

PLEASE NOTE VENUE

SOUTH NEIGHBOURHOOD CONSULTATIVE FORUM AGENDA



Friday 12th October 2007

at 2.00 pm

in Owton Manor Community Centre,
Wynyard Road, Hartlepool

MEMBERS: SOUTH NEIGHBOURHOOD CONSULTATIVE FORUM:

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

Resident Representatives:

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

1. **BUILDING SCHOOLS FOR THE FUTURE STAKEHOLDER BOARD – SOUTH NEIGHBOURHOOD CONSULTATIVE FORUM ELECTION**
2. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**
3. **TO RECEIVE ANY DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS**
4. **MINUTES**
 - 4.1 To confirm the minutes of the South Neighbourhood Consultative Forum meeting held on 10th August 2007 (*attached*)
 - 4.2 To receive the minutes of the South Parish Liaison meeting held on 27th June 2007 (*attached*)
 - 4.3 Matters arising

PLEASE NOTE VENUE

5. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

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 / INFORMATION

7.1 Presentation - Council Tax Reductions – *Community Engagement Officer*

7.2 Scrutiny Investigation – ‘Withdrawal of Emergency Practitioner Services at Wynyard Road Primary Care Centre, in Hartlepool’ – *Chair of the Adult and Community Services and Health Scrutiny Forum*

7.3 Presentation – Nuclear New Builds – *British Energy*

8. ITEMS FOR DECISION

8.1 Minor Works Proposals – *Neighbourhood Manager (South)*

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 30th November 2007 commencing at 10am at Owton Rossmere Resource Centre, Wynyard Road.

WARDS

Fens
Greatham
Ow ton
Rossmere
Seaton

SOUTH NEIGHBOURHOOD CONSULTATIVE FORUM

10 August 2007

MINUTES OF THE MEETING



The meeting commenced at 6.00pm at the Owton Manor Community Centre, Wynyard Road, Hartlepool

PRESENT:

Chair: Councillor Mick Johnson - Rossmere Ward

Vice Chair: Mary Green (Resident Representative)

Councillor Shaun Cook	- Rossmere Ward
Councillor Bob Flintoff	- Ow ton Ward
Councillor Steve Gibbon	- Fens Ward
Councillor Marjorie James	- Ow ton Ward
Councillor Michael Johnson	- Rossmere Ward
Councillor Alison Lilley	- Fens Ward
Councillor Geoff Lilley	- Greatham Ward
Councillor Ann Marshall	- Rossmere Ward
Councillor Arthur Preece	- Fens Ward
Councillor Michael Turner	- Seaton Ward
Councillor Gerald Wistow	- Ow ton Ward

Resident Representatives: Ann Butterfield, Rose Kennedy, Michael McKie, David Row and Iris Ryder.

Public: Mr Oxley, Joan Smith, Mrs P Sowerby, Mr J Urwin,

Officers:

- Dave Frame, Neighbourhood Manager (South)
- Colin Kay, Environment Enforcement Officer
- Kay Tranter, Resources and Performance Officer
- Phyl Rafferty, Senior Library Manager
- Gemma Clough, Principal Regeneration Officer
- David Mitchell, Neighbourhood Coordinator
- Sue McBride, Neighbourhood Development Officer
- Paul Mitchinson, Highways Services Manager
- David Cosgrove, Principal Democratic Services Officer
- Leanne Lupton, Clerical / Administrative Officer

Housing Hartlepool Representative: H Mison

Police Representatives: PC Watson

11. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Hill and Young, and from Resident Representative Michael Ward

12. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS

None.

13. MINUTES

The minutes for the South Neighbourhood Consultative Forum held on the 15 June 2007 were agreed.

13. MATTERS ARISING

Councillor Marjorie James referred to the terminology used in the scrutiny referral for Building Schools for the Future. Councillor James indicated that she had been informed that the phrase 'extended schools' could not be used as the Council's policy in relation to extended schools had only recently been implemented and therefore could not be subject to scrutiny. Councillor James sought the Forum's approval for a revised wording of the referral as follows: -

"Issue: That community spaces in schools are drawing funding from external funding streams and that once the initial capital investment has been used, revenue costs are difficult to sustain, which results in limited availability / use of new community resources / spaces.

