

PLEASE NOTE VENUE

NORTH NEIGHBOURHOOD CONSULTATIVE FORUM AGENDA



Wednesday 13 June 2007

at 10.00 am

**in West View Community Centre,
Miers Avenue, Hartlepool**

MEMBERS: NORTH NEIGHBOURHOOD CONSULTATIVE FORUM:

Councillors Allison, Atkinson, Barker, Clouth, R Cook, Fenwick, Fleet (Chair),
Fleming, Griffin, Jackson, J Marshall, Plant, Rogan, Wallace and Wright.

Resident Representatives:

John Cambridge, Don Davison, Irene Nelson, Joan Norman, Mary Power,
Linda Shields (Vice-Chair), Joan Steel and Robert Steel

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

3. TO RECEIVE ANY DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS

4. MINUTES

- 4.1 To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 28th March 2007 (*attached followed by updates on issues raised at the last meeting*)
- 4.2 Matters arising

5. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

PLEASE NOTE VENUE

Break

(5/10 minutes to collect tea/coffee and back to seats whilst presentations are prepared)

6. ITEMS FOR CONSULTATION

- 6.1 Presentation - Building Schools for the Future – Stage 3 Consultation – Paul Briggs Assistant Director (Children's Services Department)

7. RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVE ISSUES

8. WARD MEMBERS AND WARD ISSUES

9. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION INFORMATION

- 9.1 Tees Valley Joint Minerals and Waste Development Plan Documents: Key Issues and Alternative Options Report – Tom Britcliffe, Principal Planning Officer
- 9.2 Presentation - Coastal Walkways Strategy – Chris Scaife, Countryside Access Officer
- 9.3 Presentation - Recycling Provision in the North – Colin Ogden, Waste Management Officer
- 9.4 Presentation - Minor Works Budget – Outline of Spend 2006/07, North Neighbourhood Manager
- 9.5 Minor Works Budget – Allocation of Funding for 2007/08 – Director of Neighbourhood Services

10. ITEMS FOR DECISION

- 10.1 Minor Works Proposals – North Neighbourhood Manager

11. DATE, TIME AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the North Neighbourhood Consultative Forum is to be held at on Wednesday 8th August 2007 commencing at 6pm at Throston Grange Community Centre, Glamorgan Grove.

The next meeting of the North Police and Community Safety Forum is to be held on Wednesday 5th September 2007 commencing at 10am at West View Community Centre, Miers Avenue.

12. ITEMS OF ANY OTHER BUSINESS AGREED BY THE CHAIRMAN

WARDS

Brus
Dyke House
Hart
St Hilda
Throston

NORTH NEIGHBOURHOOD CONSULTATIVE FORUM

28th March, 2007

MINUTES OF THE MEETING



The meeting commenced at 10.00 a.m. at West View Community Centre, Miers Avenue, Hartlepool

PRESENT:

Chair: Councillor Rob Cook - Hart Ward

Vice Chair: Linda Shields (Resident Representative)

Councillor Caroline Barker	- Hart Ward
Councillor Mary Fleet	- Dyke House Ward
Councillor John Marshall	- St Hilda Ward
Councillor Denis Waller	- Brus Ward
Councillor Edna Wright	- Hart Ward

Resident Representatives: John Cambridge, Don Davison, Joan Steel and Robert Steel

Public: Pat Andrews, Cal Carruthers-Watt, James Crangle, Mr and Mrs Dobbs, John Maxwell, Joan Norman, A Stanbridge, Dave Thompson, Cath and Liz Torley, Alan Vale and Dennis Wilson

Officers:

- Karen Oliver, Neighbourhood Manager
- Albert Williams, Maintenance and Buildings Manager
- Cyril Winskill, Consultant Architect
- Mick Lapworth, Neighbourhood Inspector
- Peter Frost, Traffic Team Leader
- Alec Gough, Local Transport Plan Co-ordinator
- Phil Hepburn, Parking Services Manager
- Alastair Smith, Head of Technical Services
- Alison Mawson, Head of Community Safety and Prevention
- Garry Jones, Neighbourhood Services Officer
- Jo Wilson, Democratic Services Officer

Police Representative: S Cranston

Housing Hartlepool Representative: Angie Crawford

North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Trust Representative: Janet Mackie

69. UPDATE ON RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVES

The Chair advised that two new Resident Representatives had been appointed, Don Davison and Irene Nelson. Members welcomed them to the Forum.

Members were also advised that Resident Representative Mary Power was unable to attend the meeting due to illness. The Chair requested that flowers be sent on behalf of the Forum.

70. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Derek Allison, Sheila Griffin and Jane Shaw and Resident Representative Mary Power.

71. TO RECEIVE ANY DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS

None

72. MINUTES

The minutes for the North Police and Community Safety Consultative Forum held on 10th January 2007 were agreed subject to the following amendment:

- Public Question time – Page 5 – New Town Square/History Garden. The cameras had already been installed prior to the meeting. It was their effectiveness which was being called into question.

The minutes for the North Neighbourhood Consultative Forum held on 31st January 2007 were agreed.

The Neighbourhood Manager drew member's attention to the Issues Raised Action Sheet previously circulated with

the minutes. There were no Matters Arising.

73. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Easington Road – West View

roundabout – a request was made to modify the arrows on the roundabout to help ease congestion. The Chair advised that a safety consultation survey had been undertaken, the results of which were imminent.

Speeding Drive - a request was made that a speed hump in Speeding Drive be modified. The Traffic Team Leader reported that the height of the hump in question was in accordance with regulations therefore the Chair felt it was unnecessary to alter it.

Verner Road resurfacing – The Neighbourhood Services Officer advised that the footpaths would be resurfaced in 2007 with the road following in 2008. A Councillor reported that Bruce Crescent and Winterbottom Avenue were currently undergoing work despite having been dug up several months ago. The Local Transport Plan Co-ordinator advised that this was public utility work. The Council and public utilities did liaise on their work programmes but this did not allow for emergencies. The Councillor requested that the roads in question be left as they had been found. The Neighbourhood Services Officer would monitor progress and ensure that works were completed to the appropriate standard.

Brus Arms redevelopment – The Chair advised, in his role as acting Chair of Planning Committee, that this matter had been considered by the Planning Committee and the owner had been given 28 days to return the site to a fit state. A Councillor asked that any future applications for flats or apartments be turned down by the Planning Committee as the residents were not in favour. The

Chair advised that the Committee would take such considerations into account.

Winterbottom Avenue – “May a bus sign plate be provided and placed at the Winterbottom Avenue bus stop after the Richardson’s club bus stop? There are at present two signs on the lamp post at the Winterbottom Avenue bus stop. An additional sign could be added” – The Chair advised that this would be done.

Kensington Court, Holdforth Road – “From the 2007/8 Minor Works Allocation may a dropped kerb please be constructed a short distance east of the entrance to Kensington Court, Holdforth Road? A dropped kerb in this location would be used for wheelchairs when the ‘Ring and Ride’ bus arrives” – The Chair asked that officers add this request to the list of Minor Works for 2007/08.

King Oswy Drive – A resident requested clarification on the traffic calming measures proposed for the top of King Oswy Drive. The Traffic Team Leader advised that this would be covered in a presentation later in the meeting.

Bus lay-bys – “I would like to take the reply to the question of funds for bus lay-bys one step further, as in the past I have received the same answer from Technical Services, regardless of which bus stop I brought to the notice of the team. That answer always mentions the word “funding”! Whilst I have been relieved from time to time in seeing several of my concerns resolved I have not yet seen any of my earlier concerns put forward for the creation of bus lay-bys at named locations I have mentioned and would ask that the respective Neighbourhood Consultative Forums, or the Transportation Portfolio Holder, is asked to include such a rolling programme for all, if not even those regarded as “high risk” bus stops to be made into bus lay-bys in the next/future financial year(s) as

a matter of genuine public concern. I am surprised that the Council, nor its road safety/Traffic Liaison Group have not been castigated by the HM Coroner who only last week recorded a verdict of accidental death when the lady stepped in front of a bus in Raby Road and I remember that elderly lady who was killed when crossing the Dunston Road rpm behind a bus the year before. How much does it cost to the Council and the other Emergency Services, to oversee the official procedures etc through a death on the public roads instead of implementing adequate/effective road safety improvements to prevent that death from occurring in the first instance!!??” – The Chair requested that this matter be forwarded to the Traffic Team Leader for a response to the enquiry.

Miers Avenue/Winterbottom Avenue bus stops – Criticism was levelled at the current placing of bus stops on the corner of Miers Avenue and Winterbottom Avenue. A request was made that they be repositioned away from the junction in order to improve driver visibility. However the Chair advised that this would incur objections from residents who would not want a bus stop directly outside their front door.

Brenda Road – A resident requested that Brenda Road be cleaned more regularly. The Chair advised that Brenda Road was not in the North area however he would pass the request on to Technical Services.

Barnshaw Bending, Spion Kop – A Resident asked if Culfords could be contacted regarding concerns about children using the site for illegal activity. The Chair agreed to this and a Councillor advised that CCTV cameras were positioned on site so the guilty parties could be identified. A discussion followed as to the effectiveness of CCTV in a number of areas across the town. The

Chair requested that a letter be sent from the Forum highlighting these problems and asking that they be readdressed very quickly.

74. RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVE AND WARD ISSUES

Union Bank – A Councillor requested that a one-way system be introduced from Durham Street to Northgate (via Union Bank) and that parking bays be provided at the bottom of Union Bank. The Head of Technical Services advised that letters on these matters were due to be sent to Ward Councillors the following week.

A further request was made for a handrail to be fitted along the road leading to the surgery.

Coastal Pathway – A Councillor raised a number of issues in regard to safety and vandalism. The Chair suggested that officers be invited to a future meeting of the Forum to discuss these concerns and that the matter be referred to scrutiny. This was supported by those present. It was decided that the specific points to be considered by scrutiny should be as follows:

- The lack of investment in care and attention
- The lack of ability for public use
- The need to be there for public use, fitness and recreational regimes
- Feasibility of linking the Coastal Walkway to Hart Station

Recycling – A Councillor requested that a recycling point be reinstated on the Headland following the correct consultation process. The Neighbourhood Manager agreed that proper consultation was vital as most people supported recycling but would prefer not to have it take place on their

doorstep. Potential areas had been highlighted and residents would be asked for their views. A report would also be provided on the issue at the next meeting of the Forum.

