

PLEASE NOTE VENUE

CENTRAL NEIGHBOURHOOD CONSULTATIVE FORUM AGENDA



**RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVE ELECTION TO BE HELD
AT 9.30am PROMPT**

Thursday 31st January 2008

at 10.00 am

**in the Council Chamber,
Civic Centre, Hartlepool**

MEMBERS: CENTRAL NEIGHBOURHOOD CONSULTATIVE FORUM:

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

Resident Representatives:

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

- 1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**
- 2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**
- 3. TO RECEIVE ANY DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS**
- 4. MINUTES**
 - 4.1 To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 29th November 2007 (*attached*)
 - 4.2 To receive the minutes of the Police and Community Safety Consultative Forum held on 6th September 2007 (*attached*)
 - 4.3 Matters arising (maximum of 10 minutes) – Feedback sheet from last meeting attached.

PLEASE NOTE VENUE

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

Grange
Park
Rift House
Stranton
Burn Valley
Elwick
Foggy Furze

6. **ITEMS FOR CONSULTATION**

6.1 BSF – primary Capital Programme Stage 1 consultation – *Assistant Director – Resources and Support Services*

6.2 Presentation – Choice Based Lettings – *Principal Housing Advice Officer*

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

7.1 Indoor Leisure Facility Strategy – *Director of Adult and Community Services*

8. **ITEMS FOR DECISION**

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

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

The next meeting of the Central Neighbourhood Consultative Forum will be held on Thursday 27th March 2008 commencing at 10am, in the Council Chamber, Civic Centre

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

WARDS

Burn Valley
Elwick
Foggy Furze
Grange
Park
Rift House
Stranton

CENTRAL NEIGHBOURHOOD CONSULTATIVE FORUM

29th November 2007

MINUTES OF THE MEETING



The meeting commenced at 10.00am in the Town Hall, Hartlepool

PRESENT:

Chair:	Councillor Lillian Sutheran	- Rift House Ward
	Councillor Stephen Akers-Belcher	- Rift House Ward
	Councillor Jonathan Brash	- Burn Valley Ward
	Councillor Gerard Hall	- Burn Valley Ward
	Councillor Pauline Laffey	- Park Ward
	Councillor John Lauderdale	- Burn Valley Ward
	Councillor Frances London	- Foggy Furze Ward
	Councillor Dr George Morris	- Park Ward
	Councillor Carl Richardson	- Grange Ward
	Councillor Jane Shaw	- Stranton Ward
	Councillor Chris Simmons	- Grange Ward
	Councillor Victor Tumilty	- Grange Ward
	Councillor Gladys Worthy	- Rift House Ward

Resident Representatives:

Bob Farrow, Ted Jackson, Alan Lloyd, Brenda Loynes, Sarah Maness and Brian McBean

Public: Councillor Steve Allison, B Fishburn, G Harrison, Gordon and Stella Johnson, M Lumley, Julie Rudge, Ray Waller

Council Officers: Dave Stubbs, Director of Neighbourhood Services
Denise Ogden, Head of Neighbourhood Management
Jon Wright, Neighbourhood Co-Ordinator
Clare Clark, Neighbourhood Manager (Central)
Richard Waldmeyer, Principal Planning Officer (Policy Planning and Info)
Phil Hepburn, Parking Services Manager
Colin Kay, Dog Warden
Emily Lawty, Development Assistant
Leigh Keeble, Development Officer
Jo Wilson, Democratic Services Officer
Sarah Bird, Democratic Services Officer

Police Representatives: C Campbell and John Southcott

35. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were submitted on behalf of Councillor Robbie Payne and Resident Representatives James Atkinson and Evelyn Leck.

The Chair made reference to the Vice-Chair James Atkinson's recent hospitalisation and requested that a card be sent from the Forum wishing him a speedy recovery.

36. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS

None

37. MINUTES

The minutes for the Central Neighbourhood Consultative Forum held on the 11th October 2007 were agreed subject to the following amendments:

Public Question Time and Ward Issues – Foggy Furze – Tin Houses – Resident Representative Bob Farrow had raised this issue not Brian McBean as was stated in the minutes

Public Question Time and Ward Issues – Park – Mountston Close - Resident Representative Brenda Loynes had requested that the duck sign itself be moved rather than the bushes that were obscuring it.

Public Question Time and Ward Issues – Burn Valley – Police – Councillor Jonathan Brash indicated that another PC had been appointed rather than a PCSO as stated in the minutes

Public Question Time and Ward Issues – Burn Valley – Councillor Jonathan Brash

advised that he had been referring to the stream as a stagnant mess rather than the whole of the Burn Valley.

38. MATTERS ARISING

Briar Walk – Councillor Victor Tumilty advised that police had taken action to combat anti-social behaviour in this area and Housing Hartlepool had agreed to avoid problematic tenants.

39. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME AND WARD ISSUES

Foggy Furze

Whitegates – Resident Representative Bob Farrow reported that there was a large mound of rubbish above the Whitegates Centre.

Studley Road – Resident Representative Bob Farrow indicated that the land was overgrown near a new bungalow and rubbish was collecting. The Neighbourhood Manager (Central) would look into this.

Grange

Recycling – Councillor Victor Tumilty reported that white poly bags were being left by the refuse collectors on the specified collection days. Resident Representative Brian McBean went on to query the methods employed in splitting waste from the green bins and white bags. The Head of Neighbourhood Management advised that the waste was split and residents were welcome to witness the process.

