

# PLEASE NOTE VENUE

## NORTH NEIGHBOURHOOD CONSULTATIVE FORUM AGENDA



**Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> January 2008**

**at 10.00 am**

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

**MEMBERS: NORTH NEIGHBOURHOOD CONSULTATIVE FORUM:**

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

**Resident Representatives:**

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

- 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 28<sup>th</sup> November 2007 (*attached followed by updates on issued raised at the last meeting*)
  - 4.2 To receive the minutes of the Police and Community Safety Consultative Forum held on 5<sup>th</sup> September 2007 (*attached*)
  - 4.3 Matters arising
- 5. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

# PLEASE NOTE VENUE

## **Break**

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

### **6. RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVE ISSUES**

### **7. WARD MEMBERS AND WARD ISSUES**

### **8. ITEMS FOR CONSULTATION**

- 8.1 BSF – primary Capital Programme Stage 1 consultation – *Assistant Director – Resources and Support Services*
- 8.2 Presentation – Choice Based Lettings – *Principal Housing Advice Officer*

### **9. ITEMS FOR DECISION**

No items

### **10. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION and/or INFORMATION**

- 10.1 Indoor Leisure Facility Strategy – *Director of Adult and Community Services*
- 10.2 Minor Works Report – *Neighbourhood Manager (North)*

### **11. DATE, TIME AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the North Neighbourhood Consultative Forum is to be held at on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> March 2008 commencing at 10am at West View Community Centre, Miers Avenue.

### **12. ITEMS OF ANY OTHER BUSINESS AGREED BY THE CHAIR**

**WARDS**

Brus  
Dyke House  
Hart  
St Hilda  
Throston

***NORTH NEIGHBOURHOOD  
CONSULTATIVE FORUM***

**28 November 2007**

***MINUTES OF THE MEETING***



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

**PRESENT:**

Chair: Linda Shields (Resident Representative)

Councillors	Councillor Reuben Atkinson	- Dyke House Ward
	Councillor Stephen Allison	- St Hilda Ward
	Councillor Caroline Barker	- Hart Ward
	Councillor Rob Cook	- Hart Ward
	Councillor Sheila Griffin	- Brus Ward
	Councillor John Marshall	- St Hilda Ward
	Councillor Michelle Plant	- Brus Ward

Resident Representatives:

John Cambridge, Don Davison, Irene Nelson, Mary Power

Parish Council Representatives

Pat Andrews

Public: Alan Vale, John Maxwell, Kath Torley, Liz Torley, John Lynch,  
Cal Caruthers-Watt & Julie Holdcroft

Officers:

Ann Callaghan, Neighbourhood Development Officer  
Peter Frost, Traffic Team Leader  
Philip Hepburn, Parking Services Manager  
Colin Kay, Dog Warden  
Leigh Keeble, Development Officer  
Matthew King, Principal Planning Officer  
Emily Lawty, Development Assistant  
Paul Mitchinson, Highway Services Manager  
Denise Ogden, Head of Neighbourhood Management  
Karen Oliver, Neighbourhood Manager  
Craig Thelwell, Environmental Action Manager  
Keeley Metcalfe, Pride in Hartlepool Officer  
Denise Wimpenny, Principal Democratic Services Officer  
Sarah Bird, Democratic Services Officer

Housing Hartlepool Representatives Jan Ledger

Police Representatives: Acting Sergeant Cranston, PC Southcott

Fire Brigade Representative Stuart Simpson

PCT Representative Sarah Scott

### 39. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Sandra Fenwick, Mary Fleet, Edna Wright, Resident Representatives, Bob and Joan Steel and Resident Dave Thompson.

### 40. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS

None.

### 41. MINUTES

The minutes of the North Neighbourhood Consultative Forum held on the 10 October 2007 were agreed with the addition of

- Mary Powers' apologies for absence
- Item 35, Scheme 5 should read that the Central Estate NAP Forum had raised a number of objections
- Item 32, damage to Brus barrier, it had not been said at the meeting that this was a police matter.

### 42. MATTERS ARISING

**Speeding Drive/King Oswy Drive** – A Councillor stated that there was still a problem with a caravan parked as well as a hot dog van and that she was surprised that Stagecoach did not think it was a problem. The Traffic Team Leader agreed to send a letter to residents and will involve the 3 Ward Councillors.

**Illegal Parking** – A meeting had been held with Police regarding illegal parking

and it had been agreed to produce an awareness leaflet for distribution to residents. A Councillor pointed out that a number of the Matters Arising related to illegal parking i.e. obstruction of pathways but was advised that this was a matter for enforcement by Police. The Fire Brigade representative pointed out that if vehicles were parking on a narrow road this could impede the progress of Emergency Vehicles. Residents suggested that yellow lines were required in Union Bank, Bruntoft Avenue and Lime Crescent. The Fire Brigade representative clarified that the Fire Authority was consulted in planning and a Councillor clarified that there was guidance and government legislation for planning the width of roads.

**Dolomite Beach** – The Neighbourhood Manager referred to a report on the condition of the beach in November 2002 when the Public Protection Department had done a consultation with residents and it had been agreed that the beach be monitored and cleansed regularly and that the dog warden conduct routine checks. There was no mention of removal of the seaweed. The beaches either side of this area currently have a dog ban and it was suggested that this could be extended to include the Dolomite Beach.

**Anhydrite Mines** – There was no current update on this but any developments would be reported at a future meeting.

**Overhanging Bedrooms on Throston Grange Estate** – The Neighbourhood Manager reported that the issue of anti-social behaviour would be brought to the

Joint Action Group (JAG). A Councillor said that there were a number of residents in distress because of the anti-social behaviour and it was asked whether there was a precedent for the selling of Council land to the residents in order that this could alleviate the problem but was informed that this was a complex issue.

**Damage to the Brus Barrier** – A member of the public asked whether the Police would monitor the Brus tunnel area which was often damaged by sea-coalers when gaining access to the North Beach and it was clarified that although police would not routinely monitor the area, any information received would be followed up. It was noted that there was also a problem with sea-coalers gaining access to Middleton and Seaton Beaches and Police agreed to cascade this information to the Central and South Police Teams. The Neighbourhood Manager confirmed that she would alert the Head of Public Protection to the concerns of residents.

**Minor Works – St Hilda Ward, Cleveland Road Traffic Island.** A Councillor said that he believed that the costings for this work had been reduced and therefore he believed that the monies allocated from this Forum should be reduced proportionately. The Neighbourhood Manager pointed out that this had been under debate for some time and that match funding had been requested and should our contribution be reduced this could cause a problem as the money had to be spent by the end of the financial year. There was to be a Neighbourhood Action Plan (NAP) meeting held that evening and it was suggested that interested parties attend to voice their views, but was agreed that the Chair should have discretion to make the final decision on the proportion of match funding from this forum and this would be reported back to the next forum.

#### 43 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

**“I regularly visit Hartlepool Rugby Club (Old Boys) on a weekend and have noticed large quantities of bottles and cardboard which are not recycled. Is this the case at the majority of pubs and clubs across the town, and could more be done to contribute to recycling?”** The Neighbourhood Manager agreed to check that private clubs and pubs were made aware of the provisions in place for recycling but as they are privately owned there could be no enforcement.

**“There has been a report that housing was being built on the old school field and this will affect local residents”** A Councillor confirmed that there are currently no plans to build housing on the field as it belongs to the Local Education Authority although it would be levelled off as part of the Building Schools for the Future Plan. The Neighbourhood Manager confirmed that she had raised the issue with the Assistant Director (Resources & Support Services) who had confirmed that no decision had been made as to its use as yet and would be 12 – 18 months before there was an idea of what school buildings were required. The Neighbourhood Manager confirmed that she has asked for the litter to be cleaned up but as it is owned by the Education Authority it will not be available for general use by the public.

**“The sea line on the lower slope Headland has been filled in with concrete which has since been washed away and this is a waste of money”** The Highway Services Manager said that he would check with Building and Engineering Services as to why this work had been carried out.

**“The War Memorial on the Headland was filthy at the Remembrance Sunday Parade and it was an item on the**

**Scrutiny Committee Agenda that the memorials in the town including Victory Square and the Headland would be cleaned up** The representative of the Headland Parish Council stated that the war memorial had been cleaned and refurbished recently.

