

PLEASE NOTE VENUE

CENTRAL NEIGHBOURHOOD CONSULTATIVE FORUM AGENDA



Thursday 11th October 2007

at 2.00 pm

**in The Baltic Suite, Hartlepool Historic Quay,
Maritime Avenue, Hartlepool**

MEMBERS: CENTRAL NEIGHBOURHOOD CONSULTATIVE FORUM:

Councillors Akers-Belcher, Brash, Coward, Cranney, Hall, Hargreaves, Henery, Kaiser, Laffey, Lauderdale, London, Morris, Payne, Richardson, Shaw, Simmons, Sutheran, Tumilty and Worthy

Resident Representatives:

James Atkinson, Bob Farrow, Alan Greenwell, Ted Jackson, Jean Kennedy, Evelyn Leck, Alan Lloyd, Brenda Loynes, Sarah Maness and Brian McBean

- 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 9th August 2007 (*attached*)
 - 4.2 Matters arising (maximum of 10 minutes) – Feedback sheet from last meeting attached.

PLEASE NOTE VENUE

5. **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME and WARD ISSUES (maximum of 30 minutes)**

Elwick
Foggy Furze
Grange
Park
Rift House
Stranton
Burn Valley

6. **ITEMS FOR CONSULTATION**

- 6.1 Presentation - Building Schools for the Future – Stage 4 Consultation – Special Educational Needs – *Assistant Director (Resources and Support Services)*
- 6.2 Winter Service Policy and Priorities – *Highway Services Manager*

7. **ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION and/or INFORMATION**

- 7.1 Presentation - Council Tax Reductions – *Community Engagement Officer*
- 7.2 Presentation – Nuclear New Builds – *British Energy*

8. **ITEMS FOR DECISION**

No items

9. **DATE, TIME AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Central Neighbourhood Consultative Forum will be held on Thursday 29th November, 2007 commencing at 10am, in the Baltic Suite, Hartlepool Historic Quay, Maritime Avenue, Hartlepool

10. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS AGREED BY THE CHAIR**

WARDS

Burn Valley
Elwick
Foggy Furze
Grange
Park
Rift House
Stranton

CENTRAL NEIGHBOURHOOD CONSULTATIVE FORUM

9 August 2007

MINUTES OF THE MEETING



The meeting commenced at 6.00pm in the Baltic Suite at the Historic Quay, Hartlepool

PRESENT:

Chair: Councillor Lillian Sutheran - Rift House Ward

Vice-Chair: James Atkinson (Resident Representative)

Councillor Stephen Akers-Belcher	- Rift House Ward
Councillor Gerald Hall	- Burn Valley Ward
Councillor John Lauderdale	- Burn Valley Ward
Councillor Frances London	- Foggy Furze Ward
Councillor Dr George Morris	- Park Ward
Councillor Robbie Payne	- Stranton Ward
Councillor Carl Richardson	- Grange Ward
Councillor Chris Simmons	- Grange Ward
Councillor Victor Tumilty	- Grange Ward

Resident Representatives:

James Atkinson, Bob Farrow, Alan Greenwell, Ted Jackson, Evelyn Leck, Alan Lloyd and Brian McBean

Public: Christopher Broadbent, Douglas and Joyce Brown, Ian Campbell, Elizabeth Carroll, Mr and Mrs Dishman, Roni Farrow, George Harrison, David Kirkwood, Diane Kirkwood, Tom and Joan Jenkins, Gordon Johnson, Stella Johnson, Brenda Loynes, R McAndrew, Sarah Maness, Julie Rudge, Ray Waller, Ernie Welch, William White.

Council Officers: Denise Ogden, Head of Neighbourhood Management
Irene Cross, Neighbourhood Development Officer
Ian Burton, Environmental Enforcement Manager
Colin Kay, Environment Enforcement Officer
Charlotte Burnham, Scrutiny Manager
Kay Tranter, Resources and Performance Officer
Phyl Rafferty, Senior Library Manager
Jon Wright, Acting Neighbourhood Manager
David Cosgrove, Principal Democratic Services Officer
Leanne Lupton, Clerical / Administrative Officer

Police Representatives: Sgt Crawley and PC Blackwell

Housing Hartlepool Representative: Helen Iveson

13. APPOINTMENT OF RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVES

Prior to the commencement of the meeting there was an election for resident representatives for the Park and Grange Wards. Brenda Loynes (Park Ward) and Sarah Maness (Grange Ward) were duly elected as Resident Representatives for the Central Neighbourhood Consultative Forum

14. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Brash

15. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS

None

16. MINUTES

The minutes for the Central Neighbourhood Consultative Forum held on the 14 June 2007 were agreed.

