

Regeneration Updates

Wansbeck Square/Grand Corner

Monday 22nd April – from 3:00pm site visit to Wansbeck Square then Grand Corner. Followed by meeting at Advance Northumberland.

Hirst Masterplan

Tuesday 23rd April – 6:00pm presentation in Town Hall, Chamber.

Ashington Market

In light of further concerns raised about the market, Sarah has contacted the NCC Markets Manager highlighting the general concerns.

“Councillors have periodically raised concerns about the appearance of the market, such as inconsistent stall designs, stalls encroaching beyond their designated areas, van doors being left open, and traders occupying parking bays. While these may not be concerns for traders or market visitors, they continue to be raised, and it would be beneficial to address them.

In light of these issues, would you welcome the opportunity to speak with the Town Council about the market's current status, any forward plans, and improvements? This would provide an opportunity to listen to Councillors' concerns and work towards finding mutually agreeable solutions.”

Allotments (Capital Works)

Woodhorn roadways, due to the inclement weather the start of the road works has been delayed. Alan has contacted the contractor D.A Johnstone, possible further delays this week and snow forecast for W/C 8th April 24.

Allotments (General)

Volunteers at North Seaton Colliery have achieved some great improvements, creating a small area for up to 4/5 vehicles.

One outstanding tenancy agreement for North Seaton Colliery, this is a new tenant on the site. Less than 20 outstanding agreements for Hirst East End.

Nursery Park have recently received their invoice for the new financial year with 38% already paying.

We are looking at improving security at Nursery Park, which has been deferred for several years. Cost are being sought for a new fence and gate.

Our second allotment week is scheduled for the second week of June.

Ashington Town Centre CCTV

Preparatory works, by our contractors Assetwatch are continuing for the new town centre CCTV system and subject to the installation of power supply by NCC, will be online within coming days. Eleven cameras in total will be installed with images sent via equipment on the Town Hall roof to Assetwatch's premises on Jubilee Industrial Estate. All images from the system will be readily available to Northumbria Police.

ATC Neighbourhood Services

Work is on-going in replenishing shrubbery in town centre and entrance feature planting in preparation for the summer season. Planting enhancement works have also taken place around the Jack Charlton statue with on-going maintenance work now the responsibility of the Town Council.

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The removal of winter planting in the town's flower towers and troughs will take place in the coming weeks in preparation of summer planting due to be installed in mid - late May. We have asked Wansbeck Garden Centre, who provide the flower tower planting for more emphasis on sustainable planting.

Work is planned for the painting of public seats around the town with the initial focus on public seats in the bus interchange area.

Three bus shelters in the Seaton Ward (close to the NCEA) will also be repainted in coming weeks following on-going graffiti issues.

Removal of Town Council signage has taken place at Shire Farm and Warren Court Play Areas.

Tree Planting

The Northumberland County Council tree planting schemes carried out in the Haydon ward were completed w/c 8 April and we would welcome your thoughts.

Events and Engagement

Youth Support Wellbeing Coffee Morning

Sharon attended the coffee morning on Wednesday 13th March at the Hirst Welfare. A networking event focused on youth support arranged by Wansbeck Community Links. Some of the organisations in attendance included, Northumberland YMCA, Northumberland Recovery College, Thriving Together and Morpeth Vision Impaired Group.

Work Experience

Maddie is enjoying the work experience and has done an excellent job of designing the Easter Trail poster and sticker card as well as taking part in the litter pick arranged for the Hirst Area.

Bunny Hop Easter Egg Hunt

Families were invited to join in the fun this Easter with the return of The Bunny Hop Easter Trail. Beginning Saturday 23rd March kids can search for a special Easter egg posters at participating shops around the town, in addition to the high street, Milburn Road and Hawthorn Road are also included.

Initial feedback from traders is positive with a couple asking for more sticker cards. (each shop had received 20 sticker cards). Certificate and Easter egg presentations to take place on Friday 12th April and Saturday 13th April.