**“The steps down to the Dolomite Beach were updated approximately 2 years ago and the new steps are not at the same level as the old steps, leaving an 18” gap at the bottom which is dangerous.”** The Highway Services Manager said that he would follow this matter up.

**“Residents next to the Borough Hall have complained that there is a problem with cigarette stubs on the pavement outside after a function.”** The Neighbourhood Manager agreed to raise the issue with the staff at the Borough Hall and ask that the caretaker ensures that these are cleaned up.

#### **44 RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVE ISSUES**

**Smythe Place** – A Resident Representative asked how long it would be before residents were moved from the older properties as the new buildings are close to the old buildings and are blocking light. Workmen are able to see into residents’ living rooms and causing disruption with noise. The Neighbourhood Manager said that she would speak to the Planning Department to ensure that the issues of light and proximity to current buildings had been addressed and then would write to the residents to inform them whether planning regulations had been adhered to. A representative from Housing Hartlepool confirmed that all current residents were on the re-housing list but there were not many alternative properties available at this time. She confirmed that as soon as all the

residents had been re-housed then the rest of the old site would be demolished as there was no new demand for housing in Smythe Place.

#### **45 WARD MEMBERS AND WARD ISSUES**

**Muirfield Walk** – A Councillor pointed out that it had been agreed in June that landscaping would take place in Muirfield Walk but this had yet to happen. The Neighbourhood Manager explained that due to the type of planting, the work would be carried out in February.

**Marley Walk** – It was asked when the agreed environmental improvements were due to commence. The Neighbourhood Manager agreed to check and report back.

**Swanage Grove** – A Councillor stated that the removal of grassed areas had been agreed in August but a number of residents had since expressed concerns about this. He asked whether the amount of hard standing areas could be reduced due to residents’ opposition and any reduction in costs for the work be returned to the Minor Works budget. The Highway Services Manager said that he would look into this.

**Vermin in various areas** – A Councillor reported that there were rats in various areas including Durham Street, Skerne Road and Warren Road due to rubbish/litter being left. The Neighbourhood Manager reported that Skerne Road is privately owned by a London based company and a legal notice had been issued for cleaning. The Council had assisted on the first occasion with the Probation Service but they have not responded since. The Neighbourhood Manager agreed to raise the issue with the Environmental Action Manager.

**Derelict Buildings** – A Councillor reported that derelict buildings at the rear of the Central Estate were attracting Anti-Social Behaviour. Other derelict buildings including the Sun Inn, Durham Street were dangerous. The Neighbourhood Services Manager agreed to get the Planning Department to contact the Councillor with details of the action being taken on derelict buildings. She said that the owner was aware of the problem with building and did attempt to keep it clean. It was highlighted that the steps of the Independent Chapel, Durham Street were littered with rubbish and the Neighbourhood Manager agreed to contact the Parish Council and Ward Councillors regarding this. It was raised as to who pays for any legal costs with regards to enforcement and it was clarified that the company written to would be billed.

**Steetley/Britmag Site** – An update was given on this site i.e. that Natural England were still concerned about the Little Terns on the site and that their objections to development of the site could only be overturned by the Secretary of State. A Countryside Warden disputed that the Little Terns were actually on the site, saying that they were approximately a mile from it. The stipulations on the site by Natural England have added £17 million to any development of the site. A suggestion was made to sell items on the site to raise capital but it was noted that the estimated cost of clearing it is £8 million. The fire brigade representative confirmed that they have a list of current derelict buildings and sites and these are visited on a weekly basis to evaluate any dangers.

**Bishop Cuthbert Site** – A Councillor said that she had received a number of complaints about mud on the road at the roundabout at the Clavering end of the site which was a safety issue. The Police had also been informed of this and had

visited the site with the Neighbourhood Services Officer. The Neighbourhood Services Manager agreed to find out what could be enforced from the Director of Neighbourhood Services and action this.

**Lime Crescent** – A Councillor commented on the amount of cars in the Crescent and suggested two ways of alleviating this, either having a one way system or building garages behind the Crescent or in Ivy Grove. A warden cleans up the area of the current garages which have security and roofing issues but Housing Hartlepool was asked to update the Dyke House Ward Councillors.

**8 Herbert Walk** – It was reported that this bungalow has been empty for 2 years. Housing Hartlepool said that they were aware of this but that it was not their property. They do, however, have a policy whereby previously owned premises can be repurchased.

**87 – 89 Challoner Road** -This was a problematic piece of open land. The Neighbourhood Manager stated that this would be fitted into the Community Programme and was on the list for Housing Hartlepool to take over if required. The Housing Hartlepool representative said that this was currently in hand.

**Bruntoft Avenue** – The Brus Ward Councillor thanked the Panel for the speeding traffic calming measures which had been put into place in this area, although there was another issue on the other side of the green. The Neighbourhood Manager said that extra work was being carried out through the West View Neighbourhood Action Plan.

#### 46 ITEMS FOR CONSULTATION

The Dog Warden gave a presentation regarding the details of the proposed Dog

Control Orders. He outlined that there were a number of byelaws relating to dogs which were introduced to protect the general public and enforced by the Council's Neighbourhood Action Team. There is a seasonal ban of dogs on the seashore and corresponding promenades at the Headland Fish Sands and Headland Block Sands. The Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act was introduced in April 2006 and provided Local Authorities with a range of new powers to tackle problems in the environment. The proposed Dog Control Orders provide 5 offences to be introduced:-

- Failing to remove dog faeces
- Not keeping a dog on a lead
- Not putting and keeping a dog on a lead when directed to do so by an authorised officer
- Permitting a dog to enter land from which dogs are excluded
- Taking more than the specified number of dogs onto land

The local authority is able to set the amount of fixed penalty payable and a list of those areas currently proposed from which to exclude dogs was outlined to those at the meeting.

A number of issues were raised with the Dog Control Warden including extra places for control and the maximum number of dogs being controlled by one person. It was noted that dogs were not allowed on actual playing fields although they could be walked around the perimeters.

It was clarified that there were 230 dog fouling bins in Hartlepool and one officer has responsible for emptying these. It was highlighted that a bin on the Coast Road was broken and the Head of Neighbourhood Management agreed to ensure that this was rectified.

The dog control warden clarified that 300 Fixed Penalty Notices had been issued and there was an 80% payment rate and the rest were being followed up for non payment.

A Councillor asked what the costing regarding signage for the enforcement of regulations would be and the Head of Neighbourhood Services agreed to elicit this information.

Another suggestion was to have a designated dog training area and the Environmental Action Manager explained that this had been looked into and not thought to be a viable option.

The Chair suggested that if anyone had any particular ideas on areas for inclusion in the Dog Control Orders, they should contact the Head of Neighbourhood Management prior to Christmas.

#### **47 ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND/OR INFORMATION**

##### **47.1 Local Involvement Networks (LINKs)**

A presentation was given by the Development Officer which outlined how the LINK was intended to replace the existing Patient and Public Health Involvement Forum and would be a network of people, organisations and groups representing the views of the local community which would be independent from Hartlepool Borough council and the Primary Care Trust. An event had been held recently to elicit what local people wanted from their link and a steering group would be established to manage the procurement process. The host and the LINK would be developed from April 2008.

##### **47.2 The Future Town Planning of Hartlepool (Core Strategy Issues and Options Discussion Paper Consultation)**



The Principal Planning Officer informed the meeting of the discussion paper representing the start of the process for determining how Hartlepool will develop in the future. The consultation process for this lasts until the end of January 2008 and there will be a display in the Central Library. Copies of the report are available from the Central Library, branch libraries and Bryan Hanson House. Comments could be returned either by returning a questionnaire or completing an on line questionnaire.

### **47.3 Pride in Hartlepool**

The Pride in Hartlepool Officer gave a presentation on Pride in Hartlepool and outlined what help was available for groups in the area. She also outlined what work had been done in the area recently.

The Chair thanked all Officers for their presentations.

<b>48 DATE, TIME AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING</b>
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The next meeting of the North Area Police and Community Safety Consultative Forum is to be held on Wednesday, 9 January 2008 commencing at 10 at West View Community Centre, Miers Avenue.

