BYKERNEWS community trust www.bykercommunitytrust.org



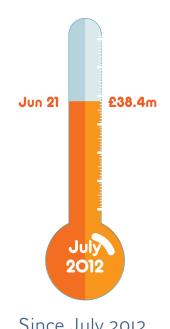
Our freephone telephone number

0800 533 5442

is available for all enquiries and out of office hours emergency repairs.

- Option I for repairs (also out of hours emergencies)
- 2 Option 2 for all rent enquiries
- ♠ Option 3 for all housing enquires
- A Option 4 for all business enquiries





Since July 2012, BCT has invested £38.4m worth of improvements!

USEFUL NUMBERS

Concierge Service (Byker Wall residents)

Employment & Welfare Benefits

Housing Benefit / Council Tax (Switchboard) 0191 278 7878

O191 278 8688 0800 533 5442

LANGUAGES

This information is about Byker Community Trust, which owns the Byker Wall Estate in Newcastle upon Tyne. If you would like this information in your own language, we will arrange for an interpreter to help you on freephone o800 533 5442.

ةيبرعل Arabic	ك ك ك ي . يف بغرت تنك اذا .نيات نوباً لسالئوين يف لوو ركياب راقع كلمت يتلا ،تسررت ركياب ةعوم جمب تـــامولعملا هذه قــلعتت" ". 244 5335 مقر فــــتناه ىلع كتــدعاسمل مجرتم تــامدخ بــيتـرتب موقين فــوسف كتـــغلب تــامولعملا هذه ىلع لــوصحلا	
České Czech	Tato informace je o nadaci Byker Community Trust, která vlastní Byker Wall Estate v Newcastle upon Tyne. Pokud si tuto informaci přejete ve vašem vlastním jazyce, zajistíme tlumočníka, který vám pomůže na čísle 0800 533 5442.	
Français French	Ces informations concernent le fonds Byker Community Trust auquel appartient la propriété Byker Wall Estate à Newcastle upon Tyne. Si vous souhaitez recevoir ces informations dans votre langue, nous demanderons à un interprète de vous aider en appelant le 0800 533 5442.	
Polonais Polish	Ta informacja dotyczy funduszu Byker Community Trust będącego właścicielem nieruchomości Byker Wall Estate w Newcastle upon Tyne. Aby otrzymać tę informację w swoim języku, prosimy zadzwonić pod nr 0800 533 5442, a zaaranżujemy tłumacza w celu udzielenia pomocy.	
Português Portuguese	Esta informação é sobre a Byker Community Trust que é proprietária do Byker Wall Estate, em Newcastle upon Tyne. Se desejar esta informação na sua língua, trataremos de organizar um(a) intérprete para o/a ajudar através do 0800 533 5442.	
русский Russian	Здесь представлена информация о Byker Community Trust, которому принадлежит жилой комплекс Byker Wall в Ньюкасл-апон-Тайн. Если Вы хотели бы получить эту информацию на своем языке, мы подберем переводчика, который будет для Вас переводить, по номеру 0800 533 5442.	

FRONT COVER PHOTO: Curious Monkey's colourful caravan visited the Estate in April where their staff met residents for a cuppa and a chat. Photo credit: picturesbybish.

Answers to the spot the difference on page 19.



WELCOME TO THE SUMMER EDITION OF THE BYKER COMMUNITY TRUST NEWSLETTER

This is the first newsletter published since we became part of the Karbon Homes family on 1 April. It is also my first introduction in the newsletter as the Assistant Director for Byker Community.



Having worked as part of the BCT team for the last 10 years, I am excited about my new role and look forward to delivering the Community Pledge for you over the coming years. I will be working alongside Karbon colleagues and our partners to ensure you have a quality home and environment, and receive excellent services. As a reminder, further information on the Community Pledge can be found on our website.

Over the last few months, we've been working hard behind the scenes to integrate our services into Karbon. This has included finalising the investment programme and how that is going to be delivered and forming the new BCT Committee, who will monitor the level and quality of services delivered to you and ensure the Community Pledge is achieved.

