



Age Friendly Neighbourhoods Community Health Events 2022

This Spring we've been focusing on talking to older people in 3 areas of the city – Byker, Walker and West Fenham (that's the area that includes the west part of Fenham and Slatyford).

We've visited a range of community groups in these areas to:

- encourage people to apply for our small sparks grants to get Age Friendly activities up and running
- hear about what older people have to say about things that affect their lives such as the pandemic, health, access to advice and information, crime and antisocial behaviour
- listen to people's stories to help us make connections
- tell people about the work of the Elders Council and how they can get involved and get information

We've been working with local organisations to run community events in each area.

We received funding for the events from Newcastle City Council's Community Health Fund with the aim of building stronger connections between individuals and local organisations and help to extend the Community Champions networks. We were able to provide information promote key health messages.

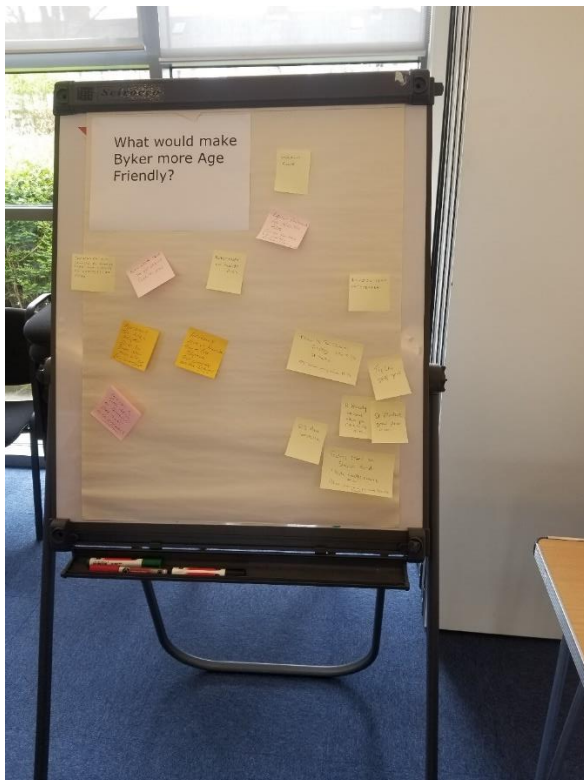
Age Friendly Byker

Our first event was held at the St Martins Centre on 28th March, we ran some fun activities and had food. We worked with local organisations to promote the events, provide activities and engage with older people in the area and we talked to people about the grant ideas.



We asked participants

“What would make Byker more Age Friendly?”



Key themes

- **Advice and information**
- **Built environment**
- **Community safety and crime**
- **Neighbourliness**

Here are some of the things people in Byker told us:

"advocacy is available face to face and telephone – not everyone has the internet"

"More visible police presence on the streets"

"pavements are not lowered at Peters Road and middle of Commercial Road"

"good neighbours looking out for each other"

"Q3 bus back on"

Age Friendly West Fenham

We ran a similar event on 4th April at Denton Burn Community Association on Slatyford Lane and are looking forward to receiving applications for new ideas for activities that get people together in the area.



We asked participants

“What would make West Fenham more Age Friendly”?

Key themes

- **Community activities**
- **Built environment**

Here are some of the things people in Byker told us:

“advice on home maintenance”

“more activities at the community centre – exercise for 50+, art class, tai chi, walking group”

“lower pavements for mobility aids (when you have a walker it can be difficult”

“art classes would be great”

“more seating on north Denton Dene as it’s good for walking (no seat on West Road to Pooley Road”



Walker

Our final event was at Treetops Village, Walker Road on 25th April.

We asked participants

“What would make Walker more Age Friendly?”



Key Themes

- **crime, safety and security,**
- **community activities, especially intergenerational**
- **built environment,**
- **advice, jobs and money**

Here are some of the things people in Walker told us:

“Regular money advice”

“A crossing outside Treetop Village. 75 households with vulnerable residents struggle to cross”

“Having a job and money and local job opportunities”

“More interaction with younger groups and families”

“Tackling antisocial behaviour”

“More activities, e.g. a walking group”

"I like living in Treetops"

"Bring back the Q3 bus"

The Small sparks grants programme was promoted at each event with grants of up to £200 available for age friendly community activity in Byker, Walker and West Fenham. Closing date for the grants is 27th May 2022.

This work will be followed up with further development of Age Friendly networks in each area and a celebration of small sparks grant funded activity in October, Older People's month.

Thanks to all the volunteers and organisations who've worked in partnership with us and supported this work

St Martins Centre, Search, Keyring, YHN, Byker Community Trust, Anchor Housing, Slatyford Friendship Club, Community Catering Initiative, Community Champions, Healthworks, Unfolding Theatre, Denton Burn Community Association, Collaborative Newcastle and Newcastle City Council for providing a community health grant for the events.

Thanks to Nick Lambert for the photos.