The next meeting of the North Neighbourhood Consultative Forum is to be held on Wednesday, 30 January 2008 commencing at 10 am at West View Community Centre, Miers Avenue.

Linda Shields

Vice Chair

## North Neighbourhood Consultative Forum

Wednesday, 28 November 2007

### Issues Raised

ISSUE DETAILS	ACTION TAKEN	OFFICER
<b><u>Matters Arising</u></b>  <b>Speeding Drive / King Oswy Drive</b> There is still a problem with a caravan parked, as well as a hot dog van.	Traffic Team Leader to send letter to residents, including the three Ward Members.	Peter Frost
<b>Illegal Parking</b> Meeting had taken place with police regarding illegal parking.  Residents suggested that yellow lines were required in Union Bank, Bruntoft Avenue and lime Crescent.	Awareness leaflet to be produced and distributed to residents as a joint initiative with the police and local authority.  Highways Traffic Team Leader to investigate the feasibility of this request.	Phil Hepburn  Peter Frost
<b>Dolomite Beach</b> Member requested the removal of seaweed left at high tide.  Beaches either side of the area currently have a dog ban, and it was suggested that this could be extended to include the Dolomite Beach	The Neighbourhood Manager referred to a report on the condition of the beach in November 2002. Various actions were implemented, but there was no recommendation to remove seaweed from the beach  Dog ban to be extended to Dolomite Beach.	Karen Oliver  Craig Thelwell

ISSUE DETAILS	ACTION TAKEN	OFFICER
<p><b><u>Matters Arising (Cont...)</u></b></p> <p><b>Brus Barrier</b> It has been reported that the barrier is often damaged by sea coalers gaining access to the North Beach. The police do not routinely monitor the area but would follow up any information received.</p>	<p>Joint initiative with police and local authority to look a issues around sea coalers of illegal access to beaches.</p>	<p>Karen Oliver</p>
<p><b>Minor Works</b> St Hilda Ward, Cleveland Road Traffic Island Cllr Marshall thought that the costings or the work had been reduced and therefore believed that the monies allocated from this Forum should be reduced proportionately.</p>	<p>Chair of the North Consultative Forum, after due consideration, felt that any additional monies gained should remain within the Central Estate Neighbourhood Action Plan area rather than be returned to Minor Works monies.</p>	<p>Karen Oliver</p>
<p><b><u>Public Question Time</u></b></p> <p><b>Recycling – pubs and private clubs</b> A query was raised in relation to whether the majority of clubs and pubs across the town recycle their bottles and cardboard?</p>	<p>The local authority does not currently offer commercial recycling collection. Renew Tees Valley have however promoted recycling to pubs and clubs via leaflets “Have you got the bottle?” in Hartlepool. (see attached)</p>	<p>Fiona Srogi</p>
<p><b>Headland – Sea Line</b> It was reported that the sea line on the lower slope had been filled with concrete but has since been washed away “This was a waste of money”.</p>	<p>Highway Services Manager will check with Building and Engineering Services as to why this work had been carried out, and its current condition.</p>	<p>Paul Mitchinson</p>

ISSUE DETAILS	ACTION TAKEN	OFFICER
<p><b><u>Public Question Time (Cont...)</u></b></p> <p><b>Dolomite Beach</b> The steps were updated approximately two years ago, but the new steps are not at the same level as the old ones, leaving an 18" gap at the bottom which is dangerous.</p>	<p>Highway Services Manager to follow up.</p>	<p>Garry Jones</p>
<p><b>Borough Hall</b> Residents have complained that there is a problem with cigarette stubs on the pavement outside after functions.</p>	<p>The Neighbourhood Manager has raised this issue with staff at the Borough Hall and ask the Caretaker to ensure that the stubs are cleaned up, or suitable containers be provided. There are limitations with regard to the former due to the listed status of the Borough Hall.</p>	<p>Karen Oliver</p>
<p><b><u>Resident Representative Issues</u></b></p> <p><b>Smythe Place</b> A query was raised as to how long before residents would be moved from the older properties?</p> <p>The new buildings are blocking light, workmen can see into residents' living rooms, and there was disruption and noise.</p>	<p>A representative from Housing Hartlepool confirmed that all residents were on the re housing list, but there were not many alternative properties available at this time.</p> <p>The Neighbourhood Manager will speak to the Planning Department to ensure that the issue with light and proximity to current buildings are addressed, and will also write to residents informing them whether planning regulations had been adhered to.</p>	<p>Housing Hartlepool</p> <p>Chris Pipe</p>

ISSUE DETAILS	ACTION TAKEN	OFFICER
<p><b><u>Ward Members and Ward Issues</u></b></p> <p><b>Marley Walk</b> When would the agreed environmental improvements commence?</p>	<p>Landscaping work to start between January and March 2008.</p>	<p>Garry Jones</p>
<p><b>Swanage Grove</b> Cllr Cook asked if the Minor Works scheme had reduced in cost to meet the reduction of the scheme to provide hard standing.</p>	<p>Full resident consultation has now taken place. The majority of residents agree to full scheme. Work to start February / March 2008.</p>	<p>Garry Jones</p>
<p><b>Vermin – various areas</b> Residents in various areas, including Durham Street, Skerne Road and Warren Road were experiencing problems with rats due to rubbish / litter being left.</p>	<p>The Neighbourhood Manager to report to Pest Control.</p> <p>Oaksway Industrial Estate owners have been served with Notice.</p>	<p>Craig Thelwell</p>
<p><b>Derelict Buildings</b> Cllr Marshall reported issue relating to derelict buildings, including the Sun Inn, Durham Street Independent Chapel.</p>	<p>The Neighbourhood Manager will request that the Planning Department contact Cllr Marshall and inform him of actions which had been taken in relation to derelict buildings within the St Hilda Ward.</p>	<p>Karen Oliver</p>
<p><b>Bishop Cuthbert Site</b> Cllr Barker had received a number of complaints about mud on the road at the roundabout at Clavering end of the site.</p>	<p>Road conditions and parking problems are much improved. Letters have been sent to developers. Situation to be monitored.</p>	<p>Karen Oliver</p>
<p><b>Lime Crescent</b> Cllr R Atkinson commented on the parking issues in Lime Crescent.</p>	<p>Housing Hartlepool will be looking at future environmental improvements in this area and will be considering ways to alleviate parking issues.</p>	<p>Housing Hartlepool</p>



**WARDS**

Brus  
Dyke House  
Hart  
St Hilda  
Throston

# ***NORTH POLICE & COMMUNITY SAFETY CONSULTATIVE FORUM***

**5<sup>th</sup> September 2007**

## ***MINUTES OF THE MEETING***



The meeting commenced at 10.00 a.m. in the West View Community Centre, Hartlepool

<b>PRESENT:</b>
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Chair: Councillor Mary Fleet – Hart Ward

Vice Chair: Resident Representative Linda Shields

Councillor Reuben Atkinson	- Dyke House Ward
Councillor Stephen Allison	- St Hilda Ward
Councillor Caroline Barker	- Hart Ward
Councillor Rob Cook	- Hart Ward
Councillor Tim Fleming	- St. Hilda Ward
Councillor Sheila Griffin	- Brus Ward
Councillor Peter Jackson	- Throston Ward
Councillor John Marshall	- St Hilda Ward
Councillor Michelle Plant	- Brus Ward

**Resident Representatives:**

John Cambridge, Don Davison, Irene Nelson, Joan Steel, Robert Steel and Maureen Waller.

**Residents:** Mr Vale, J Cooke, S Cartwright, V Gardner, D Black, D Gardner, J Maxwell, C Watt, D Oliver, C Torley, E Torley.

**Hartlepool BC Officers:**

Alison Mawson, Head of Community Safety and Prevention  
R Parker, Community Safety Team  
Katie Sheehan, Housing Services Business Unit  
Joe Hogan, Crime and Disorder Officer  
Sally Forth, Anti-Social Behaviour Co-ordinator  
Karen Oliver, Neighbourhood Manager (North)  
David Cosgrove, Principal Democratic Services Officer

**Police Representatives:**

Sgt S Cranston and PC Bone and L Sharp, T Southcott and C Lewis.

Fire Brigade Representatives:  
I Harrington and S Patton.