Middlegate bus stop – concerns were raised regarding Stagecoach using Middlegate bus stop as a terminus. This was contrary to an agreement between the Council and Stagecoach but drivers were flouting this agreement. Parking issues were leading to congestion in Middlegate and bus drivers were reluctant to move on when requested to. The Head of Technical Services reported that they were aware of the situation and the Transportation Team Leader had already written to Stagecoach with reference to this matter. A resident advised that the bus drivers had been asked not to use Middlegate as a terminus but were denying all knowledge. The Neighbourhood Manager would monitor the situation and inform Stagecoach of the issues raised.

75. MINOR WORKS BUDGET PROPOSALS

The Forum were asked to agree to recommend the following minor works scheme, deferred from the previous meeting, to the Portfolio Holder for approval:

Snowdon Grove / Speeding Drive – installation of 13 bollards along the grassed area at rear of 7 Speeding Drive and tarmacing of parking/grassed areas – cost £8,305.72

The Neighbourhood Manager advised that there was now £852.28 in the Minor Works budget which could be carried over to the next financial year. A Councillor requested that this shortfall be

used to fund the installation of a handrail in Brunswick Walk. The Neighbourhood Manager advised that the approximate cost for this work would be £300 and the owner of the wall would need to give their legal permission before any work could proceed. Members agreed to recommend this work to the Portfolio Holder, subject to all legal matters being concluded. The remaining money in the Minor Works budget would be carried over to the next financial year.

A Councillor requested that consideration be given to work being undertaken on the footpath and road outside West View Community Centre, Miers Avenue. The Chair asked officers to bring a quote for this work to the next Forum meeting. A discussion ensued as to the need for improvements to the town's roads and pavements. The Head of Technical Services advised that to carry out all necessary improvements would take 25 years and cost approximately £25 million. The Neighbourhood Services Officer reported that roads and highways were inspected twice-yearly and any emergency work was carried out immediately. Members requested that potholes and gullies be repaired as a priority to avoid future flooding problems.

76. NORTH HARTLEPOOL PARTNERSHIP PROJECT UPDATE

Councillor John Marshall presented a report updating the Forum on progress relating to the following activities and projects by the North Hartlepool Partnership:

- Heugh Gun Battery
- Fairy Cove Terrace
- Graham Street – rear parking area
- Headland Story Trail
- Headland Bowls Pavilion
- Garage over Brunswick shops
- Croft Gardens

- Town Wall lighting

The Chair paid tribute to John Ford and SRB members for their work during the previous year.

A resident asked if a trackway would be provided to the steps leading to Fairy Cove Terrace.

A Councillor referred to the condition of the land at the top of Shields Terrace, calling on the Forum to take action. Residents from the area indicated that it was their understanding that an application to build houses on the land in question had been made.

A Resident Representative requested that consideration be given to the development of the Elizabethan Manor House on the Headland. Councillor Marshall advised that a study was ongoing on this and should be completed within the next four months.

77. ALCOHOL FREE ZONES

The Head of Community Safety and Prevention gave a brief presentation on the Local Authority (Alcohol Consumption in Designated Public Places) Regulations 2001. Details were given of the legal process and the areas being considered for designation. Members were advised of those areas in the North which had been covered by previous byelaws.

Following the presentation a detailed discussion ensued. The Chair felt that as this was so important there should be a separate meeting to discuss this issue. It was agreed that the next meeting of the North Police and Community Safety Consultative Forum, scheduled for Wednesday 11th April 2007, would focus exclusively on alcohol free zones.

78. PROPOSED CYCLE WAY ISSUE / TRAFFIC CALMING

The Local Transport Plan Co-ordinator and Traffic Team Leader gave a presentation on the proposals to turn the area around Barnard Grove School into a 20mph zone and make alterations to the existing cycleway on King Oswy Drive. Details were given of the traffic calming options available and the reasons behind the proposed alteration to the cycleway.

The consultation would run through April 2007 prior to consideration by the Portfolio Holder in June with work scheduled to begin in July. Consultees would include residents, ward councillors, the bus company, the emergency services and Barnard Grove School.

Following the presentation Councillors requested clarification on the exact positioning of the proposed cycleway relative to the road and pavement. Various suggestions were put forward including the reinstatement of the grass verge between Barnard Grove and Speeding Drive, the provision of a waiting area for parents collecting children from the school, the relocation of the existing bus stop and the installation of a crossing directly outside the school.

The Chair thanked the officers for attending the meeting and answering questions.

79. RESTORATION AND CLEANING REPAIRS TO WAR MEMORIALS AT VICTORY SQUARE AND REDHEUGH GARDENS

Consultant Architect Cyril Winskill gave a presentation outlining care and repair programmes at the war memorials in Victory Square and Redheugh Gardens. Details were given of the emergency repairs which had been carried out and the proposed restoration and remedial

works. A questionnaire was provided for those present to give their opinions on the proposals.