Climate Action Poster Competition

An invitation letter to take part in the Climate Action Poster Competition went out on Thursday 28th March to Ashington Academy, Ashdale, Bothal Primary Upper Site, Castle School, Central Primary Upper Site, Dukes Secondary School, and St Aidens R.C. Primary School.

Four schools have already confirmed they would like to take part. It is hoped that all schools will confirm by 20th of April, allowing the launch date to coincide with World Earth Day on Monday 22nd April.

Great British Spring Clean

A successful week of litter picks, with nearly 30 volunteers involved, some from Ashington Community Litter Project, Northumberland Rivers Trust, Heart of the Hirst Residents & Tenants group, North Seaton Colliery Community Centre, North Seaton Community Centre, asylum seekers

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living in Ashington and children from Castle School. Cllrs. Caroline Ball and Jim Lang also help out on Easter Saturday at Paddock Wood.

Approximately 100 bags of litter were collected over the four days. Northumberland County Council Neighbourhood Service Team picked up the bags after each litter pick.

See link below for ATC website news article.

Hirst Working Group Meeting Summary

Sharon attended a Hirst Working Group meeting on Wednesday 3rd April at Hirst Welfare.

Northumberland Communities Together providing updates on a new directory and employability initiatives with NCVA next week.

Tensions remain high in the community around population shifts. Residents encouraged to direct concerns to Wayne Daniels at Northumbria Police. Police still facing challenges engaging asylum seekers.

Ashington Hirst Welfare received Youth Investment Fund for renovations including redesigned reception areas, new window shutters, and developing a youth work program. Construction to begin soon.

The Welfare are withdrawing application to Leisure Partnership fund to instead apply for CCTV due to increasing anti-social behaviour and property damage on grounds.

Hirst Park Playzone project awaiting start date.

Ashington Family Hub launching new Dad's Saturday programs in Ashington and Bedlington, expanding after school club with prevention/intervention work. Online sessions and graffiti wall coming soon.

Newcastle United Foundation setting strategic goals to extend reach in Northumberland, launching Ashington Connected with on-site staff at Welfare for employability skills. Bringing walking football, careers work.

Wansbeck Square regeneration to include community space. Public engagement sessions planned, designs to be completed by July 2024.

Northumberland Miners Picnic

Rowan responded very positively to thank the Council for their continued support. Woodhorn Museum are working with Walk the Plank to assess the relaunched 'Animating Astington' tender. If successful, they advise it will facilitate better cultural connectivity between the Town and the Museum and provide some useful learning for future events.

Detached Youth Group

A first meeting needs to be arranged. There is a feeling that the Council should lead on a collaboration meeting to bring together youth groups working in Ashington. This will be brought forward as a proposal when further information can be gleaned about meetings already being held in the town of a similar nature.

Potland Burn

19/03/2024 Further update received from Countryside Officer:

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An update of the reinstatement of the public rights of way on the Potland Burn ex open cast site. I have been in touch with the land agent acting on behalf of Advance Northumberland for the restoration of the site.