Sandringham Road / Angus Street back lane – Councillor Victor Tumilty indicated there was some damage to the surface including the dropped kerbs and

requested that this be rectified by the responsible building contractors.

Stephen Street – Resident
Representative Brian McBean requested that the abandoned black bags at the bottom of the street be removed

Park

Parking permits – Councillor George Morris requested that the process of allowing the residents of Park Avenue parking permits be moved on as they had been waiting 20 years. The Director of Neighbourhood Services advised this would be done.

Ward Jackson Park – Councillor George Morris requested that cameras be installed in the park following a string of incidents including vandalism of toilets, bowling green and trees. Resident Julie Rudge asked that the bowling green be restored in readiness for the start of the bowling season. Resident Representative Brenda Loynes further commented that the clock in the park was continuing to stick.

Bus Shelters – A resident requested the provision of bus shelters at Tarnston Road and by Aldi. The Head of Neighbourhood Management would contact the appropriate department but advised that bus shelters might create a congregation point for youths. Resident Representative Brenda Loynes further commented that the bins on Tarnston Road were not being emptied on a regular enough basis.

Parade – Councillor Pauline Laffey asked if there were any plans for a crossing on Wooler Road leading from the Parade into town. The Head of Neighbourhood Management would feed this request to the Traffic Team Leader but a traffic survey would be needed.

Mountston Close – Resident Stella Johnson indicated that a neighbour on Tarnston Close was being intimidated by people in favour of alleyways in Mountston Close and was afraid to go out. The Chair suggested that Mrs Johnson speak to police officers present at the meeting. Councillor George Morris referred to a recent decision by the Planning Committee to recommend the installation of 2 cameras in the area and hoped that this would contribute to solving the problem.

Rift House

Catcote Road / Oxford Road – Resident Representative Alan Lloyd asked that the crossing be moved as it was causing a danger

Masefield Road – Resident Representative Alan Lloyd asked that the speed signs be checked as they were loose. The Neighbourhood Co-ordinator advised that replacement signs had been ordered.

Rift House flats – Resident Representative Alan Lloyd referred to the state of the pavement outside. The Chair indicated that Housing Hartlepool were keen to see these flats completed.

Thackeray Road – Resident Representative referred to the recent removal of a tree in front of his property and its replacement with a single car parking space. He advised that 5 new residents had moved into the area – all with cars. Councillor Stephen Akers-Belcher indicated that Mr Lloyd had been consulted on this decision, both as a resident and member of the Forum.

Longfellow Walk / Fletcher Walk / Turner Walk – Councillor Stephen Akers-Belcher requested that a commitment be made by the Forum to support investment

in this area where a lot of regeneration was needed.

Building Schools for the Future –

Councillor Akers-Belcher expressed his disappointment at the decision to close Brierton School. He asked what plans were in place for the camera currently on site.

Teesbrooke Avenue / Tynebrooke Avenue –

Councillor Stephen Akers-Belcher requested the provision of a street light on this corner.

Catcote Road shops – Councillor Stephen Akers-Belcher thanked police for the task force recently provided for this area and expressed his support for their efforts to have a camera installed.

Stranton

Young Street – Resident Julie Rudge asked if something could be done to make the cobbled areas in the back street safer during the winter months as they tended to ice over.

Takeaways – Resident Julie Rudge highlighted a problem with storage bins for local takeaways overflowing, specifically Sicilianos and the Indian Cottage, and requested action on this.

Church Street – Resident Mr Fishburn advised that damage was being caused to the pavement at the North end due to tree sap and this was causing a danger to pedestrians. The Head of Neighbourhood Management advised that this was an ongoing problem in Church Street and the Neighbourhood Co-ordinator would be looking into it.

St Joseph's Court – Councillor Jane Shaw referred to ongoing problems at this site. The Neighbourhood Co-ordinator reported that the Victoria Road pavement should have been completed and the

issue of the camber on the road had been passed on to Technical Services. There would be a full refurbishment in the next financial year.

Middleton Grange Shopping Centre –

Resident Representative Brenda Loynes asked that the lifts be repaired as 2 of the 3 were not working. The Director of Neighbourhood Services advised that this was a major problem and would require complete refurbishment which would be a long complex process. This was being considered at present.

Burn Valley

Park Road – Resident Ray Waller asked that the bins on the corner be emptied on a more regular basis.

Osbourne Road – Resident Ray Waller reported an overflowing bin

Street cleansing – Resident Ray Waller advised that the street sweeper would clean prior to the refuse being collected and it was the responsibility of the refuse collection contractor to clean up their mess. If they were not prepared to do this they should be fined or have their contract renegotiated.

York Road – Resident Ray Waller highlighted drainage issues with the paving stones.

Parking permits – Resident Ray Waller indicated that residents had received their ballot papers and requested more information on the total income received by the Council through parking charges. The Head of Neighbourhood Management directed Mr Waller to the feedback sheet provided as part of the papers for the meeting.

Park Road – Councillor Jonathan Brash reported that several of the lampposts had not yet been painted.

Burn Valley Gardens – Councillor Jonathan Brash referred to the planned replacement of an existing wall with a rail and requested that the height be checked as he felt it might be too high.

Eltringham Road – Councillor Jonathan Brash requested repairs be carried out to potholes.