This is an example of a general problem that has emerged in localities and my concern is that this becomes a town-wide issue as future projects arise which are not part of mainstream funding provision and in time cease to continue.

Potential added value by referring to Scrutiny: Obviously there is a distinction

between projects initiated by the local service providers and those initiated by the local authority.

Scrutiny can explore the issue in detail and examine what good practice currently exists for managing and sustaining grant maintained projects together with how the Council's community leadership role should be interpreted in these types of projects."

This was supported by the Forum.

Councillor Shaun Cook asked if the visual audit of Rossmere Park had been undertaken. PC Watson replied that this had been done and that he would send a copy to the ward Councillors.

Councillor Geoff Lilley raised the issue of the Seaton Meadows waste disposal site and encouraged Councillors and residents to write to John Mann, the chairman of INCA, to maintain the monitoring of the site. A-Lab and Able UK were both involved in INCA and Councillor Lilley considered that INCA was another route to maintain pressure on A-Lab to maintain the site in accordance with its licence conditions.

A resident complained that there had been several recent occurrences of very nasty smells emanating from the Seaton sewage works and asked that the issue could be raised with Northumbria Water.

Iris Ryder thanked officers for the prompt action taken with regards to the fencing around the Seaton Meadows waste disposal site. Iris Ryder also referred to the fire that had been burning within the site for some time. She had been informed by A-Lab that the damping down of the fire appeared to have failed and it was hoped the fire would now burn itself out. Councillor Marjorie James requested that an update report on this issue should be made to the police forum.

14. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Illegal Drinking - Councillor Ann Marshall asked if the no drinking signs in Rossmere Park were to be replaced. The Chair indicated that there was consultation on-going on the new policy in relation to drinking in public places. David Frame indicated that the legislation would be enforced as soon as the new order was in place and the signs were put up.

The Chair indicated that the consultation on the new policy was to be reported to the Police and Community Safety Meeting.

Go-Kart - Councillor S Cook asked the police if there had been any reports of a go-kart driving on the footpaths near Rossmere Park. PC Watson indicated that there had not been any reports but he would inform other officers of the issue.

Allotment Arson - Mary Green reported another allotment that had been set alight that resulted in racing pigeons being killed. Mary Green indicated that she had raised the issue at the Hartlepool Partnership meeting where it was not considered to be a problem. The Chair undertook to raise the problem with Community Services. Michael McKie stated that allotment holders didn't always report incidents.

Motorbikes - Resident representative Ann Butterfield reported a yellow motorbike that was being ridden in a dangerous manner around the area. Councillor Michael Turner asked if the Police off-road motorcycle team could be requested to patrol the area. PC Watson said the team do try to get round regularly. There was, however, only the one team to serve the whole of the Cleveland Police area.

The Chair stated he would write to the Chair of the Police Authority and the Borough Council's Police Authority representatives, Councillors Tumilty and Wallace, to express the forum's concern.

Councillor Marjorie James commented that even though the police did not have the resources to undertake more frequent patrols the public should still be encouraged to generate complaints.

Councillor Geoff Lilley stated that in general, bikers and the police had good relationships and that it would be good to see how other police forces dealt with this problem. David Frame indicated that he would liaise with Chris Scaife, the Countryside Access Officer.

Helen Iveson stated that Housing Hartlepool were developing a draft motorbike strategy.

Road repairs - Councillor Marjorie James asked if the Minor Works budget funding could be used to provide additional streetlights at the head of Macrae Road and Minch Road. Councillor James asked if the ward visual audit on 7 September could visit the location.

Greatham playground - Michael McKie reported a repair needed to a swing at the Greatham playground and asked why the repair had not noticed during the last inspection. David Frame indicated that he would ensure this was dealt with immediately.

15. WARD ISSUES

Councillor Geoff Lilley suggested a members working group be established to review and progress the provision of parking lay-bys. The Chair stated that a Council policy on the provision of parking lay-bys was being developed. Paul Mitchinson indicated that there was a list

of proposals ready to be progressed when funding was available. David Frame indicated that a formal policy to be applied across the town needed to be adopted.