We re-opened the neighbourhood office on an appointment-only basis and it's great to be welcoming you back into the office. We ask customers to continue to wear a face mask and sanitise their hands when visiting the neighbourhood office at Raby Cross.

I am delighted to see the first phase of the investment programme being delivered. As part of our Community Pledge, this includes the replacement of bathrooms with showers and internal doors. The company appointed to undertake these improvements is RE:GEN and on page 7, we've included the list of streets included in this first phase.

Another promise in our Community Pledge is that Byker customers will be able to access additional services delivered by Karbon. Silver Talk and Foundations for Life (see pages 14 & 15) are some of the free services now available to you.

This issue also includes details about our Byker Community Partnership Fund where customers and community groups can access grants of up to £500 to deliver projects or activities that align with the nine key themes of the Thriving Byker Strategy – please turn to page 8 for more details.

We have provisionally organised some activities and events for all ages to participate in this summer. This includes trips to the farm and the seaside with further information on page 4, please register your interest if you'd like to join in with your family.



Finally, we'll be posting regular updates about the investment programme and summer events on our website and Facebook page. **You can follow us on Facebook @bykercommunitytrust**

Hopefully, the lovely warm weather and sunshine will continue throughout the school holidays.

Michelle Bell
Assistant Director - Byker Community

Summer activity programme

At the time of this newsletter going to print, the following events were still scheduled to go ahead. Please keep an eye on our website and social media channels for any updates regarding the summer activities and events as these may be subject to change. All events are free unless otherwise stated.



FREE TRIPS TO THE FARM AND SEASIDE

We have provisionally organised two trips this summer half term to the farm and seaside for BCT customers.









TRIP TO WHITEHOUSE FARM

- Friday 20 August 2021
- Whitehouse Farm, Morpeth, Northumberland
- Children and their parents. Under 16's will be required to have a responsible adult with them.

Includes free transport, free entry and packed lunch. You will need to pre-register for this event and it is limited to 135 people only - first come, first served.



TRIP TO SEAHOUSES

- Thursday 12 August 2021
- Seahouses, Northumberland
- For residents aged 55 and over.

Enjoy this free trip to Seahouses. While you're there, why not have a leisurely stroll around the village, visit the amusements, go on boat trip, treat yourself to some fish & chips and a walk along the beach.



limited

to 70







HOW DO I REGISTER?

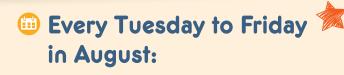
BYKER'S BEST SUMMER EVER 2021

Adventures in Wheels, Movement, Digital, Creativity & Food

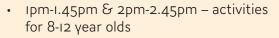




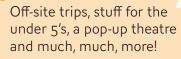








3pm-4pm - activities for over 12s



Booking and registration is now open.

Please visit the @bykercommunitytrust Facebook page for more information. You can also follow

@Byker CYP Partnership (also on Facebook) to keep up to date on latest developments or call

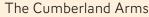
0191 230 5151.

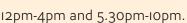


COMMUNITY PARTY









A group of residents called Love is on the Map have organised a party with music, artists, workshops, lights in the trees, dancing and conversation. It will be a space for people to connect, build confidence and re-imagine the community.

To book, please email cumbybookings@gmail.com





DELIVERING OUR COMMUNITY PLEDGE

As part of our partnership with Karbon Homes, we created a Community Pledge which promises to deliver the improvements you told us you wanted in relation to your homes and your neighbourhood.

RE:GEN Group has been appointed to deliver the first phase of investment works. Over 360 homes on the Estate will form phase I of the improvement works and customers will benefit from modernisation works to their homes including bathrooms with showers, and new internal doors.

All homes across the Estate will receive a new bathroom with shower and new internal doors between 2021 and 2025, and we will then return to provide all customers with a new kitchen between 2025 and 2029. This ensures all customers will benefit from improvements to their home in the next few years of our partnership with Karbon.

