

# PLEASE NOTE VENUE

## SOUTH NEIGHBOURHOOD CONSULTATIVE FORUM AGENDA



Friday 1<sup>st</sup> February 2008

at 10.00 am

in Owton Rossmere Resource Centre  
Wynyard Road, Hartlepool

MEMBERS: SOUTH NEIGHBOURHOOD CONSULTATIVE FORUM:

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

Resident Representatives:

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

1. **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 South Neighbourhood Consultative Forum meeting held on 30<sup>th</sup> November 2007 (*attached*)
  - 4.2 To receive the minutes of the South Police and Community Safety Consultative Forum meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> September 2007 (*attached*)
  - 4.3 Matters arising
5. **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

# PLEASE NOTE VENUE

## 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*
- 6.3 Draft One – Rossmere Neighbourhood Action Plan (NAP) Update – *Head of Regeneration*

## 7. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION / INFORMATION

- 7.1 Indoor Leisure Facility Strategy – *Director of Adult and Community Services*
- 7.2 Scrutiny Investigation – ‘Seaton Carew – Regeneration Needs and Opportunities’ – *Chair of the Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum*

## 8. ITEMS FOR DECISION

- 8.1 Minor Works Proposals – *Neighbourhood Manager (South)*
- 8.2 Jutland Road Play Area – *Parks and Countryside Manager*

## 9. WARD ISSUES

## 10. DATE, TIME AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the South Neighbourhood Consultative Forum is to be held on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2008 commencing at 10am at Owton Rossmere Resource Centre, Wynyard Road.

**WARDS**

Fens  
Greatham  
Owton  
Rossmere  
Seaton

# ***SOUTH NEIGHBOURHOOD CONSULTATIVE FORUM***

**30 November 2007**

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



The meeting commenced at 10.00 am in Owton Rossmere Resource Centre, Hartlepool

<b>PRESENT:</b>
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Vice Chair: Mary Green (Resident Representative) (In the Chair)

Councillor Shaun Cook	- Rossmere Ward
Councillor Bob Flintoff	- Owton Ward
Councillor Cath Hill	- Seaton Ward
Councillor Marjorie James	- Owton Ward
Councillor Geoff Lilley	- Greatham Ward
Councillor Ann Marshall	- Rossmere Ward
Councillor Arthur Preece	- Fens Ward
Councillor Michael Turner	- Seaton Ward
Councillor Gerald Wistow	- Owton Ward

Resident Representatives:

Ann Butterfield, Rose Kennedy and David Rowe

Public: Dorothy Clark, J Smith and M and J Unwin

Officers:

David Frame, South Neighbourhood Manager  
Paul Mitchinson, Highway Services Manager  
Graham Frankland, Head of Procurement and Property Services  
Peter Frost, Traffic Team Leader  
Tom Britcliffe, Principal Planning Officer  
Gemma Clough, Principal Regeneration Officer  
Keeley Metcalfe, Pride in Hartlepool Officer  
Sue McBride, Neighbourhood Development Officer (South)  
Emily Lawty, Development Assistant  
Colin Kay, Dog Control Warden  
Jo Wilson, Democratic Services Officer  
Sarah Bird, Democratic Services Officer

Police Representatives: Sgt Jonathan Wrigley, PC Helen Barron, John Southcott and Mark Watson

Housing Hartlepool: L Crebbin

**36 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Steve Gibbon, Mick Johnson and Allison Lilley and Resident Representatives Mike McKie and Michael Ward.

**37. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None

**38. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 12 OCTOBER 2007**

The minutes were confirmed.

**39. MATTERS ARISING**

There were no Matters Arising

**40. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

Sergeant Wrigley advised that during a recent operation 2 off-road bikes had been seized and more operations of this kind were planned for the near future. Councillor Marjorie James applauded these efforts and requested that a purge be carried out in January to catch those people who would receive vehicles as Christmas presents. The issue of finding an area for off-road bikes to be used legally was discussed. The Neighbourhood Manager (South) indicated that this had been raised at the last South Police and Community Safety Forum as something which should be given consideration by Council but there had been problems with insurance. Councillor Geoff Lilley referred to successful schemes in Kent and Peterborough, urging officers to find ways to circumvent the insurance problem. The Neighbourhood Manager (South) advised that a meeting of the Motorcycle Strategy Group would be taking place on

Friday 14<sup>th</sup> December where this issue would be discussed.

**41. PRESENTATION – LINKS (LOCