

PLEASE NOTE VENUE

SOUTH NEIGHBOURHOOD CONSULTATIVE FORUM AGENDA



RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVE ELECTION at 9.30am PROMPT

Friday 15 June 2007

at 10.00 am

**in Owton Manor Community Centre,
Wynyard Road, Hartlepool**

MEMBERS: SOUTH NEIGHBOURHOOD CONSULTATIVE FORUM:

Councillors S Cook, Flintoff, Gibbon, Hill, James, Johnson, A E Lilley, G Lilley,
A Marshall, Preece, Turner, Wistow and Young

Resident Representatives:

Ann Butterfield, Mary Green, Rose Kennedy, Michael McKie, Iris Ryder Michael
Ward and Vacancy.

- 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 30th March 2007 (*attached*)
 - 4.2 Matters arising
- 5. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

PLEASE NOTE VENUE

6. ITEMS FOR CONSULTATION

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

7. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION INFORMATION

- 7.1 Tees Valley Joint Minerals and Waste Development Plan Documents: Key Issues and Alternative Options Report – Tom Britcliffe, Principal Planning Officer
- 7.2 Minor Works Budget 2007/08 – Director of Neighbourhood Services

8. ITEMS FOR DECISION

- 8.1 Minor Works Proposals – South Neighbourhood Manager

9. WARD ISSUES

10. DATE, TIME AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the South Neighbourhood Consultative Forum is to be held on Friday 6th August 2007 commencing at 6pm at Ow ton Manor Community Centre, Wynyard Road.

The next meeting of the South Police and Community Safety Forum is to be held on Friday 7th September 2007 commencing at 10am at Ow ton Manor Community Centre, Wynyard Road

WARDS

Fens
Greatham
Owton
Rossmere
Seaton

SOUTH NEIGHBOURHOOD CONSULTATIVE FORUM

30th March 2007

MINUTES OF THE MEETING



The meeting commenced at 10.00 a.m. at Owton Manor Community Centre, Hartlepool

PRESENT:

Chair: Councillor Mick Johnson - Rossmere Ward

Vice Chair: Mary Green (Resident Representative)

Councillor Steve Gibbon - Fens Ward
 Councillor Marjorie James - Owton Ward
 Councillor Ann Marshall - Rossmere Ward
 Councillor Geoff Lilley - Greatham Ward
 Councillor Michael Turner - Seaton Ward
 Councillor Maureen Waller - Owton Ward
 Councillor Lillian Sutheran was also in attendance

Resident Representatives: Rose Kennedy, Alison Lilley, Michael McKie, Iris Ryder and Michael Ward

Public: Mrs S Kell, Mrs J Unwin, Mr B McAllister, Mr C Williams, Mr T Rigby, Mr T Stewart, Mrs D Clark, Miss Joan Smith, Mr J Massey, Mr Oxley, Mr S Benvin, Mr W Weatherill, Mr T Wrigley and Mr M Arnold.

Officers: David Frame, Iain Campbell, Albert Williams, Cyril Winskill, Paul Mitchinson, Sue Beevers, Sue McBride, Richard Harland and Pat Watson

Housing Hartlepool Representative: Helen Iveson

Cleveland Police Representative: Sgt. Jonathan Wrigley

45. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors S Cook, Hill, Preece, Rayner, Wistow and Young. Also from Lesley Hall, Community Network Officer

46. TO RECEIVE ANY DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS

There were no declarations of interest.

47. MINUTES

The Forum agreed to receive the minutes of the South Police and Community Safety Consultative Forum held on 12th January 2007.

The Forum agreed to receive the minutes of the meeting held on 2nd February 2007 subject to the following amendments:

Page 8, Final sentence of final paragraph of Minute 43 – Councillor Lilley indicated that this was not accurate and it misrepresented what had been said. What Councillor Lilley had said was that a wall had been knocked down and this was a Hospital of God issue.

Page 2, Minute 38 – Availability of School Governors contact details - Mr Williams indicated that the final sentence in the first paragraph on minute 38 should not be included. It should be replaced by “He had been given the option of sending a letter to the Department for forwarding on”.

Page 2/3, Minute 38 – Public access to sports hall – Mr Williams requested that the words “that he had recently been unable to hire a school sports hall which his daughter’s martial arts group had used previously” should be removed and replaced by the words “the group had recently been unable to book the hall – his daughter was part of that group”.