Work has already started on site and all homes eligible as part of this phase will be surveyed. RE:GEN has set up a site office at 9 Finchale Terrace and James McCourt and Gill Sweeney will be the main contacts for customers on behalf of RE:GEN.









PROPERTIES INCLUDED IN FIRST PHASE

The following is a list of the streets that are included in the first phase of improvements. You will receive a letter from our contractor, RE:GEN who will need to organise a survey of your home and explain to you more about the work involved.

Homes will be eligible for a new bathroom including the installation of a shower and the replacement of internal doors.

If your street is not listed below, this means it will be in a different phase. Please keep looking at our website and in future issues of Byker News for updates on other phases.

If you have any queries regarding the internal works to your home, please do not hesitate to contact us on 0800 5335 442.

Phase 1 - 2021/22 programme:

Finchale Terrace

Aγton Rise Glanton Close Oban Gardens St Peters Road

Bolam Coyne Harbottle Street Raby Crescent The Brow

Commercial Road Houlet Garth Raby Cross Whickham Gardens

Raby Way

Cushat Close Laverock Court Raby Street

Custlat Close Lavelock Coult Raby Street

Garmondsway Merle Gardens Ruddock Square

Lilburn Close

BYKER COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP FUND

The BCT Community Partnership Fund will award grants up to £500 to support projects that make a real difference in the community and to people's lives and wellbeing.

We are looking to support customers, residents and community groups that are working to one of the nine key themes of the Thriving Byker Strategy.

Pride and Ownership in the area	Health, Wellbeing and Mindfulness	Income Maximisation
A Cleaner and Greener Byker	A Safe Place to Live	Children and Young People
Hard to Reach Groups	Community Training and Employment	Digital Connectivity

For further information or an application form, please contact Bijoli Deypurkaystha, Community Engagement Officer on 0800 533 5442 or email bijoli.deypurkaystha@bykerct.co.uk



Examples the funding can be used for:

- Buying equipment for community-based activities
- Funding a community event
- Contributing towards venue hire
- Funding projects or activities that support one or more of the themes.

All applications must demonstrate how the fund will benefit specific groups and/or the wider Byker community.



BYKER SCOUTS POSTER CAMPAIGN

You may have seen this poster around the Estate. The poster was designed by Abbieleigh from 1st Byker Scouts who won a poster competition. Well done Abbieleigh!

Byker Scouts regularly look at ways they can make the community a nicer place to live and explore what action the children can take to improve issues within the local area.

The Beavers, Cubs and Scouts regularly undertake litter picks on the Estate but the older section wanted to design some anti-litter posters to make a stand and get the message out there. The Scouts would love to make Byker a cleaner and nicer Estate to live in, but to do so we need residents to help as well!

Slam dunk the junk and do not litter!

PLEASE

HELP KEEP YOUR STAIRWELLS
CLEAN AND TIDY

For your own safety, dispose of your waste properly!



BECOME A CUSTOMER CLEANING INSPECTOR

Do you live in the Byker Wall or a communal block on the Estate?

Do you want to keep the area you live in clean and tidy?

If yes, then maybe you could help us... we're looking for customer cleaning inspectors to ensure the walkways and stairwells in the Byker Wall and other blocks are kept safe, clean and tidy. You will be supported by our staff to measure the standard of cleaning in your stairwell and be able to report incidents of waste or fly-tipping.

If you would like to help and make sure the block you live in is clean and tidy, please contact us on **0800 533 5442** or speak to your **Neighbourhood Housing Officer**.



EMPTY UNITS CONVERTED INTO AFFORDABLE HOMES

Three former commercial units on the Estate are being converted into four onebedroom affordable homes.

Work began in December 2020 to convert 71 Dunn Terrace, 66 Northumberland Terrace and the former district heating office on Raby Street into modern, accessible homes with wet rooms.

This follows similar conversions of Erskine House and the conversion of some of the hobby rooms on the Estate and will help meet the high demand for

much-needed one bedroomed ground floor accessible accommodation.