Councillor Shaun Cook reported that the resident of 38 Benmore Road had complained that his driveway had been damaged by the grass cutters crossing it and had asked for the damage to be repaired as there was a potential trip hazard.

Joan Smith raised the issue of the bus services to and from the hospital now that services are being cut at The University Hospital of Hartlepool and transferred to North Tees Hospital. Joan Smith stated that a return journey to North Tees Hospital on the bus was £8.00 and that a taxi was £13.00 for a single journey. A campaign was to be launched to highlight the problem and pressure for a solution. A public meeting was to be held at Fens Primary School on Monday 17 September and all were welcome.

The Chair commented that the withdrawal of bus services was frequently blamed on the Council when it was down to the private operators. Councillor James reported that there were two scrutiny investigations to be carried out this year, one on transport issues and the other on PCT service delivery. Councillor James She indicated that she would welcome as much public involvement in the inquiries as possible. Councillor James also called on Portfolio Holder Councillor Peter Jackson to consider providing Community Buses in Hartlepool.

Councillor Geoff Lilley called for the bus service to be re-regulated. He urged people to lobby Ian Wright MP and the government to take action then the council wouldn't have to spend money on Community Buses.

The Chair said he would contact the Portfolio Holder and write to Ian Wright MP.

Councillor Michael Turner indicated that he had raised the issue of stopping Sunday parking in Grosmont Road and asked if anything further had happened.

Councillor Turner referred to the recent resurfacing works in Kildale Road and asked why Lawson Road had not been done. David Frame indicated that he had been made aware of this and would follow it up.

Ann Butterfield reported the bins in Fens shops are being tipped over and asked why they are not being emptied. David Frame stated there were issues with the bins at the shopping parade as businesses were regularly filling residents' bins. The matter was being actively pursued.

Iris Ryder raised the issue of a member of public sending a letter to Council to be circulated to all Councillors only for the Chief Solicitor to confiscate them. The Chair replied that some Councillors have chosen not to receive certain post. The Chair did indicate that he would contact the Chief Solicitor for a written response.

16. PRESENTATION - ANNUAL LIBRARY PLAN

Phyl Rafferty, the Senior Library Manager gave a brief presentation on the Annual Library Plan that is 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.

Resident Michael Unwin asked if the libraries received enough funding. The Senior Library Manager replied that the service could always find a use for

additional funding should it become available.

Councillors and residents praised the excellent service provided by the libraries and specific reference was made to the new services available through the internet, such as the book ordering service.

The Chair thanked Phyl Rafferty for the presentation and indicated that he would be joining the friends of the library group.

17. PRESENTATION – DOG CONTROL ORDERS

A presentation on the new Dog Control Orders was given by Colin Kay, Environmental Enforcement Manager. A questionnaire seeking views on the elements of the proposed orders was circulated during the meeting.

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

- Councillor Ann Marshall asked how many dog wardens the council had, including those working at weekends. Colin Kay replied there were nine.
- Resident Representative Mike McKie queried the dog law with regards to children's playgrounds. He asked if the ban covered the whole of a park or just the play area, as sometimes the play area is not enclosed to keep dogs out. Mr McKie went on to comment that the council should look to fence in every play area in the town.
- Mr McKie referred to the number of dogs under the control of an owner at any one time and suggested that a certain level of common sense needed to be applied as frequently an owner may not be in control of one dog, while another could control four on a word.

Colin Kay told the forum of a woman that had been fined £50 in another area for walking 11 dogs at once using a body-builders belt to clip all the leads to herself.

- The Vice-Chair, Mary Green, spoke of the need to educate dog owners as to the dangers of dog faeces and asked if there were any plans to promote the health dangers. Colin Kay replied indicating that education was undertaken as appropriate but this had to be balanced against overly alarming people.
- Councillor Ann Marshall asked who was responsible for dogs that are left to roam. Colin Kay stated that Neighbourhood Services have a task force to deal with this problem.
- Councillor Geoff Lilley asked how many fixed penalty notices (FPN's) had been issued in the last 12 months. Colin Kay, the Environmental Enforcement Manager, said that about 500 had been issued.
- Joan Smith asked if the Fens School field came under the new rules. Colin Kay replied that it did.
- Resident Representative Mike McKie asked if the money from fines is being ploughed back into the scheme. Colin Kay replied that the money is used for dog foul bags and bins and also the free 'dog chipping' scheme.