On the same issue Councillor Turner asked if the penultimate sentence of the minutes had been actioned. The Chair indicated that Sue Beevers from Children’s Services Department was in attendance today to provide information and answer questions.

48. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

(a) Mr T Wrigley, Secretary of Owton Manor Homing Society advised that there had been several incidents on the allotment site. On 9th and 10th March there had been break-ins. He asked if CCTV could be installed similar to Burn Valley. Richard Harland from Community Services advised that security was being taken seriously but some problems were difficult to deal with. The new security company would respond to calls. Mr Wrigley said the problems usually happen between midnight and 6am. Richard Harland advised that the Burn Valley CCTV were not being provided or managed by the local authority – they belong to the allotment association and other area groups could follow their example.

The Chair suggested that Mr Wrigley liaise with Richard Harland re accessing any funding available – and keep the Forum updated. It was suggested that Peter Gowland of HVDA may be able to assist on funding. Cllr Ann Marshall indicated that OFCA may be able to offer assistance.

(b) Mr Wrigley also reported that pavements at Fulbeck Avenue / Catcote Road / Fulthorpe Avenue were in a bad state of repair. David Frame noted this issue for investigation.

(c) Mr R Massey, representing Fens residents advised of a problem in Mildenhall Close – a blind bend where children play – it was dangerous – this was not a lighting problem but a road management issue. Iain Campbell, Highways Technical Officer agreed to investigate.

(d) Dorothy Clark referred to Policing at Greatham. She said gangs were out every night destroying things and using anti social behaviour. They did not

appear to be local children. Sgt Jonathan Wrigley advised that the Police were aware of problems. He said the area would be getting extra resources soon and these PCSOs would be around when PCs are not should so more Police presence should put a message out to local youths that bad behaviour would not be tolerated. He was aware that the groups clear when police are called but then re-group afterwards. He asked the public to keep on calling. The best number to ring was 01642 326326 and ask for Jutland Road. Messages would be dealt with.

Councillor Marjorie James referred to the Youth Inclusion Programme that had been launched earlier in the day. She gave a contact number of 265712 John Wright – assistance could be given on all youth action work.

(e) Mr Benvin referred to Rossmere Park and the glass and rubbish that young people left after every Friday night. He asked for a regular Saturday morning road sweeper and cleaning of the area. There was a similar situation at Bewley Grove – he said it was when young people leave the Park – they throw bottles and rubbish around. The Chairman confirmed the situation and said that serious damage had been done. Similar things were happening around the town. The Chairman indicated that he had contacted The Mayor – more initiatives for young people were needed. Mr Benvin referred to signs re no alcohol indicating that offenders would be fined. He asked when this would happen. David Frame advised that the bye'laws were now out-of-date and re-designation of areas was underway. This was being dealt with by Joe Hogan of the Council's Community Safety Section.

Sgt Wrigley said the Police have power to deal with situations but if they are young children then parents have to be

contacted. This had been done and had worked well in some cases. Information is being gathered in relation to Rossmere Park and he agreed to look at previous incidents in the area.

Mr Benvin said the Council should be stricter with licence holders. It had been proved that when a licence is taken away the problems stop and when licence is given back it all starts again. Councillor Lilley referred to recent decisions of Licensing Sub-Committees where restrictions had been put on licence holder and these had been over-ruled by the Magistrates.

It was believed that licensed premises in Owton Manor Lane were selling alcohol to under age people and problems were escalating near Rossmere Park area.

The Chairman indicated that he would like a letter sending from this Forum to Licensing Committee and that the Council's Licensing Officers be made aware of the situation.

(f) Mr Stewart referred to incidents on Monday 26th March at around 7.30am when a group of children were throwing rocks at ducks. Also the groups gather with alcohol and anti social behaviour. Things are thrown at windows in Ardrossan Court. He said the Police are never there at night. He said that at the NAP meeting on 27th March he has spoken to a PCSO who indicated that the police are wanting to keep them together in one place so they know where they are. Mr Stewart said that was not what the residents wanted.

The Chairman said he would not be agreeing to any proposals to keep the Park open at night to keep them together.

Sgt Wrigley said the PCSO had been wrong to say what he did as this was incorrect.

