where' in the new Heart of Walker. The two-day event saw participants drawing up design plans, including models and artist sketches, for the area. These plans, which showed where shops, health and leisure facilities could be, were then displayed at exhibitions where the public could have their say.

North Central

- Consultation is taking place on the **regeneration plan** for the North Central area - which includes Blakelaw, Kenton Bar, North Kenton and Cowgate. Newcastle City Council is seeking local residents' views on housing, transport, education, health and community facilities as well as employment and training opportunities. Local drop-in sessions, neighbourhood workshops and community group surgeries are set to take place throughout the summer. For more information, contact Paul Whiston on 0191 277 7850 or email paul.whiston@newcastle.gov.uk.

Gateshead

- Gateshead's Private Sector Housing Renewal Team hosted a **public consultation event** over two days at a local school in Bensham and Saltwell to discuss how property owners and residents can get involved in the Block Improvement Schemes planned for 2007-2008. The event was well attended, with residents and owners getting advice on the

plans and proposals for property improvements but also other information including keeping the place nice in future. This included their rights and responsibilities as tenants, being a good landlord, home maintenance and energy efficiency, keeping streets/yards clean and tidy, noise control and tackling anti-social behaviour. It is hoped that works can start on site in September 2007.



'Up Your Street' Before and after

- Gateshead Council has published an evaluation of the **'Up Your Street'** scheme that saw 49 properties in Bensham and Saltwell benefit from improvements such as repainting, boundary walls, railings, front windows and doors. The evaluation found that of all the people who, prior to the 'Up Your Street' scheme, were dissatisfied or very dissatisfied with their property, 100% thought that the scheme had a very positive or positive impact on their property and neighbourhood. Comments from residents included 'a brilliant scheme'; 'the street has improved enormously' and 'easy, and clear to participate in'. Contact annatankerville@gateshead.gov.uk for a copy of the report.

Right: Durham Road improvements

- Relocations** are continuing successfully in Gateshead, such as the case of the Dawson family who lived in Trevethick Street. The family worked with Deborah McKenna, Neighbourhood Officer and wanted to remain in the same area. They commented: "We were able to buy a 4 bedroom house with a beautiful big back garden for the children to play in. The idea of losing our home was quite upsetting, but we can now say that it was 100% the best thing that could have happened to us. The whole process was made as easy as possible by Gateshead Council."

- A long-term empty property will soon be a family home again. It has stood empty for a number of years on **Durham Road**, a busy road through Gateshead and has been a source of problems for neighbours. In recent years, Durham Road has seen investment from Gateshead Council, Bridging NewcastleGateshead and from homeowners as part of a Block Improvement Scheme. The property has been inspected by Gateshead Council and the works that are required to bring the property up to a good standard have been agreed with the property owner. If you have concerns about an empty property in the Gateshead area contact Chris Geddes on 0191 433 3376 or at chrisgeddes@gateshead.gov.uk



THE YEAR INFOCUS 2006 - 2007

2006 - 2007 was a busy year for Bridging NewcastleGateshead and our partners as we made excellent progress towards creating great places to live in parts of NewcastleGateshead. Here are some of the highlights from the past twelve months:

- **Residents on the Cambrian estate in Walker** moved into the 29 new homes built as part of the multi-million pound Walker Riverside regeneration scheme. A total of 141 new homes are currently being built in the area.



New homes in Walker Riverside

- **Eight flats on King James Street in Gateshead** were transformed, benefiting from new kitchen and bathroom fittings as well as central heating systems and new roofs.



King James Street transformed



BoKlok scheme announced

- **The second Junior Street Wardens scheme** was launched with pupils from Canning Street Primary School in Benwell. The scheme involved the young people in their community, teaching them about topics such as recycling and tackling graffiti.

- It was announced that the St James area of Gateshead would be the location for the **UK's first BoKlok scheme**. Through the scheme, 117 timber framed houses and flats will be built for affordable sale. The properties will go on sale in Gateshead's Ikea store later this year. The scheme will be delivered in the UK by Live Smart@Home.

Launch of Heart of Walker Consultation



- **The Gateshead Private Landlords Association** made renting in Gateshead easier with the launch of their new website www.renting-in-gateshead.co.uk. The website contains helpful advice for private landlords.

- **Consultation on a new neighbourhood centre - called the Heart of Walker (HoW)** - took place in early 2007. Nearly 1000 people attended the launch event and were able to have their say at a series of events and visits.

- **Youngsters in Gateshead** transformed the Bankies, a former no-go area located on the riverbank in Teams. Together with Gateshead Council landscape architects, the children thinned out trees, planted new saplings and cleared rubbish and debris.

Our commitment to engaging with you

With this edition of Great Places, you have been sent a leaflet called 'Creating Great Places Together'. This is our Commitment to Engaging Communities and outlines how we will involve residents in the exciting work we are carrying out with our partners. The leaflet describes:

- What we mean by community engagement
- Our rules for engaging with residents
- How BNG and the projects we are involved with will engage residents
- A feedback form so you can get in touch with us.