The new homes will be available for rent from September. For further information, please contact your Neighbourhood Housing Officer.







SPECIAL MESSAGE FOR VOLUNTEER DALE

Byker resident Dale received a special message from one of his footballing heroes.

Newcastle United's Matty Longstaff praised the work he has done in the community after volunteering more than 300 hours with one of our key partners, the Newcastle United Foundation.

The footballer sent him a video message and said he was an inspiration to him and so many others.

Dale said, "I love volunteering and helping out with the Foundation – it means everyone in the community can get out, have fun and enjoy themselves with sport and other educational activities too. It makes such a difference for so many people and that's what matters to me."





ARMED FORCES DAY 2021

Staff and residents from Armed Forces and Veterans Launchpad, who occupy Avondale House visited Byker Primary School in June to talk to over 60 Year 6 pupils about Launchpad and why we celebrate Armed Forces Day.

It was an opportunity for the children to ask questions and

understand why we celebrate and show our support to the men and women of the Armed Forces.

Thanks to funding from the BCT Community Partnership Fund to cover the costs of materials, the children were invited to make bunting, write thank you cards and design

toppings for a celebration cake. All the brilliant designs were then presented to serving personnel at The Fifth Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers to show their appreciation.







NORTHUMBRIA POLICE

PARTNER PROFILE

We work with lots of different partners to help deliver services and events across the Estate. Here. we highlight the work of Northumbria Police.



As Northumbria Police's Neighbourhood Inspector for the east of Newcastle, it is my responsibility to make sure you feel safe in your community and that we are responding to what matters most to you.

Our station on Clifford Street is a stone's throw from the Byker Estate and Byker Community Trust is a key partner in our commitment to improving the lives of residents across the ward.

We want to make the area a safe place to live and work but we need the help of our residents if we are to succeed in cracking down on criminality and anti-social behaviour.

You are our eyes and ears on the street and so we need you to tell us where and when offences are being committed so we can make sure we are patrolling in the right places.

We can only take action against offences like drug supply and disorderly behaviour if you tell us where it is happening and who is involved. If you do then we have a proven track record of taking positive action.

The Coronavirus pandemic has been a challenging time for our officers and we understand the impact that the restrictions have had on the lives of people in our region.

As those restrictions are lifted, our officers will be working hard to minimise crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour but to do that we need your continued support.

Byker is a great community, the people are fantastic and I am proud to represent the area and continue to do everything I can to keep you safe and improve the lives of our residents.

Dave Whelan Sergeant Neighbourhood Policing

NEW SAFER COMMUNITIES OFFICER

Elizabeth Smith has been appointed as the Safer **Communities Officer - Byker.**

Elizabeth is responsible for dealing with high risk anti-social behaviour cases across the Estate and will work closely with you and the police to deliver a pro-active service to prevent and deal with issues of ASB across the Byker community. Elizabeth joins the team from Karbon where she held a similar role and is a welcome addition to the BCT team.

If you have any issues you wish to discuss with Elizabeth, please contact her on 0800 533 5442.



EASTER FUN FOR ALI



During the Easter halfterm, a numbe of activities were held, and evervone who attended had an egg-citing time.







BECOME PART OF OUR CUSTOMER SCRUTINY PANEL

The Customer Scrutiny Panel plays a key role in supporting the work of BCT in a professional, supportive and constructive way.

- carry out their own checks of Byker services, and if required, provide critical feedback on how they can be improved so
- review and set service standards in line with budget
- monitor performance on complaints and customer satisfaction
- encourage further tenant involvement.

the panel will initially meet monthly, then meet as required with a minimum of six meetings per year.

The panel is made up of customers to work closely with BCT and to hold us to account and challenge us on issues that matter to them.

a member and helping us to improve our services, please contact Bijoli Deypurkaystha, Community Engagement Officer on 0800 533 5442 or email bijoli.deypurkaystha@bykerct.co.uk

SILVER TALK IT MATTERS TO NATTER





As part of our Community Pledge, Byker customers can access additional services delivered by Karbon. One of those is a free telephone befriending service called Silver Talk.

