

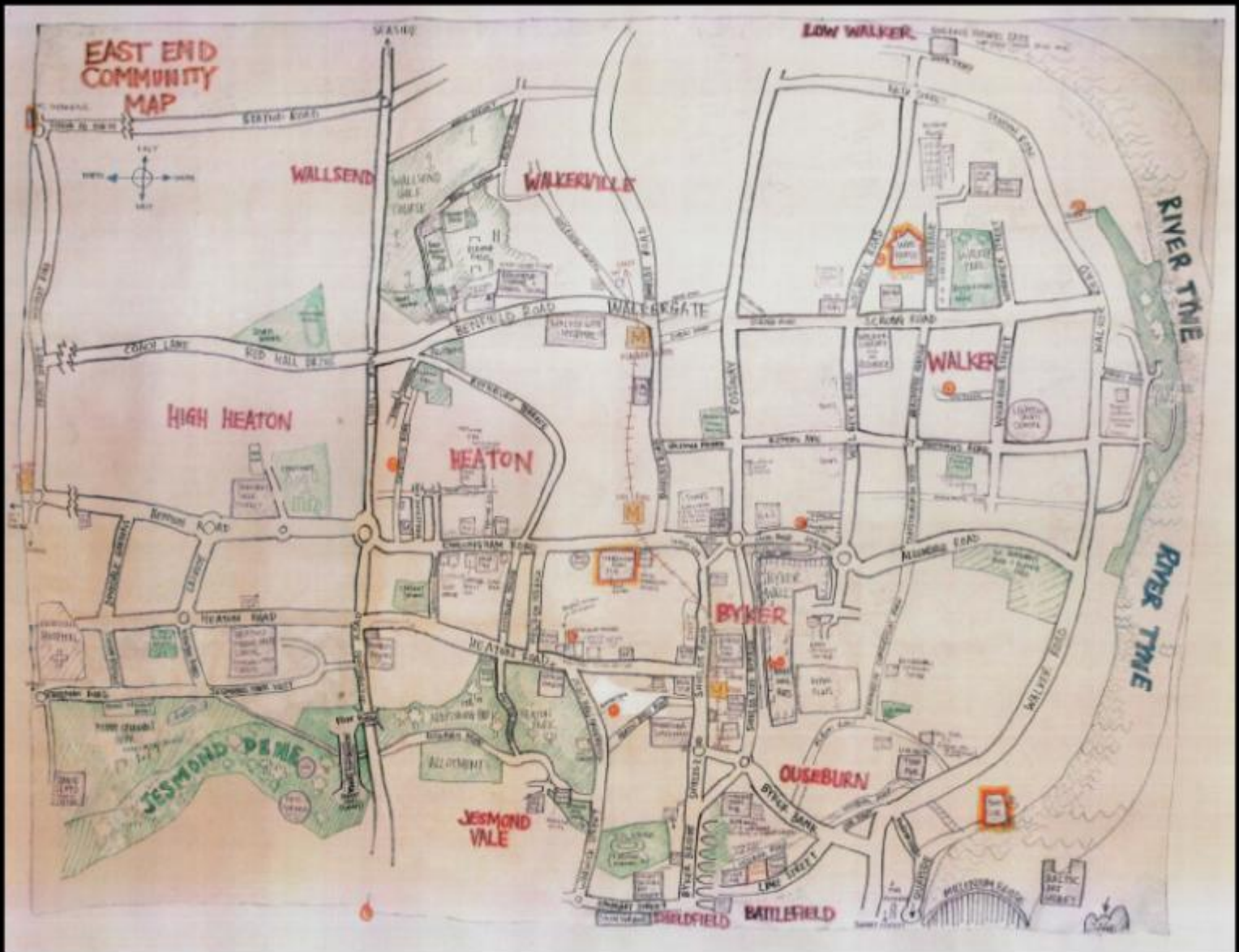
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# East End



# People's Plan

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# East End People's Plan

## Introduction

This document has arisen out of an adult learning programme called 'The Learning Revolution', funded by the Government and administered by the Worker's Education Association, East End Community Development Alliance and East End Media C.I.C.