Alston Street – Councillor Jonathan Brash requested removal of the flower bases. Resident Mr Harrison indicated that there had been promises that these would be removed the previous year but this had not been done. The Neighbourhood Co-ordinator confirmed that this issue had been brought to the Forum and there had obviously been a breakdown in communication. Officers had originally been asked to leave the structure intact but consideration could be given to its entire removal at a future Forum.

Back alleys – Councillor Jonathan Brash indicated that the street cleaners were only going down the middle and neglecting the sides. Resident Mr Harrison advised he had been told by the wagon drivers that they were only paid to clean the middle area.

Kimberly Street – Councillor Jonathan Brash asked that enforcement action be taken against a resident who was filling other residents' bins with their rubbish.

Colenso Street – Councillor Jonathan Brash referred to a resident being charged for the removal of a door when other residents had had bulky waste removed free of charge. The Head of Neighbourhood Management advised that the free removal of bulky waste only applied to items that could be taken during a house move. Councillor Brash further referred to a flower bed at the top

of Colenso Street which was causing a danger because of loose brickwork.

Elwick Road – Resident Mr Harrison highlighted ongoing problems with traffic on Elwick Road and suggested a safety barrier be installed from Flaxton Street.

Elwick Road / York Road – Resident Mr Harrison commented that drivers tended to reverse out of Woodstock Carpets directly into the traffic lights.

Elwick

“As a parent of a child at Brinkburn Sixth Form College I have observed the traffic on Blakelock Road is very dangerous at peak times. Are there any plans to restrict traffic speeds along this road?” Councillor Stephen Allison – The Neighbourhood Co-ordinator advised that the relevant signs had been ordered for that area.

40. MINOR WORKS REPORT

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

Scheme 1: Furness Street Fencing Scheme – to fence the rear of Furness Street and Middleton Road - £9,000.

Scheme 2: Musgrave Walk – bulb planting - £1,400.

Scheme 3: Rift House Recreation Ground – repairs to the fence line - £5,000.

Scheme 4: Valley Drive drainage scheme – investigatory works - £2,000.

Scheme 5: Reedston Close fencing – to secure a piece of land prone to anti-social behaviour - £750.

Scheme 6: Spencer Grove – improvements to the parking provision - £1,800.

Scheme 7: Middleton Road Totts Garden – improvements and additions of bedding plants - £2,662.

The Forum agreed the 7 schemes at a total cost of £22,612 for referral to the Portfolio Holder for confirmation.

Councillor Stephen Akers-Belcher requested that the planned fence at Westbrooke Avenue be made a priority as there were community safety issues. The Head of Neighbourhood Management advised that this would be going to the Portfolio Holder for approval on 14th December and provided approval was given work would begin after that.

41. DOG CONTROL ORDERS

The Dog Control Warden gave a brief presentation on the proposed Dog Control Orders. Members were informed that the Council currently had a number of byelaws relating to dogs that were introduced to protect the general public and covered such issues as dogs not being on a lead, bans on dogs in specified areas and failure to remove dog faeces.

However in April 2006 the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act was introduced, providing local authorities with a range of new powers. Part 6 of the Act enables local authorities to make Dog Control Orders, replacing the previous system of byelaws. If a Dog Control Order is made on a specified area of land it automatically supercedes any existing Byelaws.

Initial consultations had been carried out and details were given of the results and the areas affected by the proposed Dog

Control Orders. Maps were provided for information.

Following the presentation the following questions/issues arose:

Councillor Chris Simmons asked if the Park Square play area could be included.

Resident Julie Rudge asked that the North Cemetery and new Dalton Street Park could be included.

Councillor Victor Tumilty commented that the proposed orders were a vendetta against bad dog owners and law-abiding owners would inevitably be affected too. He questioned how a dog could reasonably be prevented from going into a banned area and said there was no existing indication that dogs were not allowed on the beach despite this being a current byelaw.

Resident Ray Waller asked who would enforce Dog Control Orders on the beach. The Dog Warden advised this would be part of the Lifeguards' duties.

Councillor Stephen Akers-Belcher felt the proposed ban on any one person walking more than 3 dogs at a time was unfair as no consideration was given to the size of the dogs. The Dog Warden indicated that the decision to ban anymore than 3 dogs had been made by those consulted.

The Chair thanked the Dog Warden for attending the meeting and answering questions.

42. PRESENTATION – LINKS (LOCAL INVOLVEMENT NETWORKS)

The Development Officer and Development Assistant gave a short presentation on Hartlepool's Local Involvement Network (LINK). The aim of the LINKs network was to create a system where more people were empowered to

be active partners in the Health and Social Care system rather than active recipients of care. This would replace the existing Patient Forums and would be a network of people, organisations and groups representing the views of the local community, independent from Hartlepool Borough Council and the Primary Care Trust. A Steering Group would be established to manage the procurement process with the development of Host and LINK expected from April 2008.

Included in the presentation were slides relating to the following:

- Where have Local Involvement Networks come from?
- Key facts about LINKs
- What will LINKs do?
- Who can be part of a LINK?
- What Powers will LINKs have?
- How will LINKs be set up?
- What is happening locally?

Following the presentation the following questions/issues arose:

Resident Ray Waller felt that the concept was a good idea but it could be a tool for the privatisation of services. Any consultation would be meaningless at the moment as there had been no indication of how much money would be made available for this by the Government.

Councillor Gerard Hall was very concerned that a regional strategy specific to Hartlepool was formulated so local issues were discussed. It was important to have strong political leadership on this.

Councillor Carl Richardson felt no notice would be taken of this new organisation which would have fewer powers than the Community Health Council.