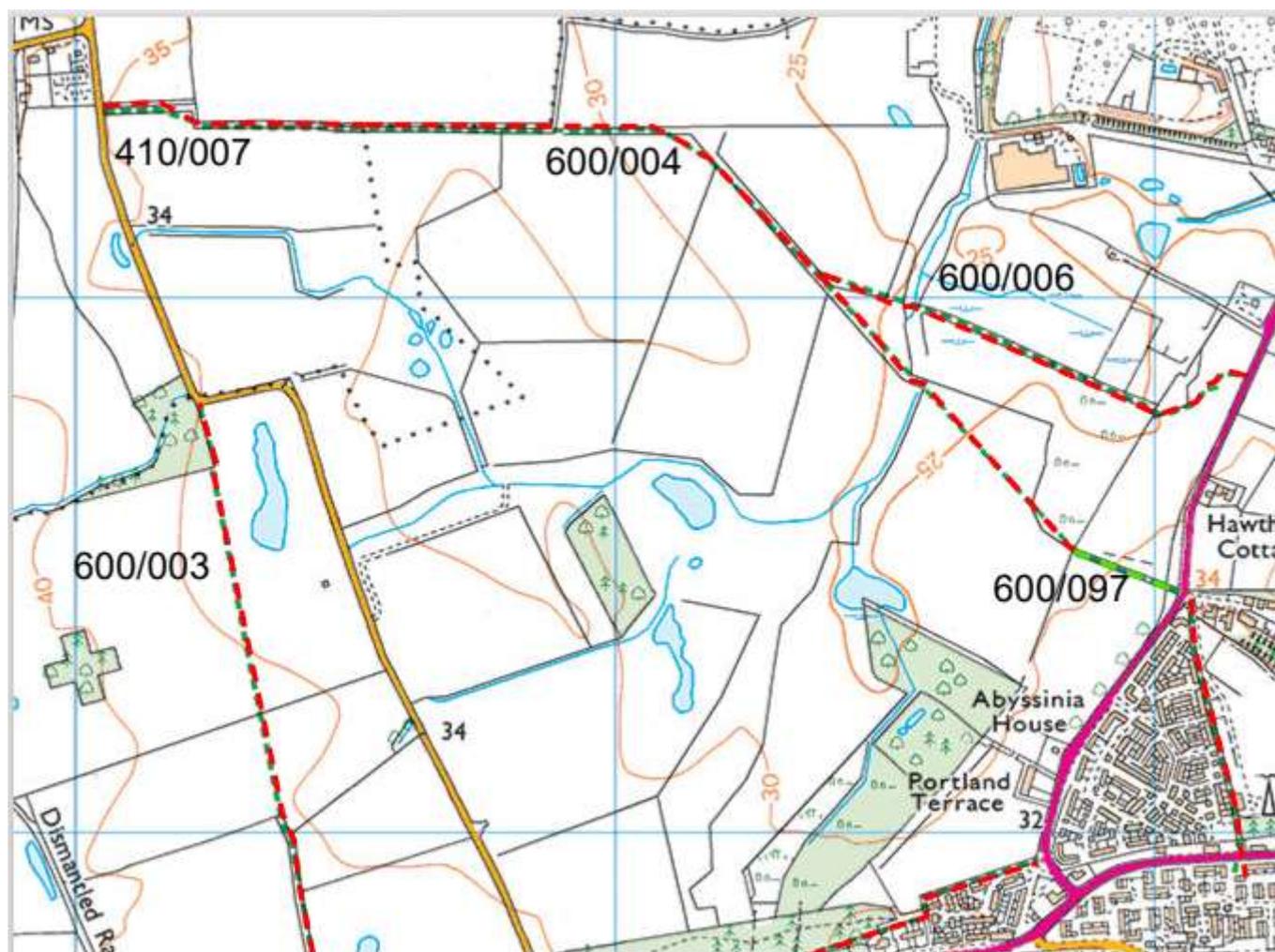
I conducted a site visit on the 7th of February with James to identify the progress that is being made on the site. The site visit showed that some progress has been made to reopen there is still a way to go before we can reach the order making stage and formally create the proposed rights of way network.

After this site meeting, I have provided a work advice schedule to James identifying the works required to be carried out to reopen the original right of way network on the park before it became an open cast site. Currently as it stands footpath 600/003 is clear and available for use. Footpath 410/007, 600/004 work has been identified along the route as this is proposed to be upgraded to bridleway, this is currently functional as a footpath.

Work is still required at 600/097 at the Ashington bridleway and has been addressed in the work schedule this would open a direct route from Ashington up to Longhirst and would tie in with 410/007 and 600/004.

Footpath 600/006 was discussed about potentially being diverted to tie in with the current line of 600/097. This was to avoid a large wetland area on the footpaths current route. No work has been discussed about this as of yet.

I have requested a follow up meeting to discuss progress at the site for the end of May/ early June.



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News Items (with links)

[*Stress Awareness Month - April 2024*](#)

[*Ashington Community Unites for Successful Great British Spring Clean*](#)

[*Ashington's Civic Head Witnesses Homecoming of HMS Blyth's Historic Bell*](#)

[*Hop to It! Ashington Town Council Launches Bunny Hop Easter Trail*](#)

[*Northumberland County Council to Submit Demolition Application for Wansbeck Square*](#)

[*Action For Insects How to Build a Hedgehog Home*](#)

[*Action for Insects Build a Hedgehog Hole*](#)

[*Casual Vacancy - College Ward*](#)

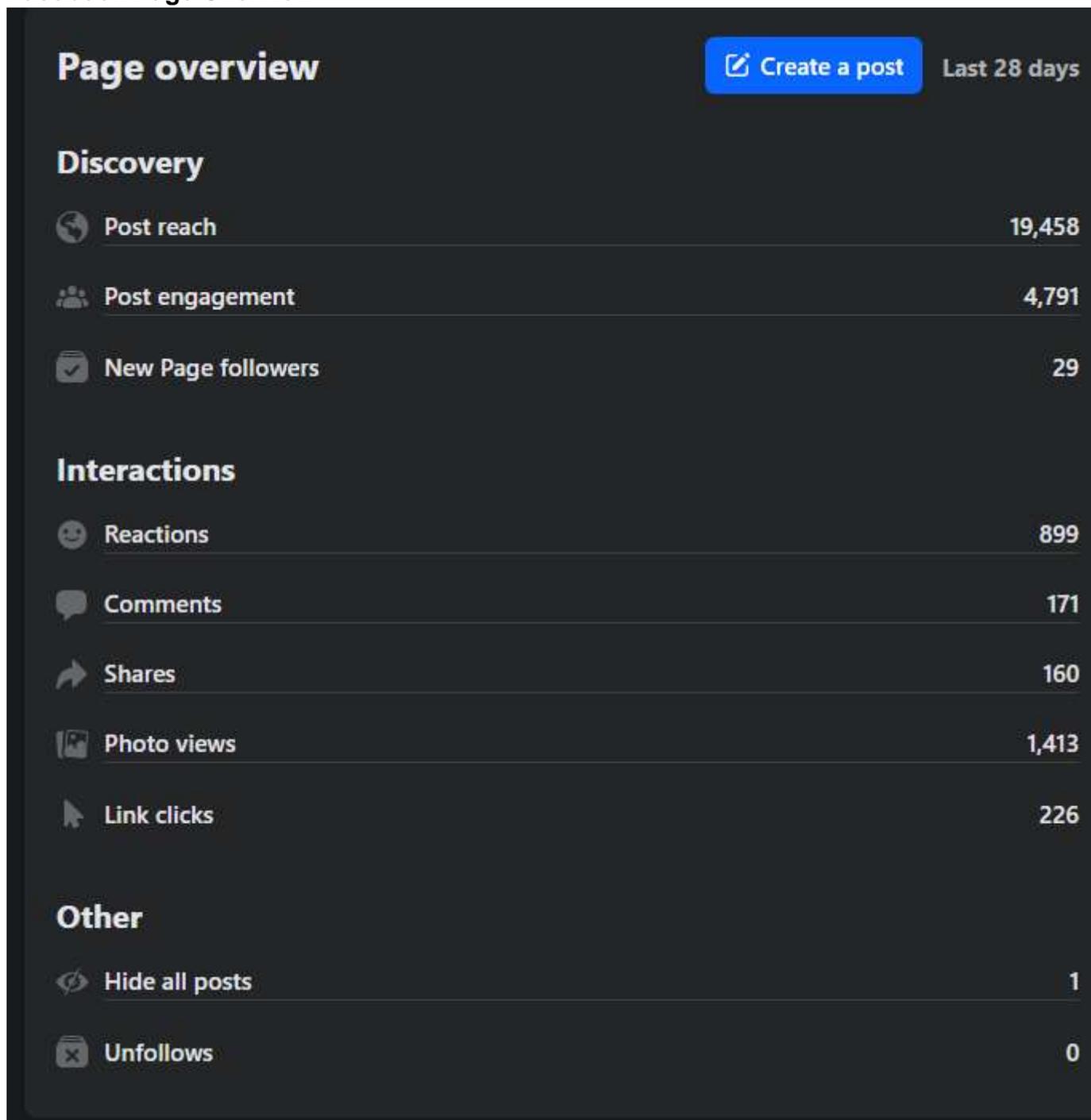
[*Build a Bat Box for Action for Insects*](#)