In January 2010 adverts were put out in the East End asking people who were interested, to come forward and share their ideas about what they would like to see happen to make the East End a better place to live in.

We attracted 13 East Enders, from a range of backgrounds and covering several neighbourhoods – in fact a pretty good cross-section of the population – and these are the ideas that were agreed in the 8 sessions that we held.

We do not claim that the plan is comprehensive. Huge issues such as education, antisocial behaviour and poverty are barely touched upon. We know we have made only a start in identifying the issues which are important. Nevertheless we hope that the majority of East Enders will support the ideas and that they will, in turn, produce their own ideas to add to our own.

In short, our hope is that this East End People's Plan will be just the start of an organic process whereby the plan will change and grow over the years, with lots of East Enders making their own contribution towards it and supporting it.

The following pages outline what we would like to see happen.

Please send comments to Phil Kitchen at 0191 2654748 or e-mail [sphilkitchen@yahoo.com](mailto:sphilkitchen@yahoo.com)

## Walker Riverside



Demolition of last cranes at Swan Hunter



New Neptune Energy Park

1. Section 106 money should be used to help refurbish Thomas Gaughan Centre and support the community café.
2. Funding should be made available to establish a green corridor between Walker Road and the River Tyne.
3. Community gardens/allotments and other temporary uses should be established on cleared sites where building is not going to take place soon.
4. There should be a better bus service to Shields Road and an extension of the Quayside bus service.
5. If there is a possibility of a large supermarket being established, which serves a far wider area than Walker

there should initially be full consultation with the local community so that they can carefully weigh up the advantages and disadvantages for them.

6. In 4 to 5 years time 400 to 500 jobs will be created in the old Neptune Yard when Clipper starts production of offshore wind turbines. It is hoped that other firms will also locate on that site and that more jobs will soon follow. It is important that local people (especially those presently at school) are given every opportunity to gain training and qualifications which will make them suitable to be employed in these jobs.



Thomas Gaughan Community Centre



Open space in Walker Riverside

## Community Gardens

As in Walker Riverside area, wherever people in the rest of the East End want to come together to take responsibility for open spaces of land on a communal basis, this should be encouraged. Assistance should be given to them to form Community Enterprises.

Partnerships should then be encouraged with organisations such as Building Futures East, Groundwork and the Council's Rapid Response Teams, so that local people can receive training followed by the possibility of obtaining jobs in environmental maintenance



Open space at Pottery Bank

## Byker Old Town

1. The neighbourhood has suffered considerably through some private landlords taking little care of their properties and through letting them to antisocial tenants whose behaviour they

make little attempt to control. It is vital that selective licensing of private landlords is implemented as soon as possible and that,

2. In the meantime, the Council's Private Rented Project acts as forcefully as possible to deal with the landlords effectively on a voluntary basis.