Councillor Stephen Akers-Belcher questioned the lack of a remit for the LINK

at the moment. The Development Officer acknowledged this indicating that the terms of reference would be finalised as a result of the consultation process.

The Chair thanked the Development Officer and Development Assistant for attending the meeting and answering members' questions.

43. THE FUTURE TOWN PLANNING OF HARTLEPOOL – CORE STRATEGY ISSUES AND OPTIONS DISCUSSION PAPER CONSULTATION

The preparation of the Core Strategy Development Plan Document was a requirement of the new 'Local Development Framework' planning system established by the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. The Hartlepool Core Strategy would set out the key elements of the planning framework for the area and comprise a spatial vision and strategic objectives, spatial strategy and core policy. The publication of an Issues and Options discussion paper represents the first stage in the preparation of this Core Strategy.

Public consultation was currently being carried out on the Issues and Options discussion paper, allowing communities, organisations and businesses to have their say on what options should be used to deal with a range of spatial planning issues. The consultation began on 31st October and was due to end in January 2008. The discussion paper was available from the Civic Centre, Bryan Hanson House, Central Library and branch libraries. A number of drop in sessions had also been arranged at the Central Library when officers would be on hand to discuss the issues and answer questions.

Following the presentation the following questions/issues arose:

Resident Ray Waller felt the core issues were the nuclear power station and landfill sites. The Principal Planning Officer agreed that the power station was an important issue covered in the discussion document. He also explained that the Core Strategy would concentrate on spatial planning at this stage. Mr Waller felt another key issue was the type of housing which was being allowed and asked how unwanted developments could be stopped.

Councillor Pauline Laffey asked if new Government legislation would be taken into account during this process.

The Chair thanked the Principal Planning Officer for attending the meeting and answering questions.

44. PRESENTATION – PRIDE IN HARTLEPOOL

The Pride in Hartlepool Officer gave a brief presentation on the work carried out by Pride in Hartlepool. Members were advised that Pride in Hartlepool was a town wide initiative to encourage Hartlepool residents to get involved in improving their local area. Among the various schemes covered were:

- Developing and improving green space
- Spring Clean Hartlepool
- Adopt a Beach / Beachwatch
- Small grants scheme / Adopt a plot
- Environmental Education and Training
- Campaigns
- Environmental Business Scheme
- Reclaim Your Back Lane
- Pride in Hartlepool Awards

Examples were also given of local projects including Burbank Back Alley and Cobden Area Residents.

Following the presentation Councillor Victor Tumilty praised the Pride in Hartlepool initiative. However he felt that something more pro-active should be done to tackle the mess left by smokers, particularly since the smoking ban had come into force. This was felt to be a problem across the town with the Garlands Buildings on the Marina cited as a particular example. The Pride in Hartlepool Officer indicated that posters had been put up on this issue but they could not force people to be tidier. The possibility of including ashtrays on lampposts was also discussed. The Director of Neighbourhood Services advised that ashtrays were already included on the top of rubbish bins.

The Chair thanked the Pride in Hartlepool Officer for attending the meeting and answering questions.

45. DATE, TIME AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Central Neighbourhood Consultative Forum is to be held on Thursday 31st January 2008, commencing at 10.00am. The venue to be confirmed nearer the time.

LILLIAN SUTHERAN

CHAIR

WARDS

Elwick
Foggy Furze
Grange
Park
Rift House
Stranton

***CENTRAL POLICE &
COMMUNITY SAFETY
CONSULTATIVE FORUM***

6th September 2007

MINUTES OF THE MEETING



PRESENT:

Chair:	Councillor Lilian Sutheran	- Rift House Ward
	Councillor Jonathan Brash	- Burn Valley Ward
	Councillor Gerald Hall	- Burn Valley Ward
	Councillor Pauline Laffey	- Park Ward
	Councillor Frances London	- Foggy Furze Ward
	Councillor Carl Richardson	- Grange Ward
	Councillor Jane Shaw	- Stranton Ward
	Councillor Victor Tumilty	- Grange Ward

Resident Representatives:

Ted Jackson, Alan Lloyd, Brenda Loynes and Brian McBean

Residents: E Grint, J Harrison, D Kirkwood, G Johnson, S Johnson, M Lumley, J Lynch and J Rudge

Council Officers:

Jon Wright, Acting Neighbourhood Manager (Centre)
Sally Forth, Anti-Social Behaviour Co-ordinator
Joe Hogan, Crime and Disorder Co-ordinator
Jo Wilson, Democratic Services Officer

Cleveland Police Representatives:

Sergeant Campbell, PC Atherton, Pc Caulfield, PC Raine,
PCSO Handley, PCSO Jones, PCSO Porter, PCSO Salter and
PCSO Say.

Cleveland Fire Brigade Representative;
Ian Harrington

Housing Hartlepool Representatives:
Andy Elvidge and Angela Fusco

Safer Hartlepool Partnership Representative:
Sue Willoughby

UNITE Representative:

Wendy Edmondson

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors Stephen Akers-Belcher, Gordon Henery, George Morris, Robbie Payne, Chris Simmons and Gladys Worthy and Resident Representative Evelyn Leck.

2. MINUTES

Agreed subject to the following amendment –

Update from the police – That the reference made by Evelyn Leck to children playing football in Norfolk Walk be removed as this particular problem was only happening in Cornwall Street.