Following the presentation members criticised the questionnaire as being incomplete. Particular attention was drawn to the omission of the question of gilding on the Redheugh Gardens monument despite it being included in Council officer discussions. The Maintenance and Buildings Manager agreed to reformulate the questionnaire to include the concerns raised by members.

The Chair thanked Mr Winskill for attending the meeting and answering questions.

80. ILLEGAL PARKING

The Parking Services Manager gave a presentation on Parking Enforcement. Details given in the presentation included

- Current legislation
- Joint ventures
- Pavement Parking – roles and responsibilities
- Footpath Parking ban
- Impact of proposed Traffic Management Act

Following the presentation a number of questions/issues arose. Chief among these was the difficulty officers faced in issuing illegally-parked drivers with a ticket. Under current legislation they were not permitted to physically restrain drivers in any way and this meant that drivers would move their vehicle as soon as an officer began the ticket issuing process. In addition tickets must be issued at the time of the offence rather than retrospectively which meant that CCTV could not be used as a preventative tool. Members suggested that council officers could patrol with police officers as the police had the

power to restrain drivers long enough for a ticket to be issued. The Chair requested that a letter be sent to Superintendent Steve Ashman highlighting the Forum's concerns and requesting that priority be given to traffic wardens patrolling schools.

A resident also raised concerns about cars parking in or near bus lay-bys and causing an obstruction. Particularly highlighted were those at Brus and King Oswy. The Parking Services Manager advised that parking patrols were currently mobile and there was a proposal to put wardens on buses in the future.

The Chair thanked the Parking Services Manager for attending the meeting and answering questions. In response to member requests it was agreed that regular updates on the issuing of parking tickets would be brought to the forum.

81. NORTH TEES AND HARTLEPOOL NHS TRUST – CONSULTATION ON FOUNDATION TRUST STATUS

Janet Mackie of North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Trust gave a brief presentation on the proposals to give North Tees and Hartlepool foundation trust status later in the year. A 12-week consultation period was underway and was due to end on 16th April 2007. Details were given of the proposed governance arrangements, including the number of representatives per area that would be eligible to sit on the Council of Governors. Consultation feedback forms and Membership expression of interest application forms were provided for those present. A Councillor asked if the possible closure of the University Hospital of Hartlepool would affect the results of this consultation. Ms Mackie advised that foundation status would apply to the trust as a whole not to individual hospitals.

The Chair thanked Ms Mackie for attending the meeting and answering questions.

68. DATE, TIME AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

To be held on Wednesday 13th June 2007 commencing at 10am at West View Community Centre, Miers Avenue.

The next North Police and Community Safety Forum will take place on Wednesday 11th April 2007 commencing at 2pm at Throston Grange Community Centre, Glamorgan Grove.

ROB COOK

CHAIR

North Neighbourhood Consultative Forum

Wednesday, 28 March 2007

Issues Raised

ISSUE DETAILS	ACTION TAKEN	OFFICER	COMPLETE / ONGOING
<u>Update on Resident Representative</u> Mary Power to be sent flowers as requested by Neighbourhood Forum	Flowers delivered	Karen Oliver	C
<u>Public Question Time</u> Verner Road resurfacing Request for timescales Brus Arms redevelopment Winterbottom Avenue Request for bus sign plate after Richardson's club bus stop Kensington Court, Holdforth Road Request for dropped crossing	Footpath to be resurfaced 2007 Road to be resurfaced 2008 Site has been fenced off. Planning application for redevelopment has been submitted. Order has been placed for new sign. Agreed to by Chair from next year's budget. To be placed on dropped crossing list.	Peter Frost Planning Peter Frost Garry Jones	C O C C

ISSUE DETAILS	ACTION TAKEN	OFFICER	COMPLETE / ONGOING
<p><u>Public Question Time (cont...)</u></p> <p>Bus lay bys Request for rolling programme – A number of issues raised by local residents</p>	<p>Bus lay-bys are provided as part of local safety schemes, where appropriate. In addition, wherever the investigation of road casualty data highlights a safety problem that could be significantly improved, then these areas will be targeted.</p> <p>All safety schemes are prioritised based on road casualty data. The 2 accidents referred to by the residents, would, unfortunately, not have been avoided by providing them, and in one case it would not have been possible to do so.</p>	Peter Frost	
<p>Bus stop on Miers and Winterbottom Avenue – On corner – blocks traffic – request for lay-by</p>	<p>It would be the ideal solution to provide lay-bys at the existing locations, in the tarmac verge area, subject to funding being found. At present casualty information has not shown a problem at this site, so the available funding has been allocated towards the areas with the greatest number of accidents. Relocating bus stop is likely to lead to complaints from residents who do not want bus stops directly opposite to their properties.</p>	Peter Frost	O
<p>Brenda Road – dirt</p>	<p>Mud on road to be monitored.</p>	Alastair Smith	C