David Frame indicated that the issue was being discussed by the South Joint Action Group.

(f) Miss Joan Smith advised the Forum of problems around Mildenhall corner where residents were driving carefully but young people playing football abuse the drivers when they are passing. Also, there are young people playing ball games on Catcote Road. She asked that the Police monitor the situation. This was noted by the Police.

(g) Ann Butterfield indicated that she had become a Res Rep to support the public and all Members and had not wanted to be political but when she had read a recent letter in the Mail from the Admin Group this had been upsetting to her as she felt the Forums did a good job. Councillor Lilley advised that Councillor Kaiser, as co-ordinator of the Admin Group had submitted the letter to the Mail but none of the other signatories had seen the letter until it appeared in the press. He indicated that he could not apologise as he had not been party to it being sent to the Mail. Cllr Gibbon and Turner also indicated that they had not been aware of the letter. The Chairman indicated that he had taken personal exception to the letter and it worried him that if Forums were axed then how would the public be able to put get answers to question and put proposals for funding forward for improvements in their area. The Chairman had also thought it was offensive to officers and generally unhelpful. Council James, the Chair of Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee advised that she had received several telephone calls from people who were upset by the letter. She said the Res Reps have a voice on Scrutiny – also to be accused of introducing Poll Tax was wrong. The letter had attacked both Scrutiny and Neighbourhood Forums and she did not understand how the Mail

could have published the letter without having the signatures of the named parties. Mr Benvin questioned whether the Mail check the validity of such letters. Councillor M Waller advised that if anything goes from Labour Group to the mail then the Mail insist that the signatures of the full Group are given. Cllr Waller commented that both Scrutiny and Neighbourhood Forums are cross party groups and were set up to get the public involved and anyone wanting to get rid of them would be affecting the democracy of the town. She said there had been some excellent Scrutiny topics and all political parties had taken part.

Discussion took place on whether the 3 South area Admin Members or the Forum as a whole should write to the Mail but no particular action was agreed other than the facts and views of those present being registered in these minutes.

(h) Mary Green, Res Rep, advised of a request for Loch Grove to have grass verges replaced by car parking areas. Councillor James suggested that Members, Res Reps and Officers get together to discuss a rolling programme for removal of grass verges. The Chair agreed with the suggestion. Paul Mitchinson indicated that a policy was not complete, the rolling programme needs to be set and he would arrange a meeting.

49. 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.

Mr Massey asked why Stockton would have 11 members and yet Hartlepool only 6. He felt this could give more powers to Stockton to close down Hartlepool Hospital. Janet replied that the numbers were based on a Directive given to them and the numbers were based on population. Micheal Ward, Res Rep, indicated that he had heard the presentation before and had had time to read the brochure. He said many of the services indicated were already being carried out. Janet indicated that this had to be put down in words. She also indicated that Foundation status would give them more financial freedom.

Councillor Lilley asked what would happen if everyone said 'No thanks'. Claire Young from the NHS Trust indicated that they were not consulting on 'Yes' or 'no' to Foundation Status but were asking about the way it should be run. Cllr Lilley referred to financial stability and how 'quick-fit' operations bring money in – only so many can be done – what would happen if in ten years time the NH Foundation Trust found themselves in trouble. Claire said if there was a situation of non-profit the guidance indicated other authorities should be liaised with. She indicated that the Unit would be MRSA free.

Cllr Lilley asked if there was a Constitution. Claire indicated she would take his address and check this out.

Councillor James expressed concerns about the consultation, ie the larger document just being available today. She felt the process needed to be more informed and informative. Claire advised that leaflets had been put in every door.

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

Councillor James indicated that she wished to register disappointment in the 'White Elephant' PCT building in Wynyard Road. It was supposed to help remedy the high attendance at the hospital but the type of nurse led services being offered were unsatisfactory. This issue had been referred to Scrutiny and Cllr James asked that the relevant Scrutiny meeting should be held in Owton Manor Community Centre to enable local people to attend.

50. 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.

Mr Massey commented that this was an excellent idea and suggested that when the brass is cleaned it could be waxed and have a rolling programme to re-coat every year. Cyril advised that the Contractors are conservation specialists and when the work is complete they would provide an after-care manual which will be presented to the Council.