3. UPDATE FROM THE POLICE

Sergeant Catherine Campbell gave a brief update on policing issues. In the 12 months since the Neighbourhood Policing pilot scheme had been introduced crime figures had continued to drop steadily. Overall crime was down by 8% while the detection rate had increased by 36%. Details were also given of a recent MORI poll which showed that public awareness and appreciation of Neighbourhood Policing in the Cleveland Constabulary area was better than the national average.

Details were also given of the following crime reducing initiatives:

- Operation ASP – a single night multi-agency anti-social behaviour initiative involving the police, fire brigade, Anti-social Behaviour Unit and Housing Hartlepool. 287 people were stopped, 253 alcohol units were seized and 162 anti-social behaviour forms were issued

- Operation Hercules - targeting known lead thieves in known areas.
- Operation Stop Theft - increased visibility in Middleton Grange Shopping Centre and the Marina. Targeting known shoplifters.
- Operation Hammer – increased numbers of police between 7pm and 3am as this was a prime time for crime.
- 71 Grange Road – a multi-agency approach against a multi-occupancy house used as 7 bedsits. Multiple complaints had been received from residents.
- Borrowdale Street – 4 arrests in relation to drug dealing and drugs seized.

Sergeant Campbell also advised that Chief Constable Sean Price would be attending a public meeting at Hartlepool Historic Quay on Tuesday 2nd October at 6pm.

The Chair thanked Sergeant Campbell for attending the meeting and giving such a positive update.

4. UPDATE FROM THE FIRE BRIGADE

Ian Harrington, Station Manager for Stranton, gave a brief update on recent activity within the fire brigade. In the last 3 months the number of fires had continued to drop with deliberate car fires being the only increase. However this was qualified with the explanation that this only amounted to one extra car fire with a total of 8 during the period. Detailed statistical information was given

as to where these fires occurred with Foggy Furze and Stranton singled out as particular “hot spots” where mobile cameras were sited.

The Crime and Disorder Co-ordinator asked if any fires had taken place as a result of scrap metal theft. The Station Manager advised that fires had started around scrap metal thefts but it was hard to clarify which came first – the theft or the fire. The removal of floorboards was a particular danger to fire officers

Resident Representative Brian McBean referred to the problem of dwellings being boarded up at the back leaving only one means of escape. The Station Manager indicated that they had no legal jurisdiction over private houses but could identify such properties as high risk and send more fire appliances in an emergency.

The Chair thanked the Station Manager for attending the meeting and answering questions.

5. ALCOHOL DESIGNATED AREAS

Joe Hogan, Crime and Disorder Co-ordinator gave a brief presentation on alcohol designated areas. He advised that this had been introduced in 2001 and gave additional enforcement powers to the police. It was not a blanket drinking ban but did mean officers could confiscate alcohol if they suspected it was contributing to anti-social behaviour. In order to designate an area there needed to be evidence of anti-social behaviour and the areas chosen must be selective rather than town wide.

There were three phases to the process:

- Replacing the old byelaws
- Consideration of areas where people traditionally congregate (shops, playgrounds etc)

- Consideration of residential areas

Councillor Jonathan Brash requested clarification on what constituted ‘evidence’ in this case. The Crime and Disorder Co-ordinator advised that there was no specific definition in the guidelines but a handful of incidents would not be sufficient. Consultation would need to be carried out with the residents and their views would constitute evidence. This would then be brought before the Licensing Committee, along with any statistical information from the police, where the final decision would be made. Councillor Carl Richardson asked if the consultation would involve a whole street or just parts of it. The Crime and Disorder Co-ordinator felt there was no reason not to consult the whole street and the surrounding streets. Displacement had to be considered when deciding whether to make an area alcohol designated

Councillor Victor Tumilty referred to a previous suggestion whereby alcohol would be tagged to show which shop it had come from. Sergeant Campbell advised that consideration was being given to a similar scheme whereby the batch numbers of alcohol could be coupled up with the shop that sold it. This was simpler than tagging and had been used successfully previously.

Resident Representative Brian McBean asked that preference be given to residential areas rather than commercial areas as anti-social behaviour would have more of an impact on residents where they lived. Mr McBean also asked what powers the police had at the moment in relation to public drinking. Sergeant Campbell explained that police could only remove alcohol from people if they suspected they were under-age. Under alcohol designated areas it could be confiscated if it was contributing to anti-social behaviour. If those concerned

refused to hand it over this would constitute a criminal offence.

The Chair thanked the Crime and Disorder Co-ordinator for attending the meeting and answering questions.

6. UNITE COMMUNITY MEDIATION

Wendy Edmenson gave a brief presentation on UNITE. This was a free service available to all residents aimed at mediating in personal disputes with neighbours, landlords, businesses and the like. It was independent, impartial and confidential and issues previously dealt with included parking, noise, dogs barking and hedge size.

Trained local mediators would visit people in their own homes before arranging a meeting between the parties in a neutral venue. Clients would sign a personally worded agreement and the whole process would take no more than 23 days from referral to a mediator. Contact details were available at the meeting.

The Crime and Disorder Co-ordinator referred to previous experience in this area, saying mediation could stop trivial incidents escalating into something more serious. A lot of the time people being anti-social were unaware that they were doing it.

Resident Julie Rudge felt that the waiting period was too long. However Wendy Edmenson advised that it was best to wait given the free nature of the service.

Resident Representative Ted Jackson advised that he was personally aware of people who had used the service and been impressed.