The Chair thanked the dog wardens for the excellent presentation.

**18. 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 would, 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:

- Councillor Geoff Lilley commented that the cost of renting and buying are both very high pricing young people out of both markets.
- Councillor Alison Lilley indicated that she was pleased that this issue was being addressed by the Forum.

The Chair thanked Councillor Cook for the presentation and welcomed the Forum's investigation and looked forward to its final report.

**19. DRAFT 1 – OWTON
NEIGHBOURHOOD ACTION PLAN
(NAP) UPDATE**

Gemma Clough, Principal Regeneration Officer, gave a brief presentation outlining the draft plan and highlighted the drop in session on 20 August at Owton Residents Association.

Gemma Clough indicated that the current Neighbourhood Renewal Fund would run out in March 2008 with no indication at present what, if anything, would follow.

The chair thanked Gemma Clough for the presentation.

**20. 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. Resident Representative Mike McKie was nominated and agreed by the Forum.

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

The next meeting of the South Neighbourhood Consultative Forum is to be held on Friday 12th October 2007, commencing at 2.00pm at Owton Manor Community Centre, Wynyard Road, Hartlepool.

The next meeting of the South Police and Community Safety Forum is to be held on Friday 7th September 2007 commencing at 10.00am at the Owton Manor Community Centre, Wynyard Road, Hartlepool.

MICHAEL JOHNSON

CHAIR

**SOUTH NEIGHBOURHOOD CONSULTATIVE
FORUM - PARISH COUNCIL LIAISON
MINUTES AND DECISION RECORD
27 June 2007**

The meeting commenced at 4.45 p.m. in the Wynyard House, Hartlepool

PRESENT: Councillor Mick Johnson (In the Chair);
Parish Councillor Brian Walker, Greatham Parish Council
Mrs Pat Brotherton, Greatham Parish Council
Parish Councillor John Price, Newton Bewley Parish Council
David Frame, Neighbourhood Manager (South)
Paul Mitchinson, Highway Services Manager
Craig Thelwell, Environmental Action Manager
David Cosgrove, Principal Democratic Services Manager

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were submitted by Resident Representative Mary Green and Parish Councillor John Price, Newton Bewley Parish Council.

2. Minutes of the meetings held on 3 November 2006 and 28 April 2007

Confirmed.

3. Updates and Matters Arising from the Minutes

Hill View, Greatham – Brian Walker indicated that the grass was overgrowing the pavements again. David Frame indicated that he would ask that the grass was trimmed back.

Grass cutting at Newton Bewley – John Price indicated that there were some problems with the grass cutting on the areas on the eastern side of the village near the lay-by. Tractors were used to cut the grass, but could not cut the areas where the banking started to become a little steep. David Frame indicated that he would ask for the area to be trimmed back.

Flower bed in Greatham – Pat Brotherton thanked David Frame and the Council for the flower bed on the village green which had received excellent comments from villagers.

4. Dog Control Orders

Craig Thelwell updated the meeting on the new dog control orders. Presently, the only orders that existed were on the beaches at Seaton Carew and the parks and cemeteries in the town. These orders would be rescinded when the new orders were introduced. The Parish Councils were being consulted on the new orders during the summer and feedback on the proposed areas any new suggestions were welcomed. Craig Thelwell did indicate that the new regulations did allow Parish Councils to introduce their own dog control orders if they considered that the Borough Council's orders didn't cover all the areas they would like them to.

It was proposed that the consultation period would be completed by the end of the summer. There was some opposition to the Council's proposals from certain groups as one of the proposals would prevent dogs, even under control, from entering certain areas such as playgrounds. The approach being taken by the council was generally fairly pragmatic as full banning orders for areas could be difficult to enforce. The regulations in relation to dog fouling still remain and would be enforced as at present. Craig Thelwell indicated that he would circulate the documentation to the parishes following the meeting.