17. MATTERS ARISING

Ian Campbell raised the problem of litter in Burn Valley Ward.

Mr McAndrew asked why the painting of lampposts was only partially done. He also asked why the paths in the Family Wood had not been cleared. He also reported that the pothole in Shrewsbury Street had not been filled in.

18. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME AND WARD ISSUES

Elwick – no issues.

Foggy Furze

Bob Farrow indicated that some of the grate covers in Studley Road had been lifted and traffic cones stood on them for quite some time. When were the grates to be replaced? Jon Wright indicated he would investigate the matter.

Dog Litter bins were also requested for Studley Road and Russell Street.

Grange Ward– Brian McBean queried what powers the PCSO's had to hand out tickets for dog fouling. Ian Burton, the Environment Enforcement Officer, replied that PCSO's have tickets that can and have been issued for this offence.

Brian McBean then asked the forum how the ward boundaries were decided for Dyke House and High Tunstall schools as part of the Building Schools for the Future proposals.

Councillor Carl Richardson asked when the alley-gates for Raeburn Street would be fitted. Jon Wright replied that resident consultation was ongoing and there was no precise date for installation.

Park Ward

Brenda Loynes spoke on behalf of some Mounston Close residents who believed the alley-gates have been erected illegally. Denise Ogden, the Head of Neighbourhood Management, replied that the Ombudsman's enquiry stated there was no evidence of maladministration. An agreement had been reached whereby that the fence would stay and the gate would be removed. If the anti-social behaviour incidences re-occurred then the gates would be closed again if the Police supported this. The Council did, however, have to apply for retrospective planning permission. The

application for planning permission had led to the recent consultation of a limited number of residents in accordance with planning regulations. There would be a report to the Portfolio Holder in the near future.

Resident Elizabeth Carroll reported obscene graffiti on the sculptures and the bandstand in Ward Jackson Park. She said efforts had been made to clean it up by the Friends of Ward Jackson Park, but to no avail. The vice chair of the forum James Atkinson said the Friends of the Park had paid a contractor to paint the bandstand and resident Ted Jackson asked if the group could be reimbursed for the cost.

The suitability of a residents parking scheme for Park Avenue was raised and Ted Jackson stated that nothing more had been said about this. Jon Wright told the forum this was going to consultation quite soon.

Ted Jackson asked if the minor works budget could fund the restoration of the fountain in the park. Jon Wright indicated that he would pursue the matter.

Rift House Ward

Resident Representative Alan Lloyd reported a hole in Thackeray Road about 18 inches deep that needed repair.

Councillor Stephen Akers-Belcher said he had written to officers regarding residents concerns with the traffic problems in Catcote Road, with particular reference to the English Martyrs School bus crash. Jon Wright assured the Councillor and the forum that the council would be investigating potential safety scheme options once the police enquiry was finished.

Residents reported a problem with flooding in Southbrooke Avenue.

Residents in Kingsley Avenue were unhappy with the safety recently implemented and it was reported that a wall had been knocked down for a fourth time in the area.

Residents complained about the corroded railings in Westbrooke Avenue and drainage problems. The railings are allowing trespassers to enter people's gardens. Jon Wright acknowledged this issue needed to be addressed.

Stranton Ward

Julie Rudge complained of the very poor state of the land belonging to the Church of the Nazarene. She said that efforts to get the Church to clear the land were not working, and asked if the council could do anything about the state of the land.

Douglas Brown, a resident for the Marina complained about the rubbish collection on the Marina and the poor provision of bins. He said the street lights on the quay were also more frequently off than on. Councillor Robbie Payne commented that it these and other issue were very frustrating for residents as Jomast were responsible for the land. Denise Ogden indicated that she would ask the Waste Manager to contact the residents concerned.