Councillor James thanked Cyril for his informative presentation. She expressed concern about work to the steps and the timescales, ie possible work in late Summer taking 10 weeks. She reminded Officers that the Memorial Services (11.11.07 approx) needed to be taken into consideration. Cyril accepted that the timescale may have to be amended.

51. SCHOOL GOVERNORS – ACCESS TO INFORMATION UPDATE

Sue Beevers, Admissions, School Place Planning and Support Services Manager, advised the Forum that following the discussions at the last meeting regarding availability of school governors contact details, she had been following up procedures within the Children's Services Department, specifically with the Governor Support Team.

She advised that normally when someone requests a governor's contact details the advice given would be to take the matter up with the Head Teacher, and if this fails take it up with the Chair of Governors (either send a letter via the school or send to Governor Support for forwarding on).

The code of conduct for governors states that in terms of conduct governors should recognise that they have no individual powers and should only speak or act on behalf of the governing body when specifically authorised. Therefore it is better if correspondence/communication is channelled through the chair of governors or the head teacher.

Governors should exercise the highest degree of caution when involved in sensitive issues arising outside the governing body, which may have an impact on the work of the governing body or the operation of the school. Again, the

route of following the procedure via the chair/head teacher would minimise any compromise position governors may be put in.

Sue said she had checked out the data protection and Freedom of Information (FOI) guidance and believed that there was no problem with governors' names being released on request. The School is a public authority for the purpose of the FOI Act and if a written request was made then her department would be obliged to provide the information. Governors form part of a governing body, make decisions on behalf of the school and in their official capacity as governors should not object to this information being available to the public. Many schools publish governors' names in their school prospectus, so the information is in the public domain. However, the Council's legal team had suggested that the department draw the line at home addresses as this is personal information that would not normally be disclosed. The Governors would not expect this information to be disclosed on request. If the department wished to do this they would need to obtain the governor's written permission. Where there is this kind of expectation by a third party the department can refuse to provide the information in acknowledgement of third party rights under the Data Protection Act. The best course of action would be that the School's address should be used in correspondence.

Sue advised that the Governor Support Team were reviewing their procedures.

Sue advised that Councillor Wistow had requested that the following comment be read out to the Forum:

"The General Purposes Committee, of which I am a member, deal, in part, with the appointment of governors. The Committee wish to receive a copy of the

minutes of this and the previous South Neighbourhood Consultative Forum. The Committee have expressed the view that there should be complete transparency as to who Local Authority governors are and all information should be in the public domain”.

Following Sue's report the following issues were raised:

Mr Williams commented that he was now happy with the result but felt he should receive an apology. Sue acknowledged that there should be no secrecy in relation to names.

Councillor James commented that in addition to names being given it would be appropriate to indicate category, ie Local Authority Governor or Parent Governor. She hoped that General Purposes Committee would consider this and publish such information on the Council's or School's website.

52. ISSUES IN RELATION TO SPACE FOR SPORT AND ART FUNDING

Sue Beevers, Admissions, School Place Planning and Support Services Manager, advised the Forum that Space for Sport and Art was a scheme that ran about 4 years ago. 6 of Hartlepool's Primary Schools had applied for funding, 4 of them received funding to go ahead with the scheme.

One of the four schools was Owton Manor (the other 3 were West View, Stranton and Brougham). The funding was received from Government via sort England. This was purely capital funding and no revenue funding was linked to the grants. Essentially the scheme was for schools but an element of this had to be for the community.

At Owton Manor Primary School the money was spend on extending the gym, art gallery and a community craft room. Works took place in 2003/04 and it was opened to the public in 2004.

Sue said that with no revenue funds it had been down to the school to ensure that the resource was managed and marketed effectively. They therefore appointed a sports and arts development officer on a fixed term contract. (In addition to capital funds a small amount of revenue funding had been identified. This had now ran out. The manager had left the centre and unfortunately the school had no alternative but to temporarily close the facilities.

Two options had been identified. Either to wait until the Children's Centre is built and appoint someone to run this as well as the sports facility – or – Wait until the budget details for 07/08 are released and see if it would be possible to fund a part time post to work between the school and the sports facility. The way that school finances are set up, schools can not use their funds to pay for anything other than schools. The second option was not really a possibility.