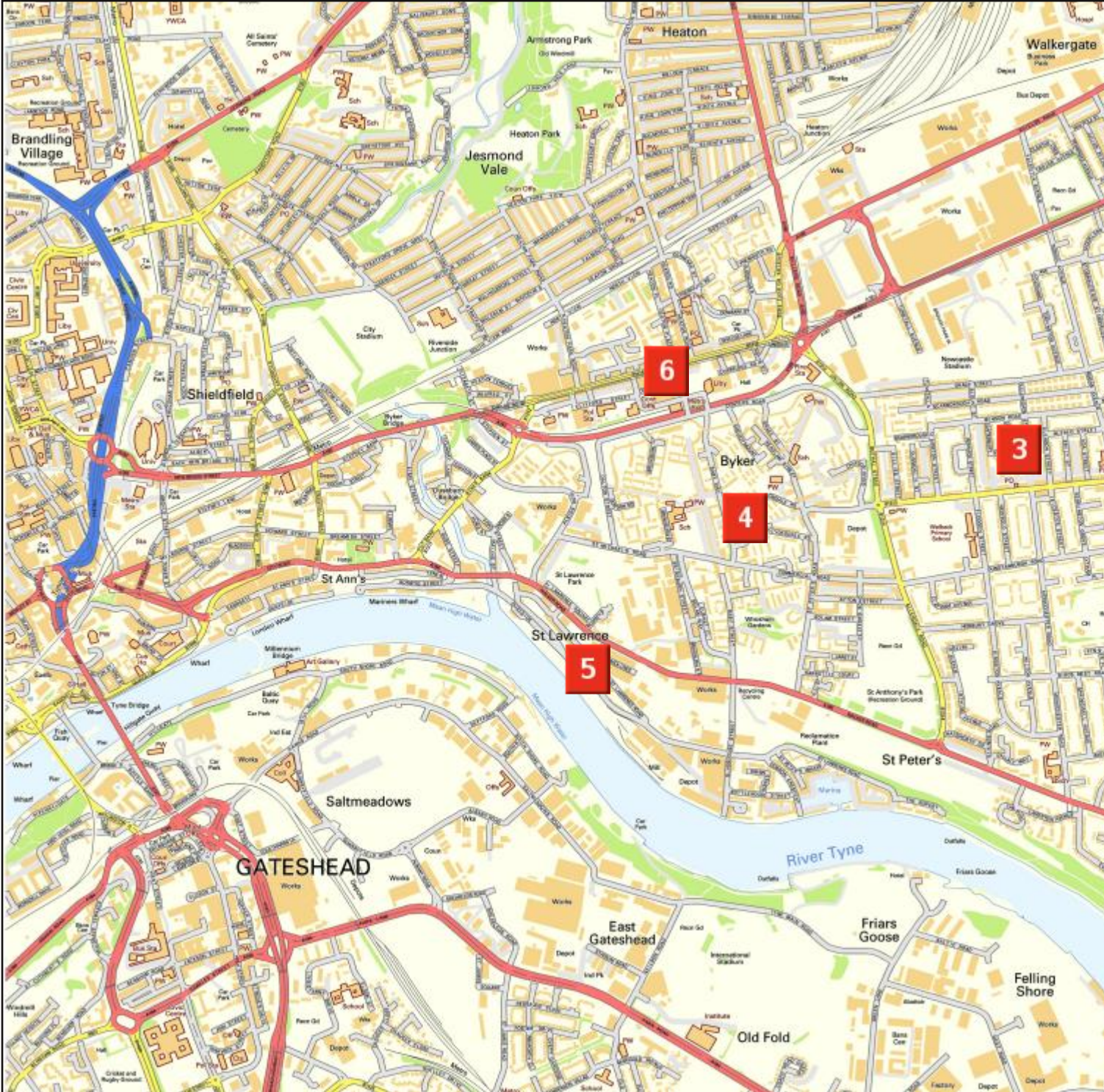
3. Where landlords will not cooperate, the Council should be prepared to compulsorily purchase properties and have them managed by Your Homes Newcastle.

4. Environmental maintenance must continue to improve.

5. The neighbourhood should be considered a priority for the kind of intensive housing management that has been implemented in such places as Benwell and Cowgate.



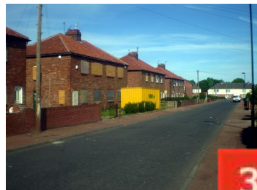
Scarborough Road Byker



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## The Byker Estate

**1.** Community spirit and cohesion has declined over the years. There are plenty of places for people to meet but these facilities are underused. There is a need for a good community development strategy. As part of that it is important to engage the young people.

**2.** It is important that the tenants on the Ralph Erskine designed estate are given support in their efforts to form a Community Trust and that finance is made available for major improvements to take place on the estate.

**3.** The significance of Byker as a culture and heritage resource needs to be more strongly recognised. Support needs to be given to the Byker Centre, incorporating St. Michael's Church and grounds and the Byker Community



Felton Walk Byker

Centre, developing them into a centre for culture, heritage, educational and social activities. Its position on the top of St. Michael's Mount, giving it the best view there is of the city and Tyne gorge, will enable it to become a regional or even national tourist attraction, as well as being an important facility for local people.