Councillor Payne asked if the CCTV in Fastnet Grove was working and if could be used to catch the dog owners who were flouting the law. Jon Wright replied that the camera was working, though there had been problems with it. The dog warden indicated that CCTV didn't always help with tackling owners who let their dogs foul without clearing up after them and agreed to go to the area to patrol.

Burn Valley Ward

Evelyn Leck reported that some of the drains in the Burn Valley Ward had become very smelly despite being recently cleared.

Evelyn Leck also raised the need for a crossing point in Blakelock Road. A blind elderly resident in the area was having extreme difficulties crossing the road. Jon Wright indicated he would investigate the possibility of installing a crossing point.

Evelyn Leck highlighted that since the smoking ban was introduced, smokers from the nearby club using the bus shelters in Stockton Road to smoke in creating a noise and litter nuisance for residents. Ray Waller stated the problem was also particularly bad on the Marina where it was becoming very difficult at times to walk along the footpaths outside the bars and restaurants because of smokers.

Evelyn Leck raised a complaint on behalf of a resident relating to the issue of letters submitted to the Civic Centre not being delivered to Councillors but going straight to the Chief Solicitor.

Ray Waller raised the issue of the bus services (no's 518, 33 and 15) and the fact that they were either be taken off service soon or had already been so. Denise Ogden replied that the number 15 bus service would continue to operate through financial support from the Council.

Ray Waller asked about the council's policy on smoking in bus shelters and if there were have no smoking signs for bus shelters? Denise Ogden confirmed that 'no smoking' signs were on order for all bus shelters.

Ray Waller referred to the very poor state of some of the pavements at a number of bus shelters. Denise Ogden indicated that this would be passed on to the appropriate officers to action.

Ray Waller referred to the recent two-tier resident car parking permit charges introduced by the Council that led to residents only a few doors apart paying significantly different annual charges.

Councillor Hall thanked officers for the resurfacing works that took place in Grantham Avenue, and asked if Eldon Grove could also be looked at. Councillor Hall also reported that an ASBO had been issued to a problem family in Cornwall Street that had been causing difficulties for local residents.

Ian Campbell requested a dog bin be installed in Dunston Road. He also asked if an old rose bed in the Bum Valley Bowling Green could be grassed over, and reported the bins had been vandalised in the rock gardens; he asked if new ones could be installed.

Mr McAndrew complained of the flooding problems at the Park Road/York Road traffic lights by the newly installed dropped kerbs.

A resident indicated that in the Burn Valley behind the bowling green the rose beds had been left to become over-grown with weeds. Could they be grassed over to make the area easier to maintain.

It was reported that the Eldon Grove play area was surrounded on three sides by hedges. Local residents had pushed holes through the hedge and were gaining access and allowing dogs to foul in the play area.

19. PRESENTATION - ANNUAL LIBRARY PLAN

Phyl Rafferty, the Senior Library Manager gave a brief presentation on the Annual Library Plan that was currently out for consultation. She asked for people to join

the friend of the libraries group that was to hold its first meeting on the 6th September 2007, at the Central Library.

The Forum commended the libraries for their high quality of service to the public.

20. PRESENTATION – DOG CONTROL ORDERS

A presentation on Dog Control orders was given by the Ian Burton, Environmental Enforcement Manager. A questionnaire on the main aspects of the proposed orders was also circulated. Ian Burton also handed out portable cigarette ash trays which were being used to combat the litter occurring following the smoking ban.

The Forum debated the issue and asked a number of questions of the officers. The main points raised were as follows: -

- Ray Waller asked if the Blue Lagoon should be included in the seasonal ban for dogs, as there is a greyhound owner that trains his dogs on that particular beach.
- Evelyn Leck referred to a disabled dog owner who had three dogs and was in a motorised wheelchair, and could not clear up after her dogs.
- George Harrison asked if it was ok for dogs to be allowed to roam on extendable leads. Ian Burton replied that this was not appropriate.
- Councillor Chris Simmons asked if the ban on dogs would cover Park Square and Serpentine Gardens.
- Councillor John Lauderdale emphasised that a dog should be under control, and that meant even when on a lead. He also queried where owners would be allowed to take their dogs to exercise them properly.