ISSUE DETAILS	ACTION TAKEN	OFFICER	COMPLETE / ONGOING
<p><u>Public Question Time (Cont...)</u></p> <p>Barnshaw Bending - Spion Kop Concern about vandalism and youths drinking</p>	<p>Coulfords to be contacted regarding security on site. Richard Court to be contacted regarding CCTV camera. Letter sent from Forum highlighting the "lack of vision and the hope it will be readdressed very quickly."</p>	<p>Karen Oliver</p>	
<p>Resident Representatives and Ward Issues</p> <p>Union Bank Request for one way system, parking bays at the bottom of Union Bank and hand rail leading to the surgery. John Marshall requested that the Parish Chair be invited to the next meeting</p> <p>Coastal Pathway Request for issue to go on agenda for next meeting, also to forward to Scrutiny</p>	<p>Consultation has taken place with Ward Members, the Parish Council, residents and organisations affected by the one-way street proposal. The scheme is due to be reported to Portfolio in June 2007.</p> <p>Presentation on 13th June 2007 re: Coastal Pathway Strategy. (North Neighbourhood Consultative Referral to Scrutiny). Referral rejected. Committee felt that there needed to be more focus in terms of the area of the walkway, which the referral relates to, and suggested that it be sent back to the Forum, indicating that the referral needs to be more focused.</p>	<p>Peter Frost</p>	<p>O</p>

ISSUE DETAILS	ACTION TAKEN	OFFICER	COMPLETE / ONGOING
<p><u>Resident Representatives and Ward Issues (Cont...)</u></p> <p>West View Road Roundabout – change in traffic markings</p> <p>Headland Request for a Headland recycling point –</p> <p>Middlegate - bus stop Stagecoach drivers using as terminus against agreement</p>	<p>Alterations have now been carried out.</p> <p>Update on current situation to be provided on 13th June 2007.</p> <p>Ian Jopling in process of contacting Stagecoach and Alastair Smith to get involved personally.</p>	<p>Karen Oliver</p> <p>Ian Jopling/ Alastair Smith</p>	<p>C</p> <p>O</p>
<p>Minor Works Proposals</p> <p>Salter Walk - request for hand rail Karen Oliver to speak to owner and sort legal aspects - will use leftover money</p> <p>Miers Avenue West View Community Centre location. Issue with condition of footpath and road</p>	<p>Agreement given, provided all legal matters sorted – work now complete.</p> <p>Highways currently assessing the condition – awaiting outcome.</p>	<p>Garry Jones</p> <p>Garry Jones</p>	<p>C</p> <p>O</p>
<p><u>Alcohol Free Zones</u></p> <p>To include as sole item on next North Police Forum – discussed between Chair and Karen Oliver re amended agenda</p>	<p>Complete – meeting took place.</p>		<p>C</p>

ISSUE DETAILS	ACTION TAKEN	OFFICER	COMPLETE / ONGOING
<p><u>Restoration and Cleaning Repairs to War Memorials</u></p> <p>Request for gilding to be included in questionnaire, also box giving permission for people's comments to be forwarded</p>	Work has commenced.		C
<p><u>Illegal Parking</u></p> <p>Request for regular updates regarding tickets issued and enforcement action taken</p> <p>Request for more enforcement using police and officers, as police can stop cars leaving whereas officers can't</p>	<p>Referred to Phil Hepworth – request noted</p> <p>Chair requested a letter be sent to Steve Ashman regarding priority to traffic wardens at schools – letter has been forwarded to Steve Ashman</p>	<p>Phil Hepworth</p> <p>Alastair Smith</p>	<p>O</p> <p>C</p>

Report of: Director of Regeneration and Planning Services

Subject: Tees Valley Joint Minerals and Waste Development Plan Documents: Key Issues and Alternative Options Report – (For information)

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To inform the Forum of the statutory consultation period and drop in event for the Tees Valley Minerals and Waste Development Plan Documents (DPDs).

2. BACKGROUND AND INFORMATION

- 2.1 Development Plan Documents are being produced to outline the planning policies relating to minerals and waste developments in the Tees Valley. Hartlepool Borough Council have teamed up with the other four Tees Valley authorities to prepare a joint Minerals and Waste Plan.
- 2.2 The Key Issues and Alternative Options Report represents the first stage of preparing the Tees Valley Joint Minerals and Waste Development Plan Documents (DPDs). The report identifies issues affecting minerals and waste development, and provides spatial planning options with dealing with these. The Report has been prepared by consultants Entec UK Ltd following consultation and discussion with the minerals and waste industry, officers and members of the Tees Valley Boroughs, environmental interest groups and other organisations identified as having an interest in minerals and waste in the area. Information arising from the stakeholder workshop held on 13 December 2006 has directly influenced the issues and options identified in the report and the objectives for the Sustainability Appraisal, which has provided a range of tailored objectives for the Tees Valley.

3 PUBLIC CONSULTATION

- 3.1 Public consultation is currently being carried out on the Issues and Options report and this will allow communities, organisations and businesses to have their say on what options should be used in the Tees Valley to deal with minerals and waste issues. The consultation will allow any further issues to be identified, and for options to be put forward for consideration on how to deal with such further issues.
- 3.2 A key part of the consultation in Hartlepool is the drop in session at the Central Library, which will take place on 18th June 2007 and run from 3pm to

7pm. On hand at the drop in session will be a number of employees of the environmental consultants Entec UK and Planning Officers from HBC who will explain the Issues and Options being proposed. Everyone who is interested should attend this event.