Housing Hartlepool Representatives:  
Natalie Gooding and Ann-Marie Rooney

Victim Support Team:  
D Haygarth and L Anderson

### 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Peter Jackson and Resident Representative Mary Power.

### 2. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 11 April 2007 were confirmed.

### 3. MATTERS ARISING

Period between meetings – Councillor Wright indicated that the Forum had agreed to hold four meetings year and it was five months since the last meeting.

Councillor J Marshall indicated that at the last meeting the alcohol zones signs on the Headland were described as redundant and due to be replaced. There were many other redundant signs around the area and the Council should try and remove the signage clutter. The Headland area also wanted the alcohol free zones extending to include the full length of the Promenade.

### 4. POLICE UPDATE

The following information was circulated at the start of the meeting:

- Comparison of North Forum Area Crime Figures for each ward for the period of April to June in 2006 and 2007;

- These figures compared:  
Total crime  
Burglary Dwelling;  
Burglary Other;  
Theft of Motor Vehicle;  
Theft from Motor Vehicle;  
Criminal Damage;  
Robbery;  
Violence against the Person.

Sgt Cranston commented that crime figures were down and detection rates up across the whole area. There were a number of specific issues driving certain crime figures, one of the main ones being the current high price of scrap metal. This was one of the main reasons behind the number of crimes of lead being stripped from roofs, for instance, which was on the increase across the whole Cleveland force area. The School holiday period also tended to lead to an increase in shoplifting.

Some of the figures for the North area also needed to be seen in context. The increase in robbery figures of 9.1% actually only meant one more recorded crime in the quarter than the previous quarter.

Sgt Cranston referred to a recent MORI Poll, which showed that the public perception of Cleveland Police was above the national average and in the top quartile of all local police authorities.

Operation ASP at the end of June had tackled anti-social behaviour and involved a number of agencies. The operation had



been very successful and in one evening 287 people were stopped, 99% of whom were juveniles and 253 units of alcohol confiscated and 162 anti-social behaviour report forms being submitted. The Clavering Pilot Scheme, which was an offshoot of the North Joint Action Group, was another multi-agency scheme that was having inroads into reducing anti-social behaviour in the Clavering area. There had been significant reductions in reports of anti-social behaviour and crime. Café Clavering in St Mark's Church Hall provided young people with a youth club on Thursday evenings and attendances were increasing.

Hurworth Street had been an area where a number of anti-social behaviour issues had been experienced. Again through multi-agency working and involvement with the private landlords in the area, Sgt Cranston reported that some of the problem residents had been moved out of the area.

Hartlepool's excellent community policing was being recognised as two North area officers, PC Val Marley and PCSO Andy Lee had been nominated by Cleveland Police for the National Community Policing Awards.

In ending his presentation, Sgt Cranston reminded the forum that the Police relied on the community to report anti-social behaviour incidents. Criminal damage tended to follow anti-social behaviour, which tended to follow alcohol consumption. The Police need the support of the community in tackling these issues. Sgt Cranston also informed the meeting that the Chief Constable, Sean Price would be holding an open consultation meeting at the Historic Quay at 6.00pm on Tuesday 2nd October.

Joan Steel indicated that the Clavering Pilot Scheme had been very successful and the residents were very pleased with

the results. In relation to the MORI poll, Mrs Steel asked if the results were based on people's perception of crime or actual figures as perceptions were often much worse. Sgt Cranston stated that poll was of people's perceptions.

Liz Torley was pleased to hear the problems in Hurworth Street had been tackled but was concerned that the problems had only been 'dumped' elsewhere. Sgt Cranston commented that the problem tenants had been moved and split up. The majority of the problems were due to certain people being in the same vicinity. The issues had been dealt with stringently.

Councillor Wright questioned the issue of ASB Form 13 to youths and what these forms actually did. Sgt Cranston indicated that 162 ASB report forms had been submitted to the Anti-Social Behaviour Team. They logged individuals, their address, the location they were issued with the form and what they were involved in. These reports could then be used in the future, should the individual be reported again.

Councillor Barker expressed concern at the recent thefts of metals and the thefts of cars for their scrap value. Sgt Cranston stated that the Police were actively pursuing these crimes including scrap yards that are required to maintain detailed records of all the scrap brought in and processed.

Bob Steel commented on the very good work being done with young people at Clavering School.

Bob Steel highlighted the recent armed robbery on the Headland and asked if the Police still had a list of key holders. Sgt Cranston indicated that the days of the key holder list had passed as premises tended to have contracts with security companies who responded to alarms.

The Chair thanked Sgt Cranston for the informative presentation and answering the Forums questions.

## **5. FIRE BRIGADE UPDATE**

Ian Harrington, Station Manager at Hartlepool Fire Station gave a presentation to the Forum in the fire incidents throughout the borough and specifically in the North Area.

Mr Harrington highlighted that the joint working arrangements in Hartlepool were very much ahead of the other divisions in Cleveland and an example to other forces in the country.

The figures quoted by Mr Harrington related to April to June 2007.

Vehicle fires had increased 166%. This related to only 8 additional such fires. As a comparison this could occur in Stockton or Middlesbrough in one night. In Hartlepool the Fire Brigade worked closely with the Neighbourhood Services Department to remove these vehicles before they became a fire risk. Five of these vehicle fires had occurred in the Brus ward.

F3 – deliberately set “anti-social behaviour fires” – there had been 68 in the district with Brus Ward being the highest with 30 such fires.

The Fire Brigade worked closely again with the local authority to remove rubbish that may end up being a fire risk. Grass fires had not been an issue in the recent months due to the weather.

There had only been 5 dwelling fires in the three months. Until recently, there had not been a death in Hartlepool from a fire for nine years. Whenever incidents occurred, officers would put a concentrated campaign in place in the

local area to undertake home fire checks, install free smoke alarms and talk to residents about fire safety and escape plans.

Mr Harrington indicated that as part of the service’s approach to tackling deliberately set fires, covert cctv cameras had been purchased, which would be used to monitor and hopefully identify those setting deliberate fires so they could be prosecuted.

Mr Harrington highlighted the extensive community work fire officers were undertaking and referred to the recent ‘Play with Football Not Fire’ event which had been used to get the fire safety message across to young children.

Liz Torley raised local residents concern at the number of occasions that the Fire Brigade had had to attend incidents at the abandoned Steetley site.

Councillors Wright and Plant asked if more detailed statistics could be brought to future meetings. Ian Harrington acknowledged that some of the statistics were not particularly clear at this meeting but he would endeavour to bring more detailed and relevant information to the next meeting.

Councillor Fleming asked if the loss of the third fire tender and staff at Hartlepool Station had had an effect on the effectiveness of the local fire service. It was commented that the Headland Station was now fully staffed. Ian Harrington stated that the loss of the third tender had been monitored closely to see if there had been any effect. To date there had been no adverse effects. If there was, the Chief Fire Officer had given an undertaking to consider its reinstatement.

The Chair thanked Ian Harrington for his presentation and answering the Forums questions.

## **6. ALCOHOL DESIGNATED AREAS**

Joe Hogan, Community Safety Officer, gave a presentation updating the forum on the implementation of the alcohol designated zones in Hartlepool and specifically the North area.

The orders were designed to reduce anti-social behaviour and were being introduced under new powers in the Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001. All the previous orders ceased to exist on 1 September 2007. Under the Act, it was the role of the local authority to designate areas but for local police and PCSO's to enforce. The new designations were being rolled out in three phases. The first was the replacement of the previous bye-laws which was nearly complete. The second phase would be to look at 'congregation areas' such as shopping parades and the cemeteries. The third phase would look at residential areas. If hotspots developed they would be looked at individually and designated only if there was 'reasonable' evidence. Without evidence a designation could not go ahead. The list of designated areas would be submitted to Licensing Committee for its approval.

In this stage of the process, Joe Hogan indicated that he was looking for feedback on the proposals relating to the shopping parades and the cemeteries.

Councillor R Cook asked why the process was taking so long if the previous bye-laws had ended on 1 September and how long would it be before the process was complete. Joe Hogan highlighted that a very extensive consultation exercise had been undertaken which included the licensed premises and landowners. It had not proved to be as straight forward

as originally anticipated. Signs were starting to go up around the town and legal notices had been posted in the local press.

The Chair thanked Joe Hogan for his update report.