- Julie Rudge agreed that the council needed to consider where dogs could be exercised. She supported a ban on letting dogs loose in back alleys.
- Councillor Robbie Payne asked if a scheme could be piloted to combat persistent offenders, and Councillor Frances London suggested dog licences be brought back. Ian Burton replied that in today's society this would be hard to enforce, but added that the council did prosecute dog owners.
- Alan Lloyd asked how sports fields were monitored and Ian Burton answered that the police and PCSO's were doing as much as they could.
- Ian Campbell asked if Summerhill was an area on the list. Ian Burton replied that he was in talks with the management at the site.
- Councillor Stephen Akers-Belcher praised the dog wardens on behalf of the residents of the Rift House area.

21. SCRUTINY INVESTIGATION – 'AVAILABILITY OF GOOD QUALITY AFFORDABLE RENTED SOCIAL ACCOMMODATION IN HARTLEPOOL'

Councillor Shaun Cook, the Chair of the Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum, indicated that the Forum was to commence an investigation into the availability of good quality affordable rented social accommodation in Hartlepool and drew attention to the increasing length of housing waiting lists held by the Council and the town's Registered Social Landlords.

The Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum would be dedicating a period of five months to explore this issue in detail and will during the course of its investigation be receiving evidence/views

from a variety of sources, including the Town's MP. The dates of the proposed meetings of the Forum were set out in the report to the Forum and Councillor Cook particularly encouraged anyone who had any interest in this area to attend the meeting on 27 September at 2.00pm at the Avondale Centre.

The Forum discussed the issue briefly at the meeting and made the following comments:

- Brain McBean commented that first time buyers were being priced out of the market
- Bob Farrow said that the "tin houses" that were scheduled to be demolished in Belle Vue would not be replaced by sufficient new housing.
- Councillor John Lauderdale commented that new houses were not being built fast enough to meet demand.
- Ray Waller asked why street houses were not being refurbished, as not all tenants wanted to be moved out. The views of tenants and not the landlords needed to be taken into account.
- Evelyn Leck and Roni Farrow both commented that private landlords were housing undesirable tenants in the Belle Vue area creating anti-social behaviour problems.

22. NEW DEAL FOR COMMUNITIES (NDC) AREA NEIGHBOURHOOD ACTION PLAN (NAP)

Claire ???, the NDC Neighbourhood Manager, gave a presentation on the NAP. The plan highlighted issues such as anti social behaviour, private sector housing and services in the area. The plan also showed the need for a

development panel and a selective licensing scheme. The forum was informed that there would be £55,000 to implement the scheme over three years.

The plan was then discussed by the forum and the following points were made: -

- Bob Farrow praised the NDC plan and said that among other things, the alley-gates reduced crime and street lighting was improved.
- Councillor Hall also praised the document. He said that an extensive enquiry into licensing was carried out last year and that the siting of food takeaways should be looked at.
- The Chair of the forum said that the community had to put something into the development of the area after the funding from the Council ceased.

The plan was endorsed by the Forum.

22. MINOR WORKS PROPOSALS

The Forum were asked to agree to recommend the following minor works schemes to be reported to the Portfolio Holder for approval:

Scheme 1: Marina Promenade – request to provide seating area - £1,050

Scheme 2: Cresswell Drive – Improvements to street lighting - £6,000

Scheme 3: Mill House skate board park – Improvements to the park - £1,600

Scheme 4: Burn Valley Footway Scheme – funding of a footpath to the clubhouse - £2,640

The Forum agreed the four schemes at a total cost of £11,290 for referral to the Portfolio Holder for confirmation.

23. REVIEW OF POLLING DISTRICTS AND POLLING PLACES

The forum was invited to nominate a representative to the General Purposes Committee's Polling Review Sub Committee. The Forum nominated Councillor Gladys Worthy and resident representative Bob Farrow.

24. DATE, TIME AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Central Neighbourhood Consultative Forum is to be held on Thursday 11th October 2007, commencing at 10.00am in the Baltic Suite, Hartlepool Historic Quay, Maritime Avenue, Hartlepool

The next meeting of the Central Police and Community Safety Forum is to be held on Thursday 6th September 2007 commencing at 10.00am in the Baltic Suite, Hartlepool Historic Quay, Maritime Avenue, Hartlepool.