5. Greatham Parish Council Issues

Brain Walker and Pat Brotherton raised the following issues: -

Repairs and Maintenance List

The condition of the path to the Primary School from Hill View. David Frame acknowledged that there were issues with the path, particularly with edge deterioration. The path had been assessed but had not been selected for maintenance this financial year.

Potholes in Egerton Terrace – these had now been repaired.

The 'Black Path' to the bridge over the creek needed to be resurfaced. David Frame indicated that some patching work had been done to the path but he would pursue the issue further.

The footpath outside 42-44 Queensway was in very poor condition and looked as though it needed a full reconstruction. David Frame indicated that there was a significant cost associated with reconstruction and would look to see if some patching works could remedy the problems.

The regular flooding at the path into the sports field had occurred again; could a drain be installed. Paul Mitchinson indicated that there was a drain there but it was a soak-away and not linked to the drainage system. This had been investigated before and the distance between the current drain and the end of the drainage system was such that the costs prohibited such a scheme.

Resurfacing Works – The Green and The Grove. Paul Mitchinson informed the Greatham representatives that the resurfacing works were scheduled to take place around 16/17 July. The Greatham representatives indicated that they were due to be judged as part of Britain in Bloom on 16 July and asked that the works be delayed a couple of days. Paul Mitchinson indicated that he would push the works back. David Frame indicated that a grass cut would be undertaken before the judges were due to visit. There were also some painting works that would be completed.

Grass Cutting

The timings between cuttings was questioned. David Frame indicated that there had been some problems due to machine breakdowns and the recent weather. The problem was being exacerbated by the grass-cutting season becoming increasingly longer whilst budgets had not increased. Roadsides and central reservations were cut twice a year.

6. Newton Bewley Issues

John Price raised the following issues: -

The litterbin appeared to have disappeared from the lay-by and there was some increasing problem with litter in the village. It was commented that the lay-by was being kept relatively tidy by the trader located there. David Frame indicated that the problem was being monitored and there was the potential for a new metal litterbin to be installed. There was the issue that frequently the lack of a litterbin encouraged people to take their litter away to dispose of properly.

There was a problem with the footpath from the village towards the lay-by, as it appeared to be sinking into the hedge at several points making it difficult to walk. David Frame indicated that he would ask for the length of footpath to be assessed for repair.

MICK JOHNSON

CHAIRMAN

Report of: Paul Mitchinson, 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.

Report of: Chair of the Adult and Community Services and Health Scrutiny Forum

Subject SCRUTINY INVESTIGATION - 'WITHDRAWAL OF EMERGENCY PRACTITIONER SERVICES AT WYNYARD ROAD PRIMARY CARE CENTRE, IN HARTLEPOOL'

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To advise the South Neighbourhood Consultative Forum of the investigation being undertaken by the Adult and Community Services and Health Scrutiny Forum into the 'Withdrawal of the Emergency Practitioner Services at the Wynyard Road Primary Care Centre, in Hartlepool.
- 1.2 To seek the Forum's views on the issue, to be relayed back to the Adult and Community Services and Health Scrutiny Forum and invite/encourage resident participation in the Scrutiny investigation.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 A key element of Hartlepool Borough Council's democratic arrangements is the Overview and Scrutiny Process, one of the functions of which is to investigate issues of local concern.
- 2.2 At a meeting of the South Neighbourhood Consultative Forum held on 2 February 2007, significant concern was expressed with regard to the withdrawal of the Emergency Practitioner Service at the Wynyard Road Primary Care Centre. After much discussion it was agreed to refer the issue to the Authority's Overview and Scrutiny process for an in-depth investigation to be undertaken.
- 2.3 The Adult and Community Services and Health Scrutiny Forum has recently commenced its investigation into this issue and at its last meeting held on 4 September 2007 agreed the proposed aim and terms of reference for the scrutiny investigation as outlined below:-
- 2.4 Aim of the Scrutiny Investigation – To gain an understanding of the circumstances and process leading to the withdrawal of the Emergency Practitioner Services at the Wynyard Road Primary Care Centre and to examine the subsequent impact on patients.