## **7. UNITE COMMUNITY MEDIATION**

Mohammed Zafarullah from Unite gave a presentation of the range of services provided by Unite in Hartlepool and the Tees Valley. Unite could become involved in neighbour disputes acting as a mediator between two parties. The service was also used by Hartlepool Housing as well as the council itself. The service was used in issues of noise and problems with dogs for example.

It was highlighted that Unite mediators could only mediate between two parties and could not impose any resolution to problems. It did however have an 85% success rate. The service had dealt with 36 cases in Hartlepool in the last year.

The Chair thanked Mohammed Zafarullah for his presentation to the forum.

## **8. ANTI SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR ACTIVITY**

Sally Forth, the Anti-Social Behaviour Unit Coordinator, gave a presentation to the forum updating them on recorded anti-social behaviour between April and June 2007. Sally Forth also introduced Katie Sheehan to the forum, the new North area Anti-Social Behaviour Officer.

The key statistics for the north area were:-

ASB Cases by ward:

Brus	5
Dyke House	23
Hart	12
St Hilda	6
Throston	6

A total 56 cases closed in the period (147 Borough wide)  
Currently 29 cases were open (89 Borough wide)

The types of issues/complaints:-

Animal related	1
Football nuisance	14
Intimidation/harassment	3
Noise	8
Nuisance behaviour	4
Rowdy Behaviour	10
Vehicle related	2
Criminal	1
Vandalism	2
Hate Crime	3
Street Drinking	8

ASBO/CRASBO statistics:-

- 2 CRASBOs obtained.  
Total number of active ASBO/CRASBOs to 13. (34 across Hartlepool)
- 2 current Acceptable Behaviour Contracts
- 1 Acceptable Behaviour Agreement. (22 Current ABAs and ABCs across Hartlepool).

Sally Forth indicated that future statistics to the Forum would be done in conjunction with Housing Hartlepool who also deal with many ASB referrals.

Councillor R Cook considered that children playing football shouldn't be listed as anti-social behaviour when many of the places that children could previously play football had gone. People needed to be more tolerant of children playing games. Councillor R Cook did acknowledge that youths playing football in the street, often late into the evening was a different issue and was anti-social.

Councillor J Marshall was concerned at the anti-social problems caused by people parking vehicles without little thought to the safety of pedestrians or other drivers. Councillor J Marshall

indicated that he had raised this problem with the Police on several occasions and was not satisfied with their response and asked that they look at the incidents he had referred to them again. Councillor R Cook supported Councillor J Marshall's comments indicating that similar problems were occurring in his ward. Councillor R Cook commented that some problems still seemed to occur due to the decriminalisation of parking and it wasn't always clear who dealt with what type of issue. Councillor Wright suggested that at the next meeting, the forum receive a presentation from the appropriate officers on these problems.

## 9. OFF ROAD MOTORCYCLES

Sally Forth reported that the Anti-Social Behaviour Team received many reports of problems caused by off-road motorbikes and mini-motos from all over the town. There was, however, nowhere these bikes could be ridden legally in Hartlepool. Council officers were looking at other ways of dealing with these issues, as it was difficult for the Police's motorcycle team to respond to all the calls they received.

CHAIR

## TEES VALLEY DRAFT COMMON ALLOCATION POLICY (SUMMARY)

### 1. Introduction

The review of the existing allocation scheme will involve some major changes to our policy for allocating or letting vacant properties. To help you understand the new allocation scheme, we have listed some of these changes below. We have also included a list of frequently asked questions to help you understand how the Tees Valley choice based lettings (CBL) scheme will work and what it will mean for you.

The policy has been written to take into account existing housing legislation; statutory and regulatory guidance.

### 2. The Tees Valley Choice Based Lettings (CBL) Partnership

The Tees Valley CBL partnership was formed in 2005 after successfully receiving funding from the Government to develop and implement a CBL scheme which spans the whole of the sub region. The following local authorities and their partner landlord make up the partnership and have agreed to let their vacant properties in accordance with this policy.

- Middlesbrough Council
- Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council
- Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council
- Hartlepool Council
- Darlington Council
- Erimus Housing
- Tristar Homes
- Coast & Country Housing
- Housing Hartlepool

### 3. Objectives of the scheme

- To meet the legal requirements for the allocation of social housing as set out in the Housing Act (1996) and Homelessness Act (2002) ensuring that those with the greatest housing needs have those needs met more quickly.

- To let our homes in a fair and transparent way through empowering applicants and supporting them to make informed choices about where they want to live.
- To provide improved services for vulnerable people who may find it difficult to apply for housing and offer continuing assistance to them in maintaining a successful tenancy.
- To improve local, regional and national mobility and to encourage balanced and sustainable communities.
- To make efficient use of the social housing stock in meeting housing needs.
- To assist local authorities in preventing and reducing homelessness.

#### **4. Applying to register on the new scheme**

Anybody wishing to apply to the sub regional CBL scheme will be able to do so online by accessing the internet when the scheme goes live; the new website will be developed in the near future. Alternatively new applicants can complete one simple application form through which they will be assessed as applying to all of the local authorities and partner landlords within the sub region; application forms will be available at the partner landlords housing offices. You may not need to reapply to the new scheme if you are already registered with one of the local authorities or their partner landlords listed below. Your details may be automatically transferred to the Common Housing Register, which consists of a single list of applicants who have applied and been accepted on to the Tees Valley CBL scheme. We will write to you nearer the time of implementation to inform you of what will happen.

In order to verify your details, we may ask you to provide supporting evidence to help us assess your housing need and place you in the appropriate band.

#### **5. Information and guidance**

When your details are registered on the Common Housing Register, we will send you a user guide, which will provide a summary of the scheme. This information will include:

- How to find out about available properties
- How applicants are banded

- How to bid for advertised properties
- How the selection process works
- Who to contact for advice and information
- What checks will be made before an offer is confirmed
- The right to request a review of decisions

## **6. Assessment of applications**

The majority of applicants will see that the system for assessing applications will change from points to bands. This is because the band system is easier to understand for applicants. The law says that we must give priority or 'reasonable preference' to certain categories of people who have more urgent housing needs than others. The bands that reflect 'reasonable preference' within the Tees Valley CBL scheme are Band 1+, Band 1 and Band 2. If your assessed housing need falls into a certain category, you will be placed in the band that reflects that need.

Erimus Housing and Coast & Country Housing already use a band system for assessing applications. Applicants registered on their allocation schemes will be reassessed to ensure they are placed in the correct band on the Tees Valley CBL scheme.

The new scheme is proposing to have 5 bands. The categories that fall within each of these bands are listed in the table at the back of this summary.

## **7. Applicable date**

The date you registered your application is important to us. This is because it may be used as a tie-breaker if there is more than one person qualifying for the same property. If you are placed in Band 1+, Band 1 or Band 2, the date you entered the band will be used as the tie-breaker.

## **8. Advertising properties**

One of the main changes you will see is that available properties across the Tees Valley sub region will be advertised on a weekly cycle and you will be invited to express your interest or bid on them. Each advert will be labelled to say who will be eligible to apply e.g. adapted properties will be aimed at people with disabilities. The adverts will include a

description of the property and any other relevant information, such as the weekly rent charge and whether there have been any adaptations. The adverts will also include information about local amenities and recreational facilities e.g. schools, bus routes, shops, community and leisure centres.

Vacant properties will be advertised at the partners housing offices or you can view them from home or any locality offering internet facilities e.g. libraries, internet cafes etc. A weekly newsletter will be produced advertising the vacant properties, which will be available to you on request. A copy of the newsletter will also be sent to all registered social landlords, statutory and voluntary organisations across the sub region for people accessing their services.

## **9. How to express an interest**

You can express an interest or 'bid' yourself if you have access to the internet or you can contact your local housing office where staff will do this for you. This means that rather than sitting back and waiting until you qualify for an offer of accommodation, you will have to be pro-active in checking the adverts each week and placing bids. You can also ask an advocate to place bids on your behalf e.g. family member, friend or support worker. You can place up to 3 bids on each weekly advertising cycle. We will make sure that help is on hand to guide you through the new system until you get used to it!