The service is available to all Byker customers and gives people the opportunity to connect for regular, social telephone chats.

The service involves friendly, fully trained volunteers who contact customers for (up to) a 30 minute chat at the same time each week and is ideal for those who may feel lonely at times.

each call and it can last the whole 30 minutes or just five minutes. Our Silver Talk volunteers will provide users with both friendship and lots of information about services and activities that could benefit them.

You can apply to join the free service or, if you know somebody who may benefit from using this service, then you can let us know.

For more information about Silver Talk, please call **0191 223 8662**.

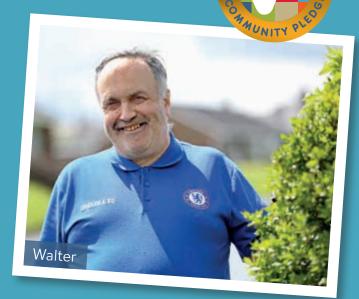
A BRIGHTER FUTURE FOR WALTER

Foundations for Life is a free service delivered by Karbon to help customers develop their employability and digital skills, to help them get into work, progress their careers or simply develop new skills.

Walter is a Karbon customer who has turned his life around. The death of his cherished mum followed by a medical diagnosis meant he could no longer work and had left him struggling, isolated and vulnerable.

One of Karbon's Wellbeing Coaches started working with him to help him get his life back on track and the help he needed.

- Training. Karbon's Community Investment
 Team suggested a course called Digital Voices.
 They thought it would be a perfect way to help
 Walter become familiar with digital devices
 and introduce him to the internet and the
 many ways it can help to make life easier and
 more interesting. After completing the course,
 Walter was able to borrow an iPad to continue
 becoming comfortable with using the internet.
- Mental wellbeing. Karbon's Foundations for Life Team has provided one-to-one support to improve Walter's confidence and find opportunities for him to become more involved in the community and join new groups including a local mans' group. Using his iPad, Walter is now taking part in a 'building resilience' course, where he has made new friends and has become an active and positive participant.



Fast forward to today and Walter is feeling confident and excited about the future. His next goal is to find a local singing group to join and eventually he'd love to make his own record. He's also about to start a computer course called 'Learn My Way' so he can continue to get confident using a computer and the internet.

To find out how the Foundations for Life
Team can help maximise your potential,
increase your digital skills
and consider career options,
email foundations@karbonhomes.co.uk
or call 0191 223 8750.

TRAINING AVAILABLE AT ST. MARTIN'S CENTRE

St. Martin's Centre are running 6 weeks of training in their in-house café and nursery.

The training is available to local residents (over 18 years) who are currently unemployed and looking to return to employment.

The team can offer hands-on experience and help with moving on in terms of CV writing, jobs and volunteering.

Nursery training is available from September 2021. For more information, please call **0191 276 4002** and ask to speak to Mel.

YOUR FEEDBACK - COMPLAINTS AND COMPLIMENTS (April - June 2021)

Our aim is to give you the service you expect all day, every day, 365 days a year. We try hard to avoid problems, but sometimes we do make mistakes.

If you receive a poor service, then please tell us about it so we have the opportunity to put things right. We greatly appreciate your time and view any feedback as an opportunity to improve our services.

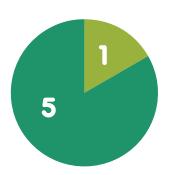
We're always listening and ready to work hard to

complaints in Q1 (1st April - 30th June 2021).

resolve your concerns straight away. We received eight

Complaint Outcomes Q1 2021-22:

Upheld: BCT agrees that the complaint was justified.



Not Upheld: BCT does not agree that the complaint was justified.



- Informal: BCT aims to deal with and attempt to resolve a complaint at the first point of contact.
- Stage I: Customer feels that BCT has not listened or resolved the initial complaint or the complaint is recurring.
- Stage 2: Complaint is still not resolved and customer asks for a further review.