- 3.3 Copies of the Key Issues and Options report are available for viewing at all branch libraries and can be viewed and/or downloaded on the council's website. Anyone who would like to discuss the report in more detail or would like a paper copy should contact Tom Britcliffe on 523532. Any comments on the Report should be submitted by the end of June 2007.

4 RECOMMENDATION

- 4.1 That the report be noted and that interested parties be encouraged to attend the drop in session and make formal representations on the Issues and Options report.

Report: Director Neighbourhood Services

Subject: MINOR WORKS BUDGET 2007/2008

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To report to the Forum details of the Minor Works Budget allocation for 2007/2008 and the Forum's role with regard to the proposal and approval of schemes.

2. OUTLINE OF CONTENTS

- 2.1 In 2006/2007 the Forum was responsible for recommending and undertaking minor works for the general improvement of the North Area from a budget allocated by the Council..
- 2.2 The remit of the Forum for 2007/2008 will be to request approval for proposed minor works schemes from the Neighbourhoods and Communities Portfolio Holder. If approval is given, then these works will be progressed in the normal way.
- 2.3 The Forum has been delegated £52,000 for this financial year, 2007/2008, as a Minor Works Budget. As was the case in 2006/2007, an additional allocation of £20,000 has been made from Highways Budgets (£10,000 from the Local Transport Plan and £10,000 from the Highways Maintenance Budget). This money will address specific highways issues raised by the Forum in the North Area.
- 2.4 Further to this, an additional £15,000 has again been allocated to the Forum to address the common issue of the conversion of grass verges to hard standing, where the Forum considers this appropriate.
- 2.5 The framework, when considering proposed schemes, will continue as in previous years, as follows:
- (i) Outline schemes to be proposed by Members, Residents, Residents' Representatives or Officers:
 - (ii) The Chair and Vice Chair of the Neighbourhood Consultative Forum will assess the proposal and where appropriate, instruct Officers to cost the works and report to the Forum;
 - (iii) Reports to the Forum will include estimated costs, alternative options where appropriate, residents' views and any other related information.

- (iv) Minor works schemes are likely to include any works of improvement to the area which benefit the community or a number of individual residents and enhance the quality of life in the neighbourhood. Individual repairs and improvements would not normally be funded from this budget but would be referred to other departmental budgets.

3. RECOMMENDATION

3.1 The Forum is asked to note that:

- (i) The Forum will submit recommendations regarding minor works proposals to the Portfolio Holder for Neighbourhoods and Communities for final decision.
- (ii) £52,000 is available for general minor works schemes.
- (iii) £20,000 is available for highway related schemes.
- (iv) A further £15,000 has been allocated to specifically address the issues concerning grass verge re-instatement.

Report of: Neighbourhood Manager (North)

Subject: MINOR WORKS PROPOSALS

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To consider improvement schemes for potential funding from the North Neighbourhood Consultative Forum Minor Works Budget.

2 SCHEME 1: PRIDE IN HARTLEPOOL

- 2.1 Pride in Hartlepool work throughout the town and all three Forums are being asked to provide a contribution of £5,000 towards Pride in Hartlepool work, and its Community Environment Improvements Projects.
- 2.2 The Pride in Hartlepool Team have worked successfully with a number of groups in the North Forum area. The following schemes took place in the North during 2006/07 as a result of last year's support from Minor Works: -

Percy's Patch at Jesmond Road Primary School

During 2006 Jesmond Road Primary transformed a small grassy area with limited plants into an exciting green classroom. Pride in Hartlepool contributed £700 that enabled them to have a small pond and attractive planting, creating a haven for wildlife. The area also has a vegetable plot and herb garden and is a valuable outdoor resource.

Central Estate Hanging Baskets

Pride in Hartlepool supported the Central Estate Management Board by providing £1000 to enable them to purchase over 50 hanging baskets for the residents in sheltered accommodation. The baskets brightened up the estate and brought a sense of community.

Friends of Croft Gardens

The Friends of Croft Gardens obtained £1000 from Pride in Hartlepool to support the rejuvenation work through new plants and bulb planting.

St Hild's Sensory Garden

Students from St Hild's received £1000 from Pride in Hartlepool to enable them to start creating a sensory garden in the school grounds. Students are working on the garden themselves for the benefit of all students including those with sensory impairments.

Central Estate Hanging Baskets

During 2007 Central Estate received £800 to have their hanging baskets replanted for the summer months.

Jesmond Road Primary School 'Busy Bees'

The school wished to further their school grounds improvements and received £1000 for plants and planters to improve the appearance of the schoolyard.

Throston Primary

The school received £1000 funding to obtain 4 new litterbins for the school grounds.

Friends of Regent Square

A recent application from the Friends of Regent Square was successful and the group received £550 for tools, plants and planters.

- 2.3 Contribution cost towards Pride in Hartlepool **£5,000**.