## **10. Making an offer of accommodation**

A shortlist of qualifying applicants will be produced after each advertising cycle closes. Applicants in Band 1+ will be ranked first, followed by those in Bands 1, 2, 3 and 4. Applicants in Band 1+, 1 and 2 with more than one need will be given preference for an offer of accommodation over those with a single housing need in the same Band. If there are two or more applicants with a similar level of need qualifying for a property, the date they entered the Band will be used as a tie-breaker. If the Band date is the same, the date of application will be used. If the priority date and application date are the same and the level of need is similar, the deciding factor will be to offer the property to the applicant whose household best fits the property attributes to ensure best use of the stock.

The tie-breaker for Band 1+ will be the priority date. If the priority date is the same, the date of application will be used. If the priority date and date of application is the same, the current tenancy start date or commencement of owner occupation will be used to decide who receives the tenancy offer. A local connection to the local authority and the behaviour of applicants will also be taken into account in deciding priority for an offer of accommodation.



Where properties are targeted at specific applicants, they will be given priority for that type of accommodation e.g. people with disabilities will be given priority for properties which have been adapted to meet particular needs.

### **11. Cumulative housing need**

Some applicants may have cumulative or multiple housing needs and so their needs will be prioritised. The new scheme will identify those people who have more than one urgent or high housing need to ensure they are given priority for an offer of accommodation.

### **12. Local connection**

The new scheme will have a local connection rule. This means that when a vacant property is advertised, preference will generally be given to applicants who have a local connection to that local authority area. A more detailed explanation of the local connection rule is included in the full draft policy document.

### **13. Housing Options**

Local authorities and registered social landlords have seen the demand and competition for social housing increase dramatically due to changes in the housing market; this has meant that they have had to look at other solutions to satisfy the needs of people applying to them for housing. The Tees Valley CBL partnership recognises that they can offer other housing options to people applying through CBL. This means that you will be given advice about 'staying put' initiatives, mutual exchanges, part rent/part buy products and we will even advertise properties on behalf of private landlords and other registered social landlords to maximise your choice of tenure and improve your chances of being housed.

### **14. Support for vulnerable people**

We will provide additional support for people who have difficulty in accessing the new system. This could be due to their age, infirmity, disability, literacy problems, sight or hearing impairments, language barriers etc. In these circumstances, bids may automatically be placed on their behalf or by people acting as their advocates.

We will also work with relevant statutory and voluntary organisations to ensure that vulnerable applicants are given assistance in accessing the scheme and in supporting them in their tenancies once they have successfully qualified for an offer of accommodation.

## **15. Direct offers**

Whilst the majority of properties will be advertised on the scheme, some will be held back for direct offers in the event of an emergency situation i.e. victims of fire/flood or where a particularly sensitive allocation is required. Vacant properties that are part of an extra care scheme for older people with particular needs will not be advertised on the scheme and will be subject to direct offers. A direct offer will in most cases be in date order of approval being given; however an offer may be outside of this order where there are particularly urgent housing needs. Where a direct offer is made, the lettings results will be made available to the public to ensure a fair, open and transparent service.

## **16. Feedback on lettings**

We will publish the letting results to ensure openness and transparency. This means that you will be able to check who got what property. We will not disclose any personal details but we will tell you the successful applicant's band, priority date (if applicable), registration date and the number of bids placed on the property to help you evaluate your housing options and what your chances are of making a successful bid.

## **17. Reviews and complaints**

Applicants will be notified of their right to ask for a review of certain decisions made about their application. Reviews and complaints will be investigated by the local authority or partner landlord that received the original application.

## **18. Equal Opportunities**

The policy will aim to promote equal opportunity by preventing and eliminating discrimination on the grounds of gender, colour, race, religion, nationality, ethnic origin, disability, age, HIV status, sexual orientation or marital status. The impact of the policy will be monitored to ensure that it does not discriminate against any individual or particular groups, either directly or indirectly on race or equality grounds.

In order to achieve this, all applicants will be asked to provide details of their ethnic origin and any other relevant information will be collected when they apply to join the Common Housing Register.

The following table outlines the categories included within each band.

<b>Band 1+</b>	
<b>Category</b>	<b>Definition</b>
Home loss through regeneration (decants)	People losing their home due to a recognised regeneration scheme within any one of the local authorities within the sub region; this includes council tenants, registered social landlord tenants, private tenants, owner occupiers and people living-in with the main householder (providing they have lived there as their sole or main home for at least 12 months.)

<b>Band 1</b>	
<b>Category</b>	<b>Definition</b>
Statutory homeless and homeless prevention	People who are assessed as statutory homeless and in priority need; people threatened with homelessness after 28 days; people who need to move on urgent medical grounds; people who need to move on welfare grounds; people living in unsafe or insanitary housing conditions (as defined by the housing health and safety rating system) and there is a high risk of harm.

<b>Band 2</b>	
<b>Category</b>	<b>Definition</b>
High housing need	People living in overcrowded conditions and are 3 or more bed spaces short of requirements; people assessed as intentionally homeless or non priority homeless; people who need to move due to a high medical need; social housing tenants of the partner landlords that are under-occupying a house by 2 or more bedrooms; people with a child or children under the age of 10 occupying accommodation above ground floor level; people who need to move on hardship grounds; young people at risk.

<b>Band 3</b>	
<b>Category</b>	<b>Definition</b>
Other housing needs and efficient use of the housing stock	People leaving tied accommodation within the sub region; people eligible to succeed/assign to a tenancy and have a need or expressed wish to move to alternative accommodation; people who have suffered a relationship breakdown or divorced partners with shared child care; people who are 1 or 2 bed spaces short of requirements.

<b>Band 4</b>	
<b>Category</b>	<b>Definition</b>
No or low level housing need	People assessed as having no identified housing need; people assessed as having low level housing need.

ANY COMMENTS PLEASE COMPLETE CBL FEEDBACK FORM OR EMAIL  
[margaret.scott@housinghartlepool.org.uk](mailto:margaret.scott@housinghartlepool.org.uk) or [lynda.igoe@hartlepool.gov.uk](mailto:lynda.igoe@hartlepool.gov.uk)

**Report of:** Director of Adult and Community Services

**Subject:** INDOOR LEISURE FACILITY STRATEGY

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**1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To consult upon the outcomes of the recently adopted Indoor Leisure Facility Strategy that incorporates future facility needs in Hartlepool.

**2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 The Strategy was prepared by Consultants, Capita Symonds, in order to facilitate the effective planning and management of sport and leisure facility provision in the future.

- 2.2 The work has been considered in two parts:-

- (i) Indoor Sports Facility Strategy now completed and adopted by Cabinet in October, 2007.
- (ii) Open Space, Sport and Recreation Needs Assessment in line with Planning Policy Guidance 17 (PPG17). This work is shortly due to be completed.

- 2.3 The specific aim of the work involved in developing the Strategy was to:-

- ensure that the Council could plan effectively for sufficient open space, sport and recreation facilities and indoor sports facilities in line with current Government recommendations, Sport England planning resources and PPG17 guidance;
- took account of the opportunities presented by the Building Schools for the Future (BSF) initiative;
- identified the community's leisure needs and aspirations via consultation;
- explored capital financing and procurement options;
- provided a basis for decision making in relation to the future management of the Council's facilities.

### 3. RESEARCH AND CONSULTATION PROCESS

- 3.1 In undertaking the work associated with the preparation of the Indoor Leisure Facility Strategy, the Consultants examined the policy, socio-economic and political context within which services needs to operate. A number of key policy documents, both local, regional and national were reviewed, as well as general trends in the sport and recreation market examined.
- 3.2 A Facility Audit, both qualitative and quantative, was undertaken in order to gain an understanding of the location, quality and long term future of the current provision. Central to this was swimming facility provision that, from previous studies undertaken, had been highlighted as sub-standard in one way or another.
- 3.3 Wide ranging consultation was also undertaken including:-
- (i) internal stakeholder consultation within the Council;
  - (ii) external stakeholder consultation with the six secondary schools, Belle Vue Community Sports Centre, Hartlepool College of Further Education, Hartlepool Sixth Form College, as well as other principal sports facility sites and Sport England;
  - (iii) residents' consultation consisting of a postal survey of 1,500 residents selected randomly from the electoral register;
  - (iv) Sports Club consultation, where a questionnaire was sent out to all registered Sports Clubs in Hartlepool;
  - (v) Parish Councils;
  - (vi) reference was also made to the consultation carried out with Hartlepool Swimming Club and the Amateur Swimming Association in 2005, as part of the H<sub>2</sub>O Feasibility Study work, as well as previous Viewpoint 1000 consultation on swimming.