The Chair thanked Wendy Edmenson for attending the meeting and answering questions

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS AGREED WITH THE CHAIR

The Anti-Social Behaviour Co-ordinator gave a brief presentation on the Off Road Motor Cycle Strategy for Hartlepool. There had been 800 reports in a 6-month period in 2006 and the increased availability of vehicles and lack of awareness as to where these could be legally ridden meant that this problem would only increase.

The primary objectives of the strategy were as follows:

- Research
- Reduce the illegal use of motorcycles
- Reduce the number of complaints
- Educate in their safe use

Details were also given of secondary objectives and the co-ordinated approach to the problem.

Resident Julie Rudge asked how the strategy would dealt with retailers. The Anti-Social Behaviour Co-ordinator advised that this was up to them but officers would ask that a legal notice be displayed at the point of sale.

LILIAN SUTHERAN

CHAIR

CENTRAL CONSULTATIVE FORUM 31 JANUARY 2008

RESPONSE TO FORUM ISSUES RAISED 29 NOVEMBER 2007

FOGGY FURZE WARD

1. Whitegates Centre - can something be done about the rubbish left around the Centre?

Longhill Business Liaison Manager has confirmed that Myros/Easy Skips, rather than the owners of Whitegates Centre, are identified as the perpetrator in this matter. The Council, the Health and Safety Executive and the Environment Agency are all pursuing action against the business in relation to lack of planning permissions and environmental licenses.

2. Studley Road - request for environmental scheme to address rubbish collecting on ground close to housing.

Consultation has been undertaken with local residents to determine their preferred option for a proposed environmental improvement in this area. The Minor Works Report to be considered by the Forum on 31st January includes costs to undertake the work required to complete this particular scheme.

GRANGE WARD

1. Sandringham Road/Angus Street - damage to kerbs, and recycling of white poly bags being left when should be collected.

Contact with Yuills has resulted in a reassurance that they will make good any damage to kerbs occasioned by them during the construction process. A site visit will take place week beginning 21st January to examine this particular issue.

Since the last forum a letter drop has taken place in the Blake/Briar Walk area to remind residents that poly bags should be placed at the same location as their wheelie bins. Bags that had been left out in the area were emptied at the same time.

2. Sheriff Street/Lynnfield School Field - request for letter drop to tackle dog fouling.

The Neighbourhood Action Team Manager has arranged a letter drop for Sheriff Street in relation to dog fouling, and follow up patrols by Enforcement Officers will be undertaken.

3. Stephen Street - request for black bags to be removed.

Black bags were removed immediately following the last Forum meeting. A number of FPNs for dog fouling and littering have been issued in this area and due to ongoing problems Council's Environmental Enforcement Officers continue to closely monitor this area.

PARK WARD

1. Park Avenue - request to move quickly on the issue of resident parking permits.

This request will be actioned before the end of January. However it should be borne in mind that the results of the consultation will need to be considered alongside current, and any future car parking provision planned for the area. The Ward Jackson Park is a town wide facility and adequate parking needs to be provided.

2. Ward Jackson Park - request for CCTV and lighting in the Park to address vandalism, the restoration of the bowling green, repairs to the park clock to stop it from sticking, and the replacement of the Willow tree.

The bowling green is maintained at all times and will be ready for the start of the new season.

Continuing problems with the park clock have been investigated and the only option appears to be a complete replacement of the workings. HBC Parks will look to undertake this piece of work in the next financial year along with replacing the Willow tree which will be planted in the next growing season.

Options for lighting in the Park and CCTV are currently being drawn up. A meeting will be arranged in the next few weeks with Councillors, Resident Representatives, and Friends of Ward Jackson Park to discuss these options and potential funding sources.

3. Tarnston Road - request for bus shelters at Tarnston Road & Aldi and further request for more regular emptying of bins. Concerns that a neighbour is being intimidated by pro-alleygate supporters.

There are no major services that call at the Aldi bus stop since the removal of Stagecoach service 8 and this would not appear justify an additional shelter. Although the bus stop at Tarnston Road has 4 buses calling per hour up to 5pm, and 2 thereafter, a shelter on the opposite side of the road was removed in the recent past at the request of residents due to complaints relating to anti-social behaviour. Therefore any future proposal is likely to meet with objections from residents living within its immediate vicinity who would need to be consulted.

The Council's cleansing teams currently empty the bins in this area three times a week. There are no plans to increase this due to other competing demands across the Central area; however larger bins are being purchased to replace the existing bins on this route. These bins will hold treble the capacity of litter in comparison to those currently provided, and will therefore assist in alleviating the problem of overflowing bins.

Issues around Intimidation in this area related to the Mounston Close gate have been passed to the Police who are closely monitoring the area.

4. Wooler Road - request for a crossing from 'The Parade' into town.

The possibility of improving pedestrian crossing in this area has been looked at previously. The splitter island itself cannot be improved upon in order to cater for pedestrians because

the road is not wide enough. Locating a crossing on either approach to the roundabout is also precluded due to the blocking of private driveways, and Whitehouse car park access.

RIFT HOUSE WARD

1. Catcote Road/Oxford Road - request for crossing to the front of the shopping parade to be removed as dangerous.

A bid to Tees Valley Joint Strategy Unit through the 'Bus Corridor Improvement Programme' that aims to improve primary bus routes, highlights signalling the Catcote and Oxford Road junction with pedestrian phases as a priority. Should this bid be successful, work will begin on this scheme in the next financial year, and the existing crossing at the front of the shopping parade will be removed.

