

Your services, your say

Residents can have their say on the services provided by the Council – as well as policing in the district – in the latest round of Community Partnership and Safer Neighbourhood meetings.

The meetings, which are open for anyone to attend, will be running on the dates below, from 6.30pm to 8.30pm unless otherwise stated:

September

Tuesday 8 – Rural, Council House, Saltergate

Wednesday 9 – Clay Cross, Coney Green Business Centre

Tuesday 15 – Killamarsh, Sports Hall, Killamarsh Junior School

Wednesday 16 – Eastern, Temple Normanton Parish Church

Tuesday 22 – Wingerworth, Deer Park School

Wednesday 23 – Dronfield, Gosforth Lodge

Tuesday 29 – South Eastern, Shirland Miners Welfare

October

Thursday 1 – Eckington, Eckington Civic Centre

For more information, call (01246) 231111, email Community.Partnership@ne-derbyshire.gov.uk, text to 0780 0002425 or visit the website at www.ne-derbyshire.gov.uk/community

New plan to create communities for the future



Cllr Graham Baxter, North East Derbyshire District Council Leader, Cllr Mark Higginbottom, Chesterfield Borough Council Deputy Leader, Steve Lee, CHART LSP Coordinator and Tim Norton, outgoing Chair of CHART LSP

A new plan to make sure services for North East Derbyshire and Chesterfield communities are fit for the future has been launched.

Supporting the local economy to grow, tackling health inequalities and acting to stop climate change on a local level are among the measures laid out by the 2009-2026 Sustainable Community Strategy for North East Derbyshire

District and Chesterfield Borough.

The forward-looking plan will see the two local authorities work alongside a range of other partners as part of the CHART Local Strategic Partnership.

Tim Norton, outgoing Chair of CHART LSP, said: "This long-term plan is far-reaching and wide in its scope, but it pulls together a range of key issues which are crucial in creating communities which are sustainable and fit for the future."

The full strategy can be viewed on the CHART LSP website at www.chartlsp.co.uk

Your future, your district

The views of hundreds of residents who had their say on the future of North East Derbyshire are now being considered by the Council.

Over 200 comments were received – and around 300 people attended drop-in sessions – during the 'Your Future, Your District' consultation.

The proposals outline 15 issues that are of interest to the NE Derbyshire community, and four different options for where to concentrate future development in the district.

Taking into account feedback from residents – the authority will soon select a preferred option which will be subject to further consultation.

View the plan at www.ne-derbyshire.gov.uk/yourfuture

North East Derbyshire is a safe, happy and healthy place to live – that’s the verdict of hundreds of you who took part in the most in-depth survey ever carried out about our area.



Happy and Healthy!

Almost 1,500 residents took part in the nationwide Place Survey, which sought your views on a range of issues – from community safety and the quality of public services, to how involved people feel in local decision-making.

Results show that NEDDC rated above the national average for all councils in the country on a range of issues. Here are some of the headline results:

About our local area

- 84% of people are satisfied with our area as a place to live
- 66% feel they belong to their immediate neighbourhood

Our local public services

- 38% agree we provide value for money
- 48% are satisfied with the way the Council runs things, compared to the 45% national average

Local decision-making

- 33% feel they can influence decisions in our local area

Helping out

- 23% have participated in formal

volunteering at least once a month in the last twelve months

Getting involved

- In the last 12 months, 13% of people have been involved in local decision-making (for example, being a member of a committee or groups relating to local services, education or standing as a local councillor)

Respect & consideration

- 76% feel that they are treated with respect and consideration by local services
- 80% feel that people from different backgrounds get on well together in their local area

Community Safety

- Only 15 % of people think anti-social behaviour is a problem in the district – below the 20 % average for England
- 22 % of residents think drunk and rowdy behaviour is a problem, compared to the national average of 29 %

The findings of the Place Survey come contrary to a national survey last year which, using data from the British Household Panel Survey, claimed residents in North East Derbyshire were among the unhappiest in the country.

Cllr Graham Baxter, Council Leader, said: “North East Derbyshire is a district we are proud to lead and we are delighted that our residents feel safe and respected in their communities.

“Our residents’ views are crucial to understanding where we are performing strongly, and, never complacent, this information will help us identify areas where we may need to re-focus our priorities in the future.”

Surveys were sent to 4,000 households across the district, asking residents about a range of services delivered in the area not just by NEDDC, but also partners including Derbyshire Police, Derbyshire County Primary Care Trust and Derbyshire County Council.

Cllr Baxter added: “Thanks to everyone who took the time to take part in this survey – residents’ views will be used to help shape our plans for the future of the district.”

View the full results at
www.ne-derbyshire.gov.uk/place-survey



Serve yourself online!

Residents will soon be able to keep on top of their council bills and benefit claims online with the launch of a new 'self-service' system.

People will be able to set up their own account to view their Council Tax and Business Rate bills and payment schedules, set up direct debits, calculate what benefits they are entitled to claim and request that their bills are sent by email.

Users simply register on the site, and the Council will send a unique PIN number through the post which is needed to sign in to the individual secure account.

Cllr Graham Baxter, Leader of North East Derbyshire District Council, said: "We're always striving to improve our services to residents and we hope people will take advantage of this new online system once it goes live.

"It will add to the growing number of functions which residents can carry out via our website."

The self-service system is due to go live in the Autumn – watch out for more information soon.

Memorial painting on show



Cllr Graham Baxter, NEDDC Chief Executive Mike Goodwin and artist Shay Boyle

A painting by local artist, Shay Boyle – created to mark International Workers' Day – was on show for the public to see in North East Derbyshire District Council's reception.

The artwork depicts local factories and workplaces and was unveiled to mark the national awareness day, which remembers victims of industrial illness, and campaigns for better working conditions.

Housing for the future

Creating good quality housing estates which are fit for the future is the focus of a new housing review being launched by NEDDC.

The quality of Council homes across North East Derbyshire will be considered as part of the approach, which will look at how the Council can secure a long-term future for its housing stock over the next 30 years.

The review will focus on properties which were built using non-traditional construction methods – and will run alongside the ongoing Decent Homes programme which is currently being rolled out by Rykneld Homes.

Look out for more information in the next edition of the NEWS.

Top ranking for website

The Council's website has been ranked as among the best of all local authority sites in the country – placed in the top six per cent following a new survey.

It was ranked 22nd out of 428 Council websites in the 'SiteMorse' national benchmarking survey, the highest spot achieved by NEDDC so far.

The monthly survey assesses the site on a range of criteria including the accuracy of links its ease of use by people with disabilities and information download times.