### 4. INDOOR LEISURE FACILITY STRATEGY

- 4.1 A copy of the Executive Summary of the Strategy document is attached at **Appendix 1**. A fully copy of the Strategy is, however, available within the Central Library or as a downloadable document from the Council's website.
- 4.2 As can be seen from the Executive Summary document, a number of facility development options were determined as a result of the facility audit and demand assessment. This was also considered in the context of the overall vision for leisure in Hartlepool and the Council's policies and strategies. Cognizance of key stakeholders views and those of the wider community were also taken into consideration.

- 4.3 In terms of facility distribution, account was taken of those existing high quality facilities that we would wish to retain as part of our long term strategy. These include Headland Sports Hall, Brierton Sports Centre, sports facilities at St Hilds School, as well as Belle Vue Sports Centre.
- 4.4 The Strategy also suggests potential future management and procurement options open to the Council to enable delivery of any future developments.
- 4.5 The Strategy also highlights a series of actions to be undertaken over the short, medium and long-term and amongst a range of things, concludes the need for separate feasibility studies to be undertaken concerning a variety of schemes, but including:-
  - (a) the future of the Mill House site given that the H<sub>2</sub>O Centre is built as part of the Victoria Harbour Development;
  - (b) a potential development at Seaton Carew where demand for improved facilities is high and a number of options exist.

## **5. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 5.1 Public are asked to consider the Strategy and its contents and comments are welcomed.

CONTACT OFFICER: Pat Usher, Sport and Recreation Manager

## **Indoor Leisure Facilities Strategy**

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

1. Capita Symonds Consulting has prepared a Borough-wide indoor sports facilities audit and strategy that incorporates future needs in the public, voluntary and private sectors which is complemented by a separate appraisal of open space (PPG17 study).
2. Many national policies recognise the importance and significance of sport and education in meeting the shared priorities of all government, particularly to encourage higher levels of activity, but local authorities alone cannot achieve service improvements.
3. The development and/or refurbishment of sporting and other cultural facilities in Hartlepool could contribute significantly to the achievement of the longer-term regional and sub-regional priorities.
4. The Borough's Sport and Recreation Strategy emphasised it was critical to consider any refurbishment of existing or development of new facilities within a strategic context.
5. A key approach to meeting the Vision of the Council's Sport and Recreation Strategy could see fewer centres providing higher quality services, located to reflect sustainable access principles.
6. An earlier Review concluded that there is an over-provision of poor quality pool facilities in the Borough and that, rather than expensive refurbishment, new better quality and more flexible water space would significantly benefit the community.
7. The Mill House Leisure Centre is only swimming complex open to the public throughout the day and, due to its poor quality, the Council has plans to replace this by the new H<sub>2</sub>O Centre – the other pools on school sites have limited community opening hours and are beyond their expected lifespan.
8. The majority of sports halls are located on school sites and so are not available during curriculum time – only those at Mill House, the Headland and Belle Vue Centres are available for community use during the school day.
9. The provision of other sports facilities appears to be generally in balance and, in view of the 'self-contained' nature of the Borough, it is not envisaged that any facilities in surrounding towns will have any impact on the provision of community sports and recreation buildings in Hartlepool.
10. Consultation with key Council departments has provided an appreciation of the main issues which need to be addressed in the Strategy including:
  - an acceptance that closures will be required
  - the value of the current BSF initiative
  - the demand for specific Youth space
  - an identification of areas where new homes will increase demand
  - a strong management commitment to maximising use of existing/new sports facilities.
11. Surveys of residents determined that almost half of those contacted never visited an indoor sports facility but that these are important to a substantial minority representing most age groups – accessibility is reflected by results showing higher usage by those with cars and those living closer to Mill House Leisure Centre.
12. Although Mill House was by far the most popular facility (it includes the only public access swimming pool), it is also the only site to record a negative satisfaction score

- while other sites scored 'good' towards 'excellent' – sports clubs were generally satisfied with provision but stated they had difficulty in booking facilities at peak times.
13. The poor quality and accessibility (in programme terms) of most of the facilities is also a concern if the Borough's residents are to participate in sport in an attractive and safe environment.
  14. With more than adequate provision of facilities in Hartlepool, the issue is the extent to which it may be possible to optimise the number of indoor sports facilities.
  15. The Council's response to the BSF initiative is being developed towards an agreed Strategy for Change in May 2008 and there is an opportunity to link the provision of new public and education facilities.
  16. The population structure is not very different from the sub-regional or national profile and thus facilities are likely to be typical for a town of such a size – however, extensive development in the northern part of the town (equivalent to 10% of the current Borough population) will add significantly to the local need for sports and recreation facilities.
  17. With the catchment population being characterised by relatively poor residents with limited disposable income, there is a likelihood of below average use of sports and recreation facilities and a preference for cheaper facilities and/or activities.
  18. The results from Sport England's Active People Survey place Hartlepool in the bottom quartile with regard to those participating in regular physical activity – this is 2% lower than the average for England, 1% lower than most of the Borough's comparator authorities and over 5% below that for Stockton-on-Tees.
  19. The Sport England demand model calculates that the Borough should aspire to provide up to 900m<sup>2</sup> of water space (equivalent to three six-lane 25 metre pools or two with teaching pools).
  20. From an analysis of use patterns and the consultation, there is demand for more than the base sports hall provision as identified in the demand model but, with provision at twice the recommended level, investment in any new halls should be minimised until all capacity available in the existing stock is better utilised.
  21. Rationalisation of other buildings suitable for sports use will depend on an overall approach to delivering community development and the asset plans for the Borough.
  22. It is unlikely that co-location of other Council services (eg libraries or one-stop-shops) with sports centres on school sites will be appropriate in view of their locations away from the local shopping centres and other amenities important to such facilities.
  23. To reflect past investment in existing buildings, it may not be possible to create an 'ideal' distribution of facilities but a number of different location mixes were tested in a series of Options.
  24. Option One leaves existing facilities operating into the foreseeable future until closure is required due to essential repair or external factors (eg. site redevelopment) – such a route would not allow the authority to deliver its Vision for sport and leisure.
  25. Option Two is focussed around a single Borough pool facility (Mill House or new H<sub>2</sub>O Centre) with present dry facilities (Headland, Belle Vue and Brierton) and new/ refurbished school halls – as the quantity of water space provided will not deliver the outcomes envisaged, it is felt that this should not be taken forward.
  26. Option Three combines an existing or new wet/dry Borough facility (Mill House or H<sub>2</sub>O Centre) with new pool(s) at Brierton, existing dry facilities (Headland and Belle Vue) and new/ refurbished school halls - this Option is well aligned with the demand models for swimming but will perpetuate the surplus of dry side facilities.



27. Option Four adds a new wet/dry centre in North West Hartlepool to the existing or new Borough facility (Mill House or H<sub>2</sub>O Centre), new pool(s) at Brierton, existing dry facilities (Headland and Belle Vue) and new/refurbished school halls – this will provide too much dry sports space.
28. Option Five replicates the established pattern of swimming pools at secondary school sites and adds these to an existing or new Borough facility (Mill House or H<sub>2</sub>O Centre), existing dry facilities (Headland, Belle Vue and Brierton) and a new wet facility at Seaton Carew – this level of provision is far higher than necessary and will require greater capital and revenue expenditure.
29. The table below summarises the capital and revenue costs of each of the options.