3. SCHEME 2: HART WARD – MURFIELD WALK

- 3.1 For a number of years the department have received complaints regarding damage to the embankment along the Muirfield Walk footpath and open space area.
- 3.2 The damage has created a number of problems, particularly to residents of Ashwood Close, who back onto the Muirfield Walk embankment. Gradually over the years the land has eroded and become unsightly. The damage has been created by young children digging away in this location. Children also climb and use the trees situated on the embankment as a meeting place, creating a nuisance to residents in Ashwood Close.
- 3.3 Officers are presenting two options to design out the current problems relating to the existing landscape. Both options provide possible solutions to the issue, and would also improve the immediate environment.
- 3.4 Option one

To plant sixteen trees 4 to 5 mtrs high, with protective cages, along the footpath edge at Muirfield Walk (see **Appendix A**) also to plant shrubs at the rear of 35 Ashwood Close, to prevent further excavation and possible undermining the property's rear fence line.

The cost of this scheme is **£8,400**.

3.5 Option Two

Option two includes the above scheme plus re-grading the soil bank area at the rear of the Ashwood Close properties. Then to finish with top soil and reseed the area, also to provide a dense coverage of spring bulbs.

The cost of this scheme is **£10,500**.

4. **SCHEME 3: MARLEY WALK ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENTS**

- 4.1 In February 2007, Neighbourhood Services were asked by residents to remove the boulders at the turning point at Marley Walk. Residents had been experiencing a high level of problems due to young people congregating and using the location as a place to meet and drink alcohol. The Neighbourhood Policing Team were involved, and also advised that the boulders be removed. This work was carried out in February 2007, and as a result the anti social behaviour has ceased. However, now that the boulders have been removed, there is a need to provide a combination of bollards and trees to restrict vehicle access across the grassed area in this location (see **Appendix B**). In order to do this, twenty bollards and six trees are required.

The cost of this scheme is **£4,250**.

5. **SCHEME 4: DROPPED CROSSINGS**

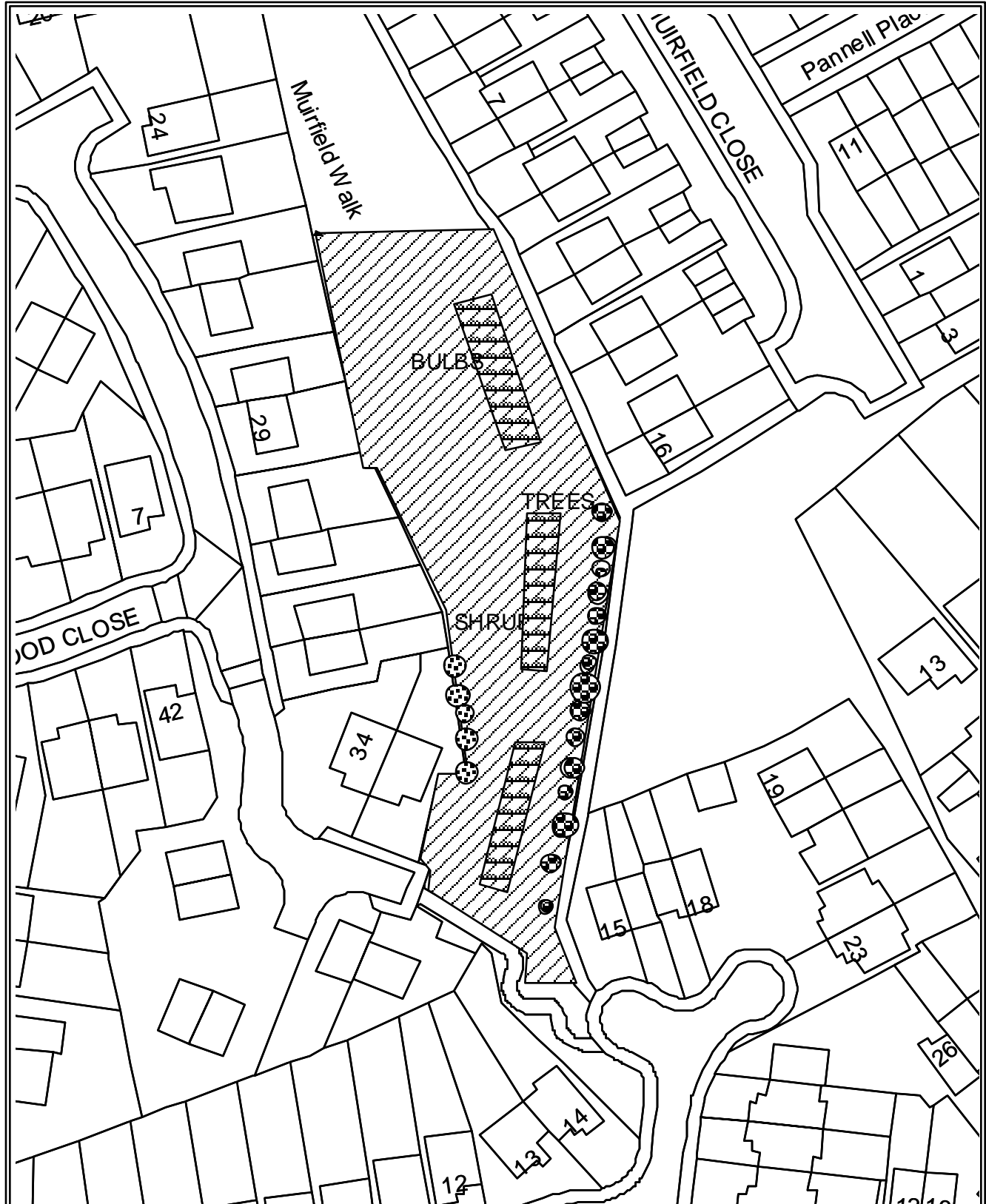
- 5.1 The Dropped Crossing Strategy was introduced to all three Forums in 2001/02. Since this time each Forum have, each financial year, continued to commit the sum of £3,500 towards the ongoing rolling programme to provide dropped crossings throughout the town.
- 5.2 To enable the rolling programme to progress as planned, it is requested that the North Forum allocate £3,500 as a continuing commitment to this strategy.