Complaint Types by Service Area Q1 2021-22:

Informal







- Repairs and Maintenance
- Estate and Environment
- Rents / Income Team
- Investment Programme





Compliments also tell us what we are doing right.
We received nine compliments in Q1 (1st April - 30th June 2021).



- Housing Management
- Repairs and Maintenance
- Grounds Maintenance
- Investment Programme

"Excellent workers, very polite and friendly. Very professional left my house spotless. Thank you." "Malone's did a great job in upgrading our heating system. Both the boiler and new radiators work much better now. Many thanks to you and everyone at Malone's for a faultless job in communicating with us, answering our question and of course the efficient upgrade work on the day itself."

"The guys were very helpful, explaining everything they were doing. Also explaining to us on completion. Friendly, respectful bunch." "We are very happy and very satisfied."

"It's really nice to have the temperature in the house just right now and not hot or cold, everything went very smoothly and could not fault workmen at all a really nice bunch of lads."

"Improvements are great, was shown how to use it all, thanks."

IMPROVE THE AREA YOU LIVE IN AND GAIN NEW SKILLS

We're looking for grounds maintenance inspectors.

We're asking for customers to come forward and act as grounds maintenance inspectors for the area you live. You will also learn new skills which you can add to your CV for future employment.

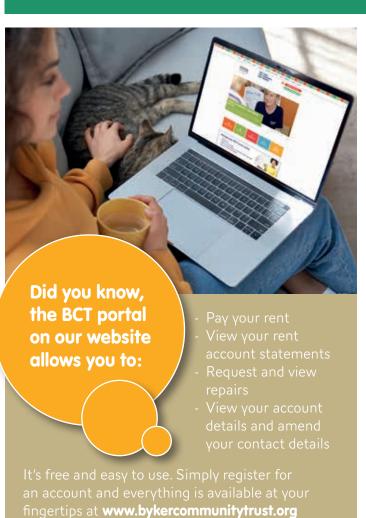
When our grounds maintenance teams have completed work in your area, you'll then be given a survey to fill in and return to us with your valuable feedback on the service they have provided.

The survey will take no more than 20-30 minutes to complete and you'll be given a freepost envelope to return your survey. Alternatively, you can hand it to your Neighbourhood Housing Officer.

The survey asks questions about the quality of work that has been undertaken and if you're satisfied with the level of service that has been delivered. It also gives you the opportunity to raise any issues or concerns that you may have, so we can quickly respond to these.



For more information about becoming a Grounds Maintenance Inspector, please call us on Freephone 0800 533 5442 or pop into the BCT neighbourhood office.





Over the summer, we will be asking for your views on the STAR survey (Survey to Tenants and Residents).

We'd love to get your feedback so we can find out how satisfied you are with the services we're delivering and more importantly, identify areas where we still need to improve.

We'll provide an update in the next issue

BCT NEIGHBOURHOOD OFFICERS

Each officer is responsible for looking after particular areas of the Estate and you can contact them to discuss any issues you may have.





Emma Foulis

Areas covered are:
Avondale Rise
Brinkburn Square
Brinkburn Street
Brock Square
Brock Street
Dibley Square
Dibley Street
Gordon Road
Gordon Square

Priory Green
Priory Place
Raby Crescent
Raby Street
Raby Way
Rabygate
Shipley Place
St Michael's Mount
The Chevron



Craig Cross

Areas covered are:
Brinkburn Close
Brinkburn House
Brinkburn Lane
Brinkburn Place
Clive Place
Dalton Crescent
Dalton Street
Dunn Terrace
Gordon House
Graham House

Kendal Green
Kendal House
Kendal Place
Kendal Street
Low Fold
Northumberland Tce
Salisbury House
Shipley Walk
Tom Collins House



Rebecca Pegg

Areas covered are:
Ayton Rise
Benson Place
Bolam Coyne
Chirton Wynd
Commercial Road
Cushat Close
Finchale Terrace
Garmondsway
Glanton Close
Harbottle Street
Harriot Place
Headlam Green
Houlet Garth
Janet Square

Janet Street

Jubilee Terrace
Kirk Street
Laverock Court
Lilburn Gardens
Manor House Close
Merle Gardens
Oban Gardens
Old Vicarage Walk
Raby Cross
Ruddock Square
St Peters Road
The Brow
Village Place
Whickham Gardens



Jennifer Elliott

Wolseley House

Areas covered are:
Bamburgh Terrace
Byker Crescent
Carville Rise
Cheviot Mount
Chirton House
Fairless Gardens
Felton Green
Felton House
Felton Walk
Grace Street
Harvey Gardens
Headlam House
Headlam Street

Jane Street
Long Headlam
Michaelgate
Shipley Rise
Spires Lane
St Lawrence Court
Thornbrough House
Winship Gardens
Winship Terrace

£25 PRIZE WORDSEARCH

DALYAMM GAUE G E S L L F D Т 0 S H E W E 0 D O G EWDRD DLK Ε

Complete the wordsearch to win a £25 Eldon Square voucher to spend on whatever you fancy!

Gold Paralympic

Athlete Pentathlon

Hurdles Swimming

Tokγo Weightlifting

Medal Flame



Congratulations to Jack Elliott who won the last wordsearch competition!

Name:

Address:

Postcode:

Daytime telephone number:

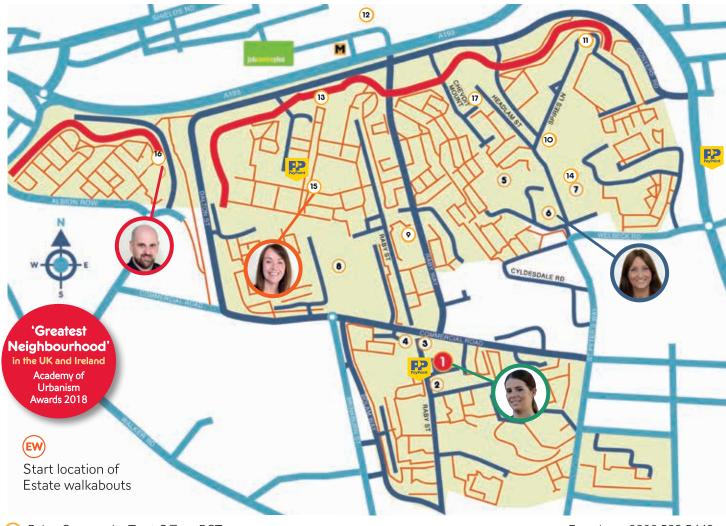
Send your completed wordsearch along with your name, address and a daytime telephone number to: Byker Community Trust News Competition, Byker Community Trust, 17 Raby Cross, Byker, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE6 2FF. Closing date is Friday 3rd September 2021.

Please note: Competitions are only open to residents with no rent arrears.

Spot the difference - Can you spot 6 differences!







1) Byker Community Trust Offices BCT

Freephone 0800 533 5442

Sure Start East Family Sands Centre

Call 0191 275 9636

3 ACANE Community Centre

Call 0191 265 8110

- St. Michael's Church Centre Raby Cross
- (5) St. Michael's Church Headlam Street
- 6 Former Bγker Communitγ Centre
- 7 Byker Village Bowling Green

Byker Primary School Call 0191 265 6906

Avondale House (Veterans' Support)

io St. Lawrence's Primary School Call 0191 265 9881

(11) St. Lawrence's Church

(12) East End Library and Pool Call 0191 277 4100

(13) Climb Newcastle

(14) Chirton House

15) Ralph Erskine House

(16) Tom Collins House

(17) Mount Pleasant

How to contact Byker Community Trust:

© Call: **0800 533 5442**

Option 1: Repairs (also for out of hours emergencies)

C Option 2: Rent Enquiries

♠ Option 3: Housing Enquiries

A Option 4: Business Enquiries

customerservices@bykerct.co.uk

www.bγkercommunitγtrust.org

f bykercommunitytrust

🏏 @bγkertrust