	<i>Option One</i>	<i>Option Two</i>	<i>Option Three</i>	<i>Option Four</i>	<i>Option Five</i>
<b>Scheme</b>	<b>Do nothing</b>	<b>Minimum</b>	<b>Optimum</b>	<b>Maximum</b>	<b>Replace Existing</b>
Capital Costs	£4.5 to £5 million	H <sub>2</sub> O £26m plus schools additions for community use £625,000 <b>Total £26.63m</b>	As Option Two plus Brierton pool £4.5-5.2m <b>Total £31m to £32m</b>	As Option Three plus North Pool £3.4m <b>Total £34m to £35m</b>	H <sub>2</sub> O £26m plus new pools/ community use at schools £3.5m each <b>Total £43.5m</b>
Revenue Costs	Increasing as buildings age	H <sub>2</sub> O £500k pa plus school support	As Option Two plus Brierton £100k - total £600k pa plus school support	As Option Three plus North Pool £50-100k - total £650-700k pa plus school support	Up to £1 million pa

30. A review of facility and management procurement options has determined that a crucial initial decision will be whether to procure any new facilities separately or in conjunction with their on-going management.
31. If the Council is in a position to fund the capital cost itself through savings or other sources, a Design Build Operate and Maintain approach may be an appropriate route for the integration of building and management.
32. In testing the extent to which each option addresses the desired long term outcomes for the facility development process, Option Three performs best in most regards and will ensure that the residents of Hartlepool are provided with an affordable range of sports and recreation facilities which addresses their needs and aspirations.
33. In preparing the recommended Strategy, we have assumed that the newest facilities at The Headland and Brierton will be a key part of the Borough's provision for 20/30 years – we have also assumed that the H<sub>2</sub>O Centre will be constructed within 2 to 3 years and that Mill House will remain in operation until such time as this opens.
34. It is concluded that the most appropriate approach to replacing the present school pools and enhancing public pool provision would be to add swimming facilities (a 25 metre and a teaching pool) to the existing Brierton Sports Centre.
35. The bulk of the existing primary school swimming teaching programme could be accommodated within two teaching pools (eg. Mill House/H<sub>2</sub>O Centre and new Brierton) at limited additional cost in terms of travel time/charges.
36. The development (or retention) of an additional teaching pool in the North West of the Borough would provide capacity for growing swimming as a sport, to meet Government aspirations for more physical activity in schools and to enable school-time use by secondary schools and the wider community.

37. The current provision of sports halls is well over that required if the parameters of the demand model are to be adopted – as a result, any investment in refurbishment of existing or building of new halls (including that proposed at the H<sub>2</sub>O Centre) should be carefully considered.
38. The Belle Vue Community, Sports and Youth Centre should remain a key partner but the operation of its sports facilities should be integrated with that of other sites in Hartlepool.
39. The recommendation regarding other sports halls owned and managed by Hartlepool Borough Council (eg. the Youth Service) is that they should be retained until significant investment is required, at which time consideration should be given to replacement by smaller built facilities with linked outdoor sports space.
40. The redevelopment and/or refurbishment of the school sports halls under the BSF programme is an opportunity to consolidate the service to the town's residents but investment in a separate entrances and reception/office space can facilitate use as a community sports centre outside school hours.
41. A Service Level or Community Use Agreement with the individual schools should be developed to ensure that the facilities are operated in a consistent and complementary manner – this could involve a Borough-wide organisation to coordinate overall operation.
42. To ensure appropriate performance measurement, it should be a priority to implement a common Management Information System across all leisure sites in the Borough.
43. With regard to specific areas of under-provision, Seaton Carew has no high quality public facility and there is potential for a small scale development to serve both young people and the wider community in a single hall, potentially linked to redevelopment of the Park and/or library.
44. There is not a shortfall in provision with regard to any of the other key sporting facilities which would normally be expected in a town of such a population.
45. With regard to integration with other service provision, the key issue is that the principal sports facilities on the five secondary schools are situated away from the larger local shopping parades which tend to be the most appropriate places for branch libraries and community facilities.
46. We have set out the key actions which we feel would help address issues and deliver the proposals we have set out this Strategy – it is considered that the following should be implemented in the short term (within a year):
  - further develop inter-departmental relationships
  - develop inter-agency links with potential partners
  - adopt the results of the concurrent Planning Policy Guidance 17 appraisal relating to open space and link this to the Facility Strategy
  - revise the Sport and Recreation Strategy as a working document
  - develop a basic monitoring scheme to record and analyse the use of all facilities
  - develop a community use agreement for the BSF sites and other venues
  - commission detailed feasibility studies into developments at Brierton Leisure Centre, Seaton Carew and the requirements for community access to BSF sites.

47. The following Action Plan elements should be carried out over the next 2 to 3 years:
- review the condition of the School Swimming Pools and Mill House Leisure Centre to ensure the safety of users and assist in asset management planning
  - procure appropriate enhanced facilities under the BSF initiative and establish cost-effective operational arrangements to benefit the whole community
  - review funding opportunities to deliver the overall strategy, including procurement of the proposed H<sub>2</sub>O Centre at Victoria Harbour
  - procure the swimming pool(s) at the Brierton Leisure Centre to ensure the school swimming programme can be maintained should any existing pools be closed
  - review the long term operation of the Belle Vue Community, Sports and Youth Centre to ensure that it continues its role in encouraging sport and physical activity
  - install a comprehensive Performance Monitoring Scheme to allow determination of the extent to which the service meets local and national targets for participation
  - install an integrated one-stop Facility Booking Package encompassing all indoor sports facilities which can be accessed through the web.
48. While it might be valuable to carry out the following actions earlier, it is acknowledged that these may need to be delayed until after year four:
- monitor the condition and use of all indoor sports, youth and community facilities and determine if it is possible to deliver the service through existing premises rather than provide additional new buildings which may be required
  - commission specific feasibility studies to address the development of shared service centres or community sporting hubs at locations such as
    - Mill House Leisure Centre, Indoor Bowling Centre and Hartlepool United Football Club
    - West Park/St Hild's School
    - Rossmere/Owton Manor
    - Dyke House School (potentially linked to Mill House project)
    - other appropriate sites.

**Report of:** Neighbourhood Manager (North)

**Subject:** MINOR WORKS REPORT

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**1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To provide the North Neighbourhood Consultative Forum with details regarding improvement work at St Mark's Church Hall.

**2 BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 The Residents Association of Clavering and Hart Station have recently raised funding via a number of sources in order to improve St Mark's Church Hall. These improvements have greatly widened the scope for community activities, particularly for young people.
- 2.2 In December 2007 the Resident Association required additional funding of £250 to improve the external disabled access to the hall as their initial budget fell short of the required amount needed to complete the improvement works.
- 2.3 Members are informed that the Chair agreed to fund the scheme as part of her powers of "Delegated Authority".

**3. RECOMMENDATION**

- 3.1 That the North Neighbourhood Consultative Forum note the report.
- 3.2 The above Minor Works Scheme will need to be presented to the Neighbourhood and Communities Portfolio Holder for final approval.

## **North Neighbourhood Consultative Forum**

### **Minor Works - 2007/2008 - £87,000**

#### **Budget Code – AR50130**

Forum - £52,000  
Highway Maintenance - £20,000  
Grass Verges - £15,000

<b>Ward</b>	<b>Name of Scheme</b>	<b>Date Approved</b>	<b>Minor Works Funding £</b>	<b>Other Funding</b>
Various	Dropped crossings	13 June 2007	3,500	
Various	Pride in Hartlepool	13 June 2007	5,000	
Hart	Muirfield Walk Landscaping	13 June 2007	8,400	
Hart	Marley Walk Environmental improvements	13 June 2007	4,250	
Various	Key Routes	13 June 2007	20,000	
Various	Multi Use Games Areas	13 June 2007	10,000	
Hart	Swanage Grove Removal of grassed areas	8 August 2007	7,325	
St Hilda	Union Street Hand rail	8 August 2007	1,669	
Dyke House	Hurworth Street Removal of seating areas	8 August 2007	2,000	
St Hilda	Bell buoy and fishing cobble	10 October 2007	1,675	
Brus	West View Road Verge works	10 October 2007	5,200	

Ward	Name of Scheme	Date Approved	Minor Works Funding	Other Funding
Hart Ward	Bamburgh Road Verge works	10 October 2007	1,200	
Throston	Throston Grange Lane Improved parking	10 October 2007	9,700	
St Hilda	Cleveland Road Traffic island	10 October 2007	5,000	
Hart	St Mark's Church Hall External repairs	December 2007	250	
Total spend			£85,169	
<b>Balance</b>			<b>£1,831</b>	

## Minor Works Schemes – 2007/08

<b>Ward</b>	<b>Total cost of Schemes</b>
Brus	5,200
Dyke House	2,000
Hart	21,425
St Hilda	8,344
Throston	9,700
Various	38,500
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>85,169</b>