

## Charlie's Corner Proposal

### Resident Consultation

#### Background

Wylam Parish Council's Action group meet to address the climate crisis. Nature Recovery is one of the priorities globally and internationally. One suggestion: making Charlie's Corner in the centre of the village into a more attractive and welcoming place for people and wildlife, whilst still welcoming responsible dog owners to use the area.

Liz Bray (Voluntary Tree Warden) provided a sketch of the proposal. In order to consult with Wylam Residents the proposal featured in the Summer edition of the Globe and shared on notice boards, social media and the gate leading to Charlie's Corner.

Following the consultation period, the following comments have been received:

#### Resident comments via social media

##### Key for comments

- Original comment
- Subsequent comments on original comment
  
- Doesn't need it. Been a magic place for a long time. Why change now.
- If you plant too much in the space, it will detract from its use as a playground for children and dogs.
  - I don't see many children in there, just dogs.
- Just leave it alone it's perfectly ok as it is.
- Good to have an open view from the road. Enjoy sitting on one of the seats watching the village activity.
- Seems an excellent idea to me. Will protect the existing trees, attract wildlife and make the whole village area more attractive without any impact on its current use for exercising dogs.
- Bird feeders attracts rats. We are having a nightmare in Woodvale Gardens with several birdfeeders out the back.
  - I can empathise. Rats use bird feeders more than birds.
  - Especially the suet balls. Rats can smell them from a great distance.
- Overflow car park for the church and institute.
- Please leave it alone. Don't create a hidden cul-de-sack. It will attract underage drinkers, drug users and the like, nicely hidden from view behind the roadside hedges. Its perfect as it is. A nice, safe, and visible open space.
- Leave it alone, not need to waste money changing it.
- Leave it alone please.
- Would be interested to see where the volunteers are coming from?

- I am glad to see you have left the bulb area alone. To try and make both sides of the above previous happy, could the hedging shrubs under the current trees (i.e. along the outer boundary) be short rather than tall shrubs, and mainly evergreen (such as Hebe, Spiraea, Osmanthus, Azaleas, Euonymus, Lavender etc) so that there is still a view outwards/inwards? You would still need to keep a low fence to keep dogs/people off. Whatever you choose, please do not use invasive Cotoneaster species (we are having huge problems removing bird-sown non-native Cotoneaster species from the top of the Spetchells and other wildlife sites!) Thanks.
- A simple sign to say pick up after your dog would do wonders.....same culprits again tonight!.

### **Resident comments via email**

- I saw the proposals for Charlie's Corner on Facebook. I wanted to thank you for all your hard work in thinking about how the area can be improved to benefit everyone in the village. I think the proposals are great. The additional native hedging would be wonderful for wildlife, a few more benches and trees would be a welcome addition too. There will still be plenty of space for dogs to run and play, and the additional birds and wildlife that the new planting will attract will give added interest to those pausing to sit awhile in that space. Thanks again for all you do in our village.
- Charlie's Corner is perfect just the way it is. An excellent, open, grassed area for the benefit of Wylam residents. Dog owners' pets in particular can enjoy the clear uncluttered space in which to chase balls and not loose them in shrubs, flowerbeds and undergrowth. And, better the dogs relieve themselves at Charlie's Corner than along the footpaths and lanes of Wylam.

The elegant iron railings at the corner look the part, and afford the essential safety of being seen, and being able to see out. Once the space is enclosed and the railings overgrown by hedges it will become a hidden haven for far less desirable pastimes, and become littered with cans and rubbish. No longer the safe place it is now.

Who are these volunteers who are going to keep the proposed hedges, shrubs, and flowerbeds in order, year in and year out? And sweep up and take away the hedge cuttings? Clearly not the Wylam Parish Council Climate Action Group.

The buzzwords 'biodiversity' and 'climate change' are used by them to justify this proposal. How does that argument balance with them agreeing to the cutting down of a number of mature flowering cherry trees, and even older mature oak trees, in the Wylam nature reserve?

The Wylam Globe pleaded for "more hedge cutting" ... not more hedges!

Please ... leave Charlie's Corner alone.

- Thank you for sharing the proposed nature recovery plan for Charlies Corner it looks lovely.

I use Charlie's Corner regularly with my dog Gus where he meets his friends and has a play and I am so pleased that we will be able to enjoy this space with our dogs and our friends from Wylam.

My dog, as well as playing off leash at Charlie's Corner has two walks per day for about an hour each time. However, this is mainly on the lead so the time off lead at CCs is very valuable.

Could I suggest a couple of minor considerations for the plan . Where the seats are near the wall it can get extremely hot in the summer months as there is no shade . So what I tend to do is walk down to the very opposite end and stand under the established trees so there is shade and the sun is not directly in your face.

Could I suggest some dappled shade planting be considered beside the existing benches. And if at all possible some seating be placed under the established trees in the opposite corner ( last bit of green space on the Ovingham Rd ). It looks like a triangle bit on the proposal.

Thank you for inviting comment and if you want to talk or clarify anything I've suggested, please don't hesitate to get in touch

Thank you for all the work you and all the councillors do for Wylam residents