Contribution cost towards Dropped Crossing Strategy **£3,500**.

6 **RECOMMENDATION**

- 6.1 The Forum is asked to consider the above schemes. Approved schemes will need to be presented to the Neighbourhoods and Communities Portfolio for final approval.

Appendix A



ASHWOOD CLOSE / MUIRFIELD WALK SCHEME

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Head of Highways & Transportation - I Parker M.I.C.E M.I.H.T

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Asset View DATE

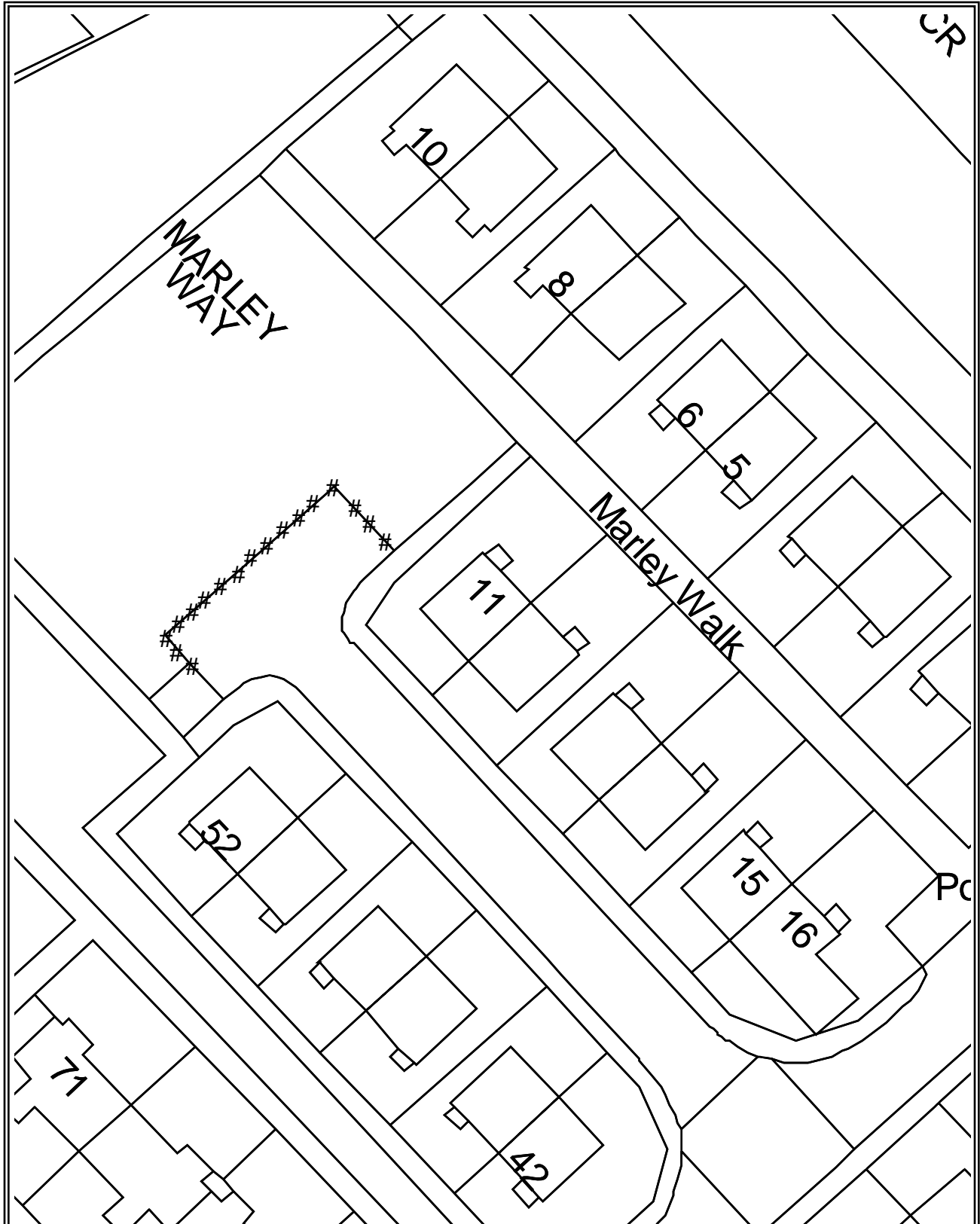
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Appendix B



MARLEY WALK : BOLLARDS AND TREES

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