[*Ashington Town Council Annual Grant Aid Now Open for Applications*](#)

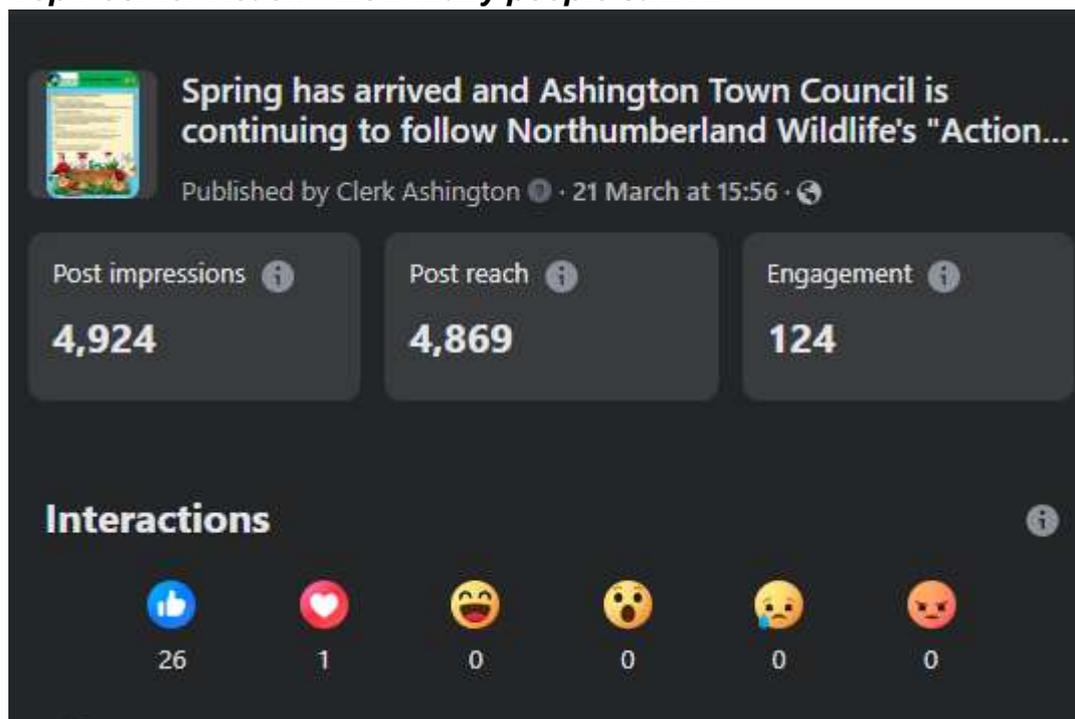
[*Town Council Approves Funding, Launches Annual Grants Program, Welcomes New Councillor*](#)

[*Ashington Gets Buzzing for Insects!*](#)

Facebook Page Overview



Top Post for Reach – how many people saw it.



Top post for engagement – commented upon, reacted, shared, or clicked.