Sue advised that the three other schools who had received sports for arts and shools funding were in the process of becoming Children's Centres or Extended Schools. She said that the Local Authority are working with Owton Manor School to try and do something similar there. Danielle Swainston who manages the whole of the early years remit was looking at proposals and plans had already been drawn up. The intention was for the school to re-open the sports centre as soon as possible in conjunction with a Children's Centre. It was felt this would be a longer term, sustainable way of resolving the problems and not just a quick fix solution.

Councillor Turner asked, in terms of grant, were there any timescales indicated. Sue said not that she could pin-point but would check.

Mr Williams gave a history of his dealing on this matter and asked if there was any mechanism whereby clubs using such facilities can be told about funding issues.

Councillor Lilley said this was clearly a classic example of an issue that could be examined by Scrutiny. Councillor James indicated this may be possible for the next municipal year programme but asked which elements should be examined.

Councillor James asked if the document of application made any mention of "Ongoing needs and responsibilities" beyond initial set up. Check need to be made on whether there has been any breach. She requested a copy of the application.

Micheal Ward expressed the view that Greatham school were not able to apply and suggested that this was a lesson to be learned for BSF in relation to whatever community development is put in place – checks needed to be made on sustainability.

Mr Williams expressed his thanks to James Deakin for his efforts in trying to keep the club alive.

Decision:

Councillors, Lilley, Turner, A Marshall, M James and M Johnson and Resident Representatives and public in attendance unanimously agreed the following:

"Scrutiny should examine in detail the role of schools and the meaning of extended schools and the implications for sustainability and accountability of community usage".

Councillor James said this would be an opportune time to get a clear definition of the above and build it into BSF.

53. WARD ISSUES

1. Councillor James referred to Car Parking adjacent to shops in Wynyard Road nose in. She had seen some police activity but wanted to see real action before a serious accident occurs.

2. Councillor James - Refuse Collections – she had received complaints about bin bags being thrown and rubbish left. Also Stockton Road brown bins collection – near Greenside – where an elderly collection man had been seen running between collections and one man hanging off the truck. She felt health and safety was being compromised and suspected that this was happening all over town.

3. Councillor A Marshall referred to Rossmere paths and an earlier request for an update. Paul Mitchinson gave an update and outlined 2 possible approaches. He said a rolling programme was needed.

4. Cllr Marshall thanked Officers on behalf of residents in Caithness Road for the work undertaken.

5. Street lights Brierton Lane – Cllr Marshall said they did not give out much light and complaints had been received of an orange glow not white. Also the same on Fulbeck – colour on paths bad. Paul Mitchinson noted these.

6. Councillor Lilley raised the issue of access for parents, push chairs etc at the black path Sappers Comer and the Kissing Gate at Flounders Court.

7. Councillor Lilley - Need for Car Parking scheme – Saltaire Terrace.

8. Councillor Lilley - Requirement for clarity – asked if there are any proposals whatsoever to erect alleygates anywhere in the Greatham area.

9. Councillor Turner asked if there was another way of collecting paper other than open blue bags. Also request for monitoring on one of the collection days as litter is lift.

10. Mr Massey advised of his grand-daughter's disappointment re the closure of Eldon Grove Centre. Councillor Lilley advised of the 3 month extension and urged groups to get together ad the Mayor had indicated he would give serious consideration to relinquishment of the Centre to self management.

David Frame noted all the issues raised.

David also indicated that he had received replies from Peter Frost (indicated below:

Rossmere Way pedestrian island – Adjacent residents had been written to regarding the proposed yellow lines, to ensure traffic can pass the island. Following any responses the legal process would be commenced for the introduction of the lines.

Warrior Drive speeding – Speed survey had not yet been undertaken due to problems with equipment, but this had now been resolved and the survey should be carried out in the next 2 weeks.

Callander Road speed survey – This had been done. Results gave low speeds (85th percentile figure of 32 mph). This coupled with the zero accident record means the road would be unlikely to receive funding for a safety scheme for some time.

<p>54. DATES, TIMES AND VENUES OF FUTURE MEETINGS</p>
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The South Police and Community Safety Forum to be held on Friday 13th April 2007 commencing at 2pm at Owton Manor Community Centre.

South Neighbourhood Consultative Forum to be held on Friday 15th June 2007 commencing at 10am – venue to be decided.