2. Masefield Road - request for loose speed signs to be secured.

The speed signs on Masefield Road have now been secured.

3. Rift House Flats - problem with pavement

The Forum will be aware that works have previously been undertaken in this area to rectify issues in relation to the grass verge. As the flats on Thackeray Road are due to be demolished, and further development in the area under consideration, neither HBC or Housing Hartlepool consider it prudent at this stage to invest any further in an attempt to address this issue.

4. Longfellow Walk/Fletcher Walk/Turner Walk - request commitment from Forum to invest in this area.

A site visit has taken place with local Councillors and residents, and potential funding sources are being investigated to address environmental issues in this area. This is likely to include a minor works scheme which will be considered by the Forum in the new financial year.

5. Brierton School Building - request for further information on plans for CCTV at school site following the decision to close the school.

Following investigation by HBCs CCTV Officer it is likely that one of the cameras at this site will be re-located to the Catcote Shops to address ongoing issues around anti-social behaviour. Funding support is being provided by the Burn Valley/Rift House NAP Forum and their Resident Priority Fund. It is anticipated that relocation will take place before the end of the financial year.

6. Teesbrooke Avenue/Tynebrooke Avenue - request for lighting on the corner of these two streets.

The street lighting engineer has investigated this request and has advised that lighting in this area is deemed to be adequate with other areas in the vicinity being of greater priority.

STRANTON WARD

1. Young Street - request that the cobbled area in the back street is made safe.

A Minor Works Scheme has been drawn up to address this issue. This will be considered by the Forum on 31st January 2008.

2. York Road Takeaways - request for action to tackle litter from takeaways overflowing storage bins - Siciliano's and Indian Cottage.

Environmental Enforcement Officers have visited these premises to express concern relating to inappropriate waste receptacles, and to warn businesses of the possibility of enforcement action if current regulations in relation to trade waste are not adhered to.

3. Church Street - tree sap damage causing pedestrian walkway to become slippery at north end.

This area of Church Street has been jet washed since the last forum. Regular washing is undertaken in this area to prevent the risk of slipping on the pedestrian walkway.

4. St Joseph's Court - footpath and camber on Victoria Road/South Road

The footpath on Victoria Road/South Road is now complete. Resurfacing to address the camber has been programmed into next year's highways budget.

5. Middleton Grange Shopping Centre - request for lifts to be repaired.

Two out of the three lifts in the shopping centre are currently operational and the third will be repaired in February. However a major refurbishment of the lifts is due to commence towards the end of the financial year.

6. Park Road/Osborne Road – problem with overflowing bins, concern that street cleaning and refuse collections are uncoordinated, concern that the agency contracted to collect refuse are making a mess and should be fined where this is happening.

The overflowing bin on Park Road has been taped up to prevent usage whilst building works continue in this area. Street sweeping on Park Road now takes place after refuse collection, and the recycling contractor has been reminded of responsibilities in relation to collection of waste. This is being monitored by the Refuse Supervisor.

7. Park Road/York Road - loose paving stones, drainage issues, cars parking on pavement.

A scheme to address drainage issues in relation to Titan House corner will be completed before the end of the financial year. It is also acknowledged by the Council that loose paving on York Road is an important issue that needs to be addressed. However this will involve significant investment and is likely to form part of a rolling programme. The Central Neighbourhood Co-ordinator is currently costing a number of options in relation to this issue and will report back at a later date to the Forum. Issues in relation to cars parking on the pavement have been passed to HBC Highway Enforcement Officers to monitor and enforce where necessary.

BURN VALLEY WARD

1. Elwick Road - several lamp posts still need painting.

This action will be addressed in the forthcoming Operation Clean Sweep week commencing 11 February 2008.

2. Burn Valley Gardens - request for height to be checked on railings to replace existing wall - concern possibly too high.

HBC Parks have advised that height of the railings is necessary for safety and security purposes.

3. Eltringham Road - request that repairs to be carried out to potholes.

This action will be carried out before the end of the financial year

4. Alston Street - request to remove flower bases.

This request will be addressed during the next Operation Clean Sweep if the Forum recommend approval to the Portfolio Holder for monies from the Minor Works Budget to go ahead with the scheme.

5. Back Alleys - request that street cleaners do the sides of alley ways.

The need for environmental operators to make sure that the full breadth of alleyways are properly cleansed has been reiterated to the Central Area Cleansing teams through the Central Area Cleansing Supervisor.

6. Kimberley Street - request for enforcement action against resident filling other resident's bins with rubbish.

Environmental Enforcement Officers and Cleansing teams have paid particular attention to this area since the last Forum meeting and have been monitoring levels of waste in rear alleyways. The result of this investigation is that there appears to be relatively few problems identified that would warrant any further action. However this particular part of Burn Valley Ward will benefit from a 'Operation Clean Sweep' week beginning 11 February when any outstanding issues will be picked up.

7. Colenso Street - request for loose brickwork around flower bed to be addressed.

The loose brickwork around the flower bed in question in Colenso Street will be repaired during the aforementioned 'Operation Cleansweep.'

8. Elwick Road - request for traffic barrier to be installed from Flaxton Street to address ongoing traffic problems on Elwick Road.

A traffic barrier installed at this location is unlikely to gain the consent of businesses on this particular part of Elwick Road. An alternative option is to introduce a lay-by. The costs of a new lay-by at this location are being investigated by the Central Neighbourhood Co-ordinator. Meanwhile, Highways Enforcement Officers have been asked to pay particular attention to this stretch of Elwick road, and exercise enforcement powers where appropriate.