LILLIAN SUTHERAN

CHAIR

Central Forum Issues – 9.8.07

Mr McAndrew

Pothole still at the top of Westbourne Road on Shrewsbury Street. **On order has been placed for this work to be done.**

Family wood path still needs to have the overgrowth cleared. **These works have now been carried out.**

Painting of lamp columns still needs to be done. **This work will be carried out by the end of September.**

Foggy Furze

Cllr London

Reclaim your back lane for Peebles Avenue the street games still need painting. **The street games have been painted and the scheme is now complete.**

Bob Farrow

An extra dog bin is required for Studley Road. **A site visit has been carried out and locations for new dog bins have been identified and the new bins are on order.**

Gully tops are missing in Studley Road. **These works are now complete.**

Potholes outside of the drs in Kendal Road. **An order has been raised for repairs to be carried out.**

Evelyn Leck

Road surface in Russell Walk is in need of repair. **Reported to Mark Carroll the highways inspector has inspected the area then referred the issue to Technical Service with a view to consideration being given to resurface this area.**

A dog bin is required for Studley Road near to Tesco roundabout. **There is already a dog foul bin at this location.**

Grange

Brian McBean

The Chief Constable awarded powers to the PCSO's to allow them to issue fixed penalty notices for dog fouling so why are they not using them? **Sgt Crawley explained that the PCSO's advise the individual upon a first offence and do issue fixed penalty notices upon a second offence. Ian Burton, Enforcement Manager reported that they do receive tickets from PCSO's.**

Building Schools for the Future what is the rationale for how the ward boundaries were established as Dyke House and High Tunstall were not consulted? **An extensive town wide consultation has taken place on this topic, Paul Briggs will be attending the Consultative Forum on 11/10/2007 so any further queries can be addressed then.**

Cllr Richardson

When will the alley gates be installed in Raeburn Street? **JW explained that the consultation is underway and that the planning process usually takes approximately 8 weeks.**

Park

Brenda Loynes

Requested an update on the Mounston Close alley gates and questioned the information included in a letter regarding the council applying for retrospective planning permission. **Denise Ogden explained that the council has had to apply for retrospective planning for the main structure due to the outcome of the ombudsman enquiry. The outcome of this will aim to go to the portfolio holder in October.**

Elizabeth Carroll

Graffiti in Ward Jackson Park on the boatshed, fountain, bandstand and benches can anything be done? **James Atkinson informed the forum that the Friends of Ward Jackson Park have agreed to paint the bandstand. Ted Jackson asked would the council reimburse the group for the cost of the paint.**

Richard Harland agreed to reimburse the group the monies for the cost of the paint

The work on painting the bandstand has already started and the probation team will be painting the boatshed and the benches but at present there is no date for this work to start. Richard Harland agreed

Ted Jackson

Is there an update on the parking scheme for Park Avenue? **JW explained that this will go to consultation with residents by the end of August.**

The fountain in Ward Jackson Park is still not working and the estimated cost for repair is £6,000 can this be paid for through minor works budget? **JW explained that he will liaise with Park Officers regarding costs and the possibility of match funding. This can be considered however in speaking with Richard Harland we don't appear to be at this stage yet there still need to be an assessment carried out on the electrics which is proving more than it should be.**

Rift House

Alan Lloyd

Potholes on the grass verges outside of the flats in Thackeray Road. **These verges will be top soiled and grass seeded.**

Mini motors are on the estate.

Cllr Belcher

Traffic problems on Catcote Road (include Browning Avenue) can residents be consulted regarding possible solutions and options available for the area. **JW explained that Technical Services are carrying out safety audits around the school and that no consultation can be undertaken until the police enquiry is complete as to the circumstances around why the accident happened.**

Southbrooke Avenue flooding is a concern and the road is in need of repair. **Reported to Ken Carney and Dave Thompson 16.8.07 The issue regarding flooding from the cemetery I believe has been addressed however if the issue is the flooding due storm water from the sewer system then residents must contact NWA tel 08003287648**

An island crossing has been requested for Kingsley Avenue? **Peter Frost has explained that the road widths will not allow for a traffic island to be constructed however the vehicle speed activated signs will be installed in the next few weeks**

Railings on Westbrooke Avenue that run between the Wreck and residential gardens are in need of some maintenance? **An order has been placed to repair part of the fence and some works have been carried out.**