MICHAEL JOHNSON

CHAIRMAN

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 South 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 South 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: Director of Neighbourhood Services

Subject: MINOR WORKS PROPOSALS

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To consider improvement schemes for the South Forum area with funding from the minor works budget.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The minor works budget allocated for this financial year to the 31st March 2008 amounts to £87,000. Schemes are detailed below to address concerns previously raised by Ward Members, Resident Representatives and Residents. These are as follows:

(i) Fens Ward – Newark Road

This scheme will complete the renewal programme for Newark Road with the removal of 15 existing columns and the installation of 18 new columns and bulk heads at a cost of £16,500. However, the request is to contribute £11,500 towards the scheme with the remainder funded from the street lighting budget.

Cost £11,500.

(ii) Seaton Ward – Glaisdale Grove

Again this scheme will greatly improve lighting levels in this area and will consist of the removal of 3 existing columns and the installation of 4 new units.

Cost £3,500.

(iii) Seaton Ward – Bilsdale Road

The existing grassed area at the corner of Bilsdale Road/Kildale Grove consists of shrubbed areas which are overgrown and in need of replacement. This scheme would consist of removal of the existing material in 4 beds and replant with more suitable species and create 1 new bed to improve the appearance generally of this area.

Total areas	120m ²	Shrubs	460
	Soil 6m ³	Compost	45 bags

Cost £2,605.

(iv) All Wards – Pride in Hartlepool Contribution

In order to continue with the successful implementation of schemes to the South area through the Pride in Hartlepool initiative a request is made to contribute £5,000 to this as in the previous 3 years, from the Minor Works Budget. Attached as Appendix A are examples of schemes undertaken in previous years.

Cost £5,000.

(v) All Wards – Dropped Crossing Programme

This scheme will continue to contribute to the programme of dropped crossing installation in the South area. Anyone with specific locations which may benefit from this programme is requested to forward these to the Highways Section for consideration for the 2007/2008 batch of works.

Cost £3,500.

3. RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 That the forum recommends to the Neighbourhoods & Communities Portfolio Holder that these schemes be approved and funded from the Minor Works Budget.

Pride in Hartlepool South Projects Update

1. Greatham in Bloom

Each year Pride in Hartlepool has supported Greatham in Bloom to obtain spring flowering bulbs such as snowdrops, daffodils and bluebells. The bulbs will contribute towards the groups efforts in the Northumbria in Bloom competition.

2. Holy Trinity Church, Seaton Carew

Work has been undertaken to develop a large open space surrounding the church and improve its value as a wildlife area. A large area has been cleared and reseeded, wildflowers have been planted by local school children and bird boxes have also been put up. Tees Valley Wildlife Trust are currently working with a volunteer group to further improve the site.

3. Manor West Project

Pride in Hartlepool has enabled up to 10 dead and unhealthy trees to be replaced and replanted with new soil and fixed underground to ensure that they are secure and have the best chance of survival in what was previously very poor soil.

4. 18th Hartlepool Scouts

The 18th Hartlepool Scouts received funding from Pride in Hartlepool to purchase some bird and bat box kits. The scouts assembled these boxes and then these were put up at designated places around the town with support from the Hartlepool Countryside Wardens.

5. Greatham Primary School

A living willow tunnel has been created in the school grounds and this will act as a feature in the grounds but will also aid outdoor learning.

6. Fens Primary School

Fens Primary School have created a herb garden to enhance the school grounds but also to aid learning about plants which have a variety of uses, historical relevance and cultural references.

7. Rossmere School

The nursery garden at Rossmere Primary has been developed greatly as an outdoor play and learning resource for the nursery children and uses the adjacent Sure Start centre. Funds have been obtained from various sources including Pride in Hartlepool. The new grounds include a living willow tunnel, herb garden and vegetable garden.

8. Seaton Carew Nursery School

A small wildlife pond has been created to attract aquatic life to the school garden and to aid children to learn about the environment. A viewing platform enables people to look into the pond and when not in use the pond has a secure fence and gate.

9. Young People's Activity Group based at Jutland Road

The project has been supported to help young people create a garden at the Jutland Road Community Centre.

10. Jutland Road Shops Paint up

Owton Fens Community Association has been recently supported to paint the shop shutters at Jutland Road.