9. Elwick Road/York Road - drivers reversing directly into traffic lights.

This is a Police enforcement issue and as such has been passed to the Police to monitor.

10. Blakelock Road - request for restriction on traffic speed near the sixth form college.

Speed restriction signs have been ordered for this area and will be installed in February.

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.

Band 1+	
Category	Definition
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.)

Band 1	
Category	Definition
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.

Band 2	
Category	Definition
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.

Band 3	
Category	Definition
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.

Band 4	
Category	Definition
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@housinghertlepool.org.uk or lynda.igoe@hertlepool.gov.uk

Report of: Director of Adult and Community Services

Subject: INDOOR LEISURE FACILITY STRATEGY

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 H₂O 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 H₂O 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 H₂O 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 900m² 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 H₂O 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 H₂O 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 H₂O 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 H₂O 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>
Scheme	Do nothing	Minimum	Optimum	Maximum	Replace Existing
Capital Costs	£4.5 to £5 million	H ₂ O £26m plus schools additions for community use £625,000 Total £26.63m	As Option Two plus Brierton pool £4.5-5.2m Total £31m to £32m	As Option Three plus North Pool £3.4m Total £34m to £35m	H ₂ O £26m plus new pools/ community use at schools £3.5m each Total £43.5m
Revenue Costs	Increasing as buildings age	H ₂ 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 H₂O 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/H₂O 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 H₂O 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 H₂O 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 (Central)

Subject: MINOR WORKS PROPOSALS

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

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

2.0 BACKGROUND / CURRENT POSITION

The total available spend on the Minor Works schemes 2007/08 is £87,000, and the total committed spend to date is £72,752. However money approved by the Forum for a bulb planting scheme on Musgrave Walk (£1,400) at their November meeting is no longer required leaving a total committed spend to date of £71,352. With monies from this latter scheme entered back into the overall budget, the total minor works budget available to spend is £15,648.

3.0 PROPOSED SCHEMES

- 3.1 A number of schemes are detailed below to address concerns raised by Elected Members, Residents' Representatives, and residents in the Central Forum area.

3.2 (i) Alston Street

Members will recall that at the last Consultative Forum a resident of Burn Valley Ward requested that the remains of an old flower bed on Alston Street be removed in its entirety. Removal of the existing plinth will provide additional parking in the street and improve the aesthetics of the area. Should the Forum recommend this scheme for approval works will be undertaken during the next Central Forum Operation Clean Sweep week beginning 11th February 2008.

Total cost £1,500.00
Cost to Forum £1,500.00

(ii) Young Street

Residents and Ward Councillor have identified through a visual audit that the cobbled entrance to the rear alleyway of Yong Street/Dent Street together with the general footpath condition is poor, in disrepair, and presenting a risk to pedestrian safety. The scheme will make good this area by resurfacing with tarmac.

The NDC Neighbourhood Panel will consider a contribution of £2,000.00 towards this scheme on 30th January.

Total cost £4,000.00

Cost to Forum £2,000.00

(iii) Dryden Road/Swift Grove

A section of grassed verge on the corner of Dryden Road/Swift Grove is damaged by cars parking on it, and the narrow width of roads in this area means that car parking congestion presents a continuing problem. This scheme will therefore replace the grass verge with tarmac hardstanding to improve the aesthetics of the area, and assist with alleviating problems with parking congestion.

Total cost £1,850.00

Total cost to Forum £1,850.00

(iv) Elwick Village

Elwick Parish Council has requested financial assistance from the Forum that will assist them to repair the wooden bridge over the beck in the Playing Field in the Village. The area has been made safe but the timbers need replacing. The cost of replacing timbers is £600. Trees on the village green are also in need of extensive work. This will involve crown lifting, pruning and pollarding. The costs associated with this piece of work are £690

Total cost £1,290.00

Total cost to Forum £1,290.00

(v) Ruskin Grove

This scheme is aimed at tackling parking congestion in Ruskin Grove. The need to provide additional parking in the grove has been identified through the Rift House Burn Valley/ Neighbourhood Action Plan and Forum. The proposal is to remove the grassed verge on the right hand side of the grove and replace with tarmac hardstanding.

The Rift House Burn Valley Forum has agreed to contribute £2,500.00 towards this scheme.

Total cost £7,000.00

Total cost to Forum £4,500.00

(vi) Studley Road

At the last Forum a Resident Representative identified a grassed area adjacent to the new build bungalows on Studley Road that was unkempt, collecting rubbish and in need of an environmental improvement. Following consultation with residents in the immediate area this scheme will replace the small grassed area which is serving no real purpose with tarmac. This will improve the environmental quality of the area through reduced levels of litter collecting, and render the area easier to cleanse.

Total cost £1,500.00

Total cost to the Forum £ 1,500.00

(vii) Vicarage Court Footpath

This scheme involves the construction of a small footpath across the grassed area to the front of Vicarage Court which will enable elderly residents to walk safely as they enter and exit Vicarage Court.

Total cost £350.00
Total cost to Forum £350.00

4.0 RECOMMENDATION

- 4.1 Members are asked to recommend approval of the above expenditure to the Portfolio Holder for Neighbourhoods and Communities.

Total cost of proposed schemes	£12,990
Total spend to date if schemes are approved	£84,342
Total Fund available	£87,000
Total Fund remaining	£ 2,658