

HAVE YOUR SAY ABOUT THE FUTURE OF PARKS AND ALLOTMENTS

Over the next three-months Newcastle City Council will be inviting people to provide their views, ideas and opinions about the city's principal, countryside and neighbourhood parks and green spaces. The engagement programme looks to help shape and develop the Council's future vision for parks. The consultation begins in February and runs through until April.

The Council's innovative, forward thinking has been rewarded with the City being recognised as a pioneering 'pathfinding' local authority by organisations such as the National Trust, in its consideration of proposals to remodel the structure of its parks.

The Council wants the views and opinions from a cross section of the community about the prospect of transferring the operation, delivery and maintenance of a large proportion of the city's parks and green spaces to a Charitable Trust. A nationwide first, for a project of this scale and magnitude.

If implemented, the charitable trust would manage approximately 35 parks across the City and over 50 hectares of allotment land. They would explore new ways of best using the current facilities, space and buildings to bring in revenue for the successful running of the parks, without undermining free access to parks that everyone enjoys.

It is crucial that we can understand and respond to public feeling about the parks proposal so we will be engaging widely with members of the public on our consultation. The general public and allotment holders are being encouraged to take part in this consultation and have their say. We look forward to working with the community to develop and nurture these plans for the better of the city.

Please see attached dates and times of drop in sessions that can be attended across the city. It is also planned to deliver workshops across the city to volunteers, allotment holders and friends of parks groups, as well as interested individuals from 13th March to 11th April 2017.

For further information, please contact Joe Hogan on 0191 2772072 or email Joe.Hogan@newcastle.gov.uk or Farah Hussain on 0191 2116607 or email farah.hussain@newcastle.gov.uk or visit the websites listed on the attached open letter from the project co-ordinating team.

Susan Pownall, Chairman and
Your Newcastle Allotment Working Group representative.

Thank you for signing up to Let's Talk Parks!

Our upcoming events will provide you with opportunities to explore specific aspects of the Council's proposals for Newcastle's Parks, and share your ideas via three strands of activities:

- Workshops;
- Twitter discussions; and
- The 'Explore' section of the Let's Talk Parks' website.

These activities will run from 13 of March to 22 of April.

Workshops

We are offering a number of 2 hour workshops for groups of no more than 25 people on a first come, first served basis. To book your place, follow this link indicating your preferred workshop date and location. Workshop registrations will close three days before the scheduled workshop's date.

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/JLG5J2C>

Twitter Hour

Held on Wednesdays at 7pm between 15 March and 5 April at 7pm, these hour-long debates will be hosted by **@NCLTalkParks** and use the hashtag **#NewcastleParks**. Each Twitter discussion will focus on a different question, and provide opportunities to engage with dynamic polls around alternative futures for Newcastle's Parks.

Explore – Let's Talk Parks

Take a look at the explore section of the Let's Talk Parks website:

<https://letstalkparks.co.uk/explore/>

There you can view opinions and ideas gathered across the workshops and Live Twitter chats and add your own ideas and comments on proposals.

Views and ideas collected from all of these activities will be used to shape Newcastle City Council proposals for Newcastle's Parks.

If you have not already done so, please also contribute to the Council's general engagement which is live now, at: <https://letstalknewcastle.co.uk/>

Looking forward to the discussions!

—Let's Talk Parks Team

You can explore more online at letstalkparks.co.uk