2.5 Terms of Reference for the Scrutiny Investigation –

- (a) To gain an understanding of the circumstances and process leading to the decision of HPCT to withdraw the Emergency Care Practitioner Service in the Wynyard Road Primary Care Centre;
- (b) To explore what options HPCT considered to enable the continuation of the Emergency Care Practitioner Service at Wynyard Road Primary Care Centre;
- (c) To examine the impact of the loss of such facility in relation to those patients accessing the facility;
- (d) To examine future development proposals for the Wynyard Road Primary Care Centre and the impact of this on patients; and,
- (e) To examine the future development proposals for the emergency /urgent care services to be offered within Hartlepool.

2.6 The Adult and Community Services and Health Scrutiny Forum is dedicating a period of five months to explore this issue in detail and during the course of its investigation will receive evidence/views from a variety of sources.

2.7 In recognition of the importance of resident input into the investigation I am here today, as Chair of the Scrutiny Forum, to:-

- (i) Seek your views on the withdrawal of the Emergency Practitioner Services at the Wynyard Road Primary Care Centre, which will be reported back to the Scrutiny Forum for consideration during the investigation, and
- (ii) Raise awareness of the investigation and encourage resident participation in the process.

2.8 The following dates have been identified for a series of Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum meetings at which this issue is to be considered, all of which the public are encouraged to attend:-

23 October 2007 at 3.00 pm (venue: Ow ton Rossmere Resource Centre)
13 November 2007 at 3.00 pm
18 December 2007 at 3.00 pm
29 January 2008 at 3.00 pm

2.7 Please note that an update on venues for each of these meetings will be available at the meeting, however, it is advisable that you check with the Council's Democratic Services prior to attending, to ensure that the venues / start times etc. have remained unchanged.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 That the views expressed by all those in attendance at the South Neighbourhood Consultative Forum meeting, held on 12 October 2007, be relayed to the Adult and Community Services and Health Scrutiny Forum for consideration during its investigation into the 'Withdrawal of Emergency Care Practitioner Services at Wynyard Road Primary Care Centre, in Hartlepool'.
- 3.2 That all those present by invited/encouraged to participate in the participation in the Scrutiny investigation.

4. CONTACT OFFICER

Charlotte Burnham – Scrutiny Manager
Chief Executive's Department - Corporate Strategy
Hartlepool Borough Council
Tel: 01429 523 339
Email: joan.wilkins@hartlepool.gov.uk

BACKGROUND PAPERS

The following background paper was used in the preparation of this report-

- (a) Report of the Scrutiny Support Officer considered by the Adult and Community Services and Health Scrutiny Forum on 4 September 2007 entitled 'Revised Scoping Paper: Scrutiny Investigation into the Withdrawal of Emergency Care Practitioner Services at Wynyard Road Primary Care Centre'.

Report of: Neighbourhood Manager (South)

Subject: MINOR WORKS PROPOSALS

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

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

2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Minor Works Budget remaining for the financial year to 31st March 2008 amounts to £60,895.00

- 2.2 A number of schemes are detailed below to address concerns raised by Ward Members, Residents' representative and residents in the South Area Forum. These are as follows:

- (i) Verge Re-instatement with Bitmac

- a) Buckie Grove – outside number 2

The verge outside of number 2 Buckie Grove has been damaged by cars parking on it. Replacing the grass verge with tarmac hardstanding will improve the aesthetics of the area while helping with parking congestion.

Cost £658.99

- (ii) Street lighting improvements to Fens and Seaton to the following locations:

- a) Thursby Grove, Fens Ward

Installation of a new street lighting scheme. This will involve the removal of all existing lighting columns and the installation of 5 new columns and lanterns. This may involve columns possibly being erected in new positions in the Grove.

Cost £4,000.00

b) Victoria Street, Seaton Carew

Installation of a new period style lighting scheme. This will involve the removal of all existing columns and the installation of two new period style columns and lanterns as this area is a conservation area.

Cost £2,000.00

c) Queen Terrace, Seaton Carew

Installation of a new period style lighting scheme. This will involve the removal of all existing columns and the installation of three new period style columns and lanterns as this area is a conservation area.

Cost £3,000.00

3 RECOMMENDATIONS

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