Anne Mulroy, Director of BNG commented: "If we want to create great places to live in the BNG area, we need to have ongoing support from local residents. We need to engage local communities

- which means listening to, talking to and involving residents as well as helping them to lead on plans for their area.

"In this way we will be able to come up with improvements that are right for today's and tomorrow's residents."

The Commitment to Engaging Communities was based on the findings of a study of community engagement activity within the BNG area that took place in 2006. We listened to what you said and are already starting to take action. For example, we are looking to reduce the number of different logos we and our partners use when promoting work in areas.

If you would like to get in touch with BNG about any aspect of our community engagement work, you can email: michelle.playford@bridgingng.org.uk or write to:

Michelle Playford,
Freepost RLSH-RXJZ-0JRSA,
Bridging NewcastleGateshead,
1st Floor,
Central Exchange Buildings,
128 Grainger Street,
Newcastle upon Tyne,
NE1 5AF.



Listening to your views

- Thank you to every one who took part in our Creative & Cultural Sector study and congratulations to Kathy Aberici who was the winner of our prize draw. Kathy from Newcastle is in the music business and plays in an electronica pop band called Powerup. Kathy, who also writes for Narc magazine, commented: "There is lots going on in the Bridging NewcastleGateshead area, and in particular, there is a lot happening in the Ouseburn Valley." Kathy wins £150 in House of Fraser vouchers.

- BNG's Private Rented Sector Landlord Study used survey responses from over 570 landlords to give us a better picture of the thoughts and management practices of those people who rent out local properties. Rented housing plays an important role across the BNG area, providing housing for many people of different ages and backgrounds. The study includes recommendations for how BNG and partners can work with landlords to improve standards. A summary is available on our website: www.bridgingng.org.uk/research.htm

- Over 2,400 people have responded to BNG's Work Here, Like to Live Here? internet survey. This survey asked people who work for a selection of local organisations what they think of different neighbourhoods within the BNG area, how they decide where to live and how BNG and our partners can attract and keep more people living in the BNG area. Many thanks to everyone who took part. We will complete the study during the summer and will make the results available on our website.

Win! Win! Win!

Want to win £100 in vouchers for the Metro Centre or Eldon Square?

Thank you to everyone who entered the competition in the last issue of Great Places and congratulations to winner Marie Spence of North Benwell. The answer to the question who won the Award for Community Excellence was the North Benwell Wardens.

In this issue, we want you to answer this question that is based on one of the stories in this edition of Great Places:

What is the name of the Danger Rangers Dog?

You can send your entries to:

Michelle Playford
FREEPOST RLSH-RXJZ-JRSA
Bridging NewcastleGateshead
1st Floor
Central Exchange Buildings
128 Grainger Street
Newcastle upon Tyne
NE1 5AF

or email:
michelle.playford@
bridgingng.org.uk

All entries must
be received by
Friday 31st
August 2007.



NewcastleGateshead top for community engagement

NewcastleGateshead has come out top for community engagement in a new Government report.

Building Houses or Creating Communities?, a review by the Sustainable Development Commission, carried out research across a number of areas across the country, including the Bridging NewcastleGateshead area. The study found that community engagement in almost every other area 'has not met the standard set in NewcastleGateshead.'

Jim Coulter, Chair of Bridging NewcastleGateshead commented:

"We cannot transform neighbourhoods without the ongoing input and support from local residents. Across the BNG area, we make sure that we regularly engage with communities, through a variety of ways, to give residents a voice on plans for their area."

Get in touch

Want to find out more about Bridging NewcastleGateshead and our work?

You can visit our website at www.bridgingng.org.uk

Alternatively you can call us on: 0191 277 2666

or email info@bridgingng.org.uk

If you need help with translation, please call 0191 277 2666.

如果你需要翻譯的幫助，
請致電 0191 277 2666.

لو انك تحتاج الي مساعدة في الترجمة
من فضلك اتصل بتليفون 0191 277 2666

অনুবাদের ব্যাপারে সাহায্য চাইলে
দয়াকরে টেলিফোন করুন এ নাম্বারে
0191 277 2666

اگر آپ کو ترجمہ کے لیے مدد درکار ہو،
تو براہ مہربانی 0191 277 2666 پر فون کیجئے۔

यदि आपको अनुवाद करने में मदद चाहिए तो टेलीफोन नंबर
पर फोन करने की कृपया करें। 0191 277 2666

ਜੇ ਤੁਹਾਨੂੰ ਅਨੁਵਾਦ ਕਰਨ ਵਿੱਚ ਸਹਾਇਤਾ ਚਾਹੀਦੀ ਹੈ,
ਤਾਂ ਟੈਲੀਫੋਨ ਨੰਬਰ 0191 277 2666
ਤੇ ਫੋਨ ਕਰਨ ਦੀ ਕ੍ਰਿਪਾਲਤਾ ਕਰਨੀ।

If you need a large print or audio version of this magazine, please call us on 0191 277 2666