The Ralph Erskine-designed Byker estate is already world renowned, and after its planned refurbishment this could also be attractive to visitors. Trails which lead through the most attractive parts of the estate and which would incorporate works of art/sculptures should lead up from the Quayside and Ouseburn valley to the Byker Centre and then connect with Shields Road and Metro.



St. Michael's Church Byker

## The East Quayside site at the mouth and west of the Ouseburn

1. A low-rise building that will have facilities that will attract tourists as well as local people, such as a museum and affordable café/restaurant could be suitable here. The Victoria Tunnel, Malings old Pottery and other historic features are nearby and could together form a constellation of attractions at this end of the East Quayside. As well as this, it may be possible to place replica keel boats and a 'Lord Mayor's Barge' there, built by local trainees, which could

give people short rides on the river. Discussions with the Tyne and Wear Museums Service should take place to discuss options, plus suggestions from the general public should be invited.

2. The rest of the land here should be used as recreational open space. The establishment of a sandy beach (a real Byker Sands) in the summer months is a proposal which should be taken seriously.



Quayside at the mouth of the Ouseburn



Spiller's Quay and Boathouse

## Spiller's Quay

1. There should be significant open space for recreation/parkland/cultural activities.

2. At the appropriate time 'The Boathouse' (presently the Ouseburn Regeneration Centre) should be taken over by local people to be a

performance/workshop and café venue and run as a charitable company.

3. Spiller's Mill - no suggestions have been put forward by the group but we would like to visit the building to assess possible uses.

## Shields Road shopping centre

1. Much more needs to be done to make it more environmentally friendly and attractive for pedestrians and cyclists. There should be more greenery and seating along the pavements and in squares adjacent to the road eg. Molineux St./Grafton St., Hadrian Square, top of Raby St. to the Metro station.

2. Private through car traffic should be encouraged into the by-pass. Illegal car-parking should be stopped. It is recognised, however, that it is vital that bus services can still give good access to the shopping area. Some services could possibly be diverted on to adjacent parallel roads.

3. The dangerous road situations for pedestrians at the bottom of Shields Rd, between Morrison's and Byker Bank and also at the top of the bypass, should be dealt with.

4. There is huge potential for street markets selling local produce and world food in Hadrian Square and the covered areas between the Metro and top end of Raby St.

5. Shields Road should be seen as the main focus for cultural development and cohesion, which reflects the changing population of the east end. As well as the long established residents of the East End there is now a growing student population and more ethnic minorities who may also like to buy, sell, eat, drink and enjoy cultural activities in the shopping centre. As a start the Shields Road Festival should be revived.

6. More should be made of Hadrian's Wall. East Enders are proud of its existence in their locality and there is tourist potential. (See also the next section on walkways, concerned with the establishment of an alternative Hadrians Way)



Traffic on Shields Road



Molineux Health Centre



Traffic on Shields Road



Shields Road bypass



Neglect and vandalism at Hadrian Square



Raby Street by Byker Metro



Green walkways in Byker

Walkways/Cycleways / Green Corridors linking up east end neighbourhoods / Using the river

1. There needs to be a good, safe and well maintained link between Walker Riverside, Harbottle Park and St Lawrence's Park
2. Clearer and pleasanter routes need to be made from the Quayside and Ouseburn Valley into the Byker Estate up to St. Michael's Mount and through to the Metro and Shields Road.
3. There should be a designated alternative Hadrian's way which would follow the real (and shorter) route of the Wall from Segedunum, along the Fosse Way and through Byker. Interesting signage, art, replication of Roman features and more greenery could be placed on the route. The Fosse Way pub may be interested in exhibiting materials.
4. Good maintenance of all Walkways/Cycleways will be very important.
5. Walkways/Cycleways also need clear access points, need to be linked together better and more people need to know about them.
6. The possibility of developing more river traffic for commuters and tourists should be investigated



Greenery on The Fosseway



The Fosse Pub



The Fosseway, no greenery

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