Stranton

Julie Rudge

Land at the Church of the Nazarene the church was working with NDC to look at the re-use of the land and the church has pulled out of negotiations and this land does need cleaning up. **This area has been swept and cleared of litter**

Can the process be set in motion for the porta-cabin on this site to be moved? **I have liaised with Dave Thompson and he is working with me to try and arrange the removal of the porta cabins**

Douglas Brannagh

Waste collections on the Marina, all the flats have allocated bin areas but not at the area where they live. **Denise Ogden took their details and will pass on to the waste management manager.**

The lights are not working on the Marina. **These lights have not been adopted by HBC and as a goodwill gesture HBC have repaired these lights in the past. At present negotiating with Mandale and Jomast to try and identify ownership.**

Cllr Payne

Is the CCTV camera working on Fastnet Grove? **This CCTV camera has been full operational for a considerable length of time.**

Can CCTV be used to catch dog owners letting their dogs foul? **Ian Burton explained that this would not be easy to identify persons by CCTV**

Burn Valley

Evelyn Leck

Drains in the Burn Valley area smell. **These gullies are to be checked on 20 August 2007 also site meeting arranged for Friday 21st September**

Smoking ban – pub users are now at the front and rear smoking outside. Can Evelyn have a copy of the laws?

Ray Waller

Why is the council cherry picking who receives a fine for flouting the smoking ban? Bus shelters are being used as smoking shelters and they should have no smoking notices as it is against the law. **Denise Ogden explained that the no smoking signs are on order and will be in place soon.**

Moving pavements in York Road are a problem for disabled people.

Routine inspections are carried out and routine works carried out however it remains an ongoing problem.

The two tier system that is soon to be introduced at a charge of £5.00 and £20.00 why is this when in some areas the different rates apply when residents live only several doors apart. **DO explained that consultation is underway regarding the new parking charges.**

What powers do the council traffic wardens have do they just patrol council car parks and residential parking areas or do they have the powers to tackle other issues such as parking on pavements? **The Patrol Officers are responsible for the enforcement of several parking restrictions. This can include pavement parking but only where a yellow line parking order is in place. In such circumstances any restriction is applicable from the centre of the carriageway to the back of any footpath. There is currently no specific offence for parking on a footpath and therefore in some instances the patrol officers are powerless to act. The current remit of offences that HBC Patrol Officers deal with are; No parking/restrictive parking restrictions, Limited waiting parking restrictions, Car parks, Permit controlled zones, School keep clear areas, Cycle ways, Bus clearways, Disabled badge holders. The police are however responsible for some offences including moving traffic and obstruction offences. The government are proposing to change some legislation from April 08 when several new offences will be decriminalised and this will significantly change the way officers work and extend the remit of offences.**

Three buses have been taken off in the Park Road area. **DO explained that the number 15 bus service will be financially supported by the council.**

Mr McAndrew

Junction of Park Road/York Road traffic lights this area always floods when it rains. **This is due to the way in which the gullies have been connected into the sewer system and to resolve this issue would involved a substantial cost and due to the fact that these gullies would have to be piped into the main sewer then which is in the centre of the box junction then the traffic management involved would also cause chaos.**

Back of the Bowling Green in the Bum Valley Gardens where the rose beds were taken out is now just an overgrown area. **Park Officers are looking to improve the upper part of the Bum Valley but additional funding will need to be identified. This area of the park will be weeded and tidied up.**

Eldon Grove play area – this area has a fence around three sides and a hedge at the fourth side and a resident is letting his dog through the hedge to do its business at 8.00 am most mornings. **This was reported to the enforcement team.**

Dog bin at the Blue Lagoon is overflowing. **This was reported to the environmental supervisor for the South area and the bin has now been emptied.**

Ian Campbell

Litter bins for the upper end of the Burn Valley Gardens these have been vandalised can they be replaced? **This bin has been replaced**

Dog foul bin is still required for Blaise Village when will it be in place? **This dog foul bin has now been installed**

Cllr Hall

The road resurfacing on Grantham Avenue has been done.

Eldon Grove will the entire road be resurfaced or just part of it? **Eldon Grove from Park Road to Elwick Road has been resurfaced.**

Potholes in Wansbeck Gardens. **This road has been inspected and no actionable defects were found.**

Anti-social behaviour in Cornwall Street has received a good response from the police.

Bowling green at Gray fields – unable to water due to tap in a locked building. **Emailed Ann Callaghan in the North area**

Traffic Count to chase for The Oval. **The traffic section have consulted previously (early 2006 I believe) on traffic calming and a possible one way street in The Oval, and residents were not in favour of either. This was long after the speed humps went in on Linden Grove, which is the source of this complaint.**

We also carried out surveys and volume and speed (85th %ile 28.5mph) of traffic was not found to be excessive

Report of: Highway Services Manager

Subject: WINTER SERVICE POLICY AND PRIORITIES

1. BACKGROUND

1.1 Objectives and Statutory Basis

The objectives of the Winter Service are:

Safety Safety is a prime consideration for the Winter Service.

Serviceability Maintaining availability and reliability of the highway network is a key objective for the Winter Service and one where user judgements of performance will be immediate rather than longer term.

Sustainability Low temperatures and the formation of ice can cause serious damage to the fabric of running surfaces and the Winter Service can therefore make an important contribution to whole life costs.

The statutory basis for providing a Winter Service was introduced on 31st October 2003. The amendment states that "...In particular, a highway authority is under a duty to ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, that safe passage along a highway is not endangered by snow or ice...." The duty however is not simply to clear snow and ice. The wording of the amendment puts a duty on the authority to ensure safe passage is not endangered by snow or ice and therefore preventative gritting falls within this new duty.

The duty applies to the whole highway network but is not absolute – it is a duty to ensure so far as is reasonably practicable.

1.2 Limitations

Given the scale of financial resources involved in delivering the Winter Service and difficulties in maintaining high levels of plant utilisation for specialist equipment, it is not practically possible either to:

- provide the service on all parts of the Network
- ensure running surfaces are kept free of ice or snow at all times, even on the treated parts of the network

In these circumstances it is important to:

- define the extent of the service
- detail the policies and operational plans, which are based on the principles of risk assessment,
- ensure that these are widely known and understood especially by users, together with relevant advice on safe use of the network
- continually monitor performance during service delivery and respond effectively to changing conditions or network incidents.

1.3 Winter Service Policy and Priorities

The Winter Service is a significant aspect of highway network management both financially and in terms of its perceived importance to users. It also has significant environmental effects and the organisation of the service has considerable implications for the overall procurement and operational management of other highway maintenance services.

The current Policy and Priorities are based upon the Code of Practice for Highway Maintenance Management (July 2005). As a consequence, the network hierarchy and route plans have been designed to take into account the need for economic, efficient and effective resource utilisation and to accommodate:-

- transport and other policy priorities
- known problems, including significant gradients, exposed areas and other factors
- climatic and thermal differences within the area
- co-ordination and co-operation with other authorities
- overall risk assessment including the need to maintain consistency

2. CURRENT POSITION

The Winter Service has been delivered in Hartlepool in accordance with the current Policy and Priorities for two full winter seasons and has been tested in some of the worst type of winter conditions. Snow events are always the most difficult to deal with both in terms of dealing with the conditions and in terms of the duration of such events. A number of such events have been dealt with satisfactorily and with very little complaint from members of public during the past two seasons. Under the circumstances it would appear that the level of service decided upon following consultation in 2003 and 2005 is appropriate. Nevertheless, this consultation provides members of the public an opportunity to put forward recommendation/observations regarding their experiences in winter conditions for consideration. Whilst inevitably there are limitations to the service that can be provided, the highway network is a constantly evolving asset and changes need to be implemented from time to time.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

The winter service is an issue that may not be at the top of anyone's agenda in early October and is also a large service covering a lot of area. As a consequence, the issues an individual may have may not be at the top of their minds at the moment and even if they are, can often be very detailed and in excess of anything that can be answered at this forum. As a consequence, this report and presentation are put forward to provoke your thoughts on the matter. All issues of concern can be addressed to:-

Paul Mitchinson
Highway Services Manager
Hartlepool Borough Council
1, Church Street
Hanson Square
Hartlepool TS26 8DS

or

paul.mitchinson@hartlepool.gov.uk

or

you can speak directly to Paul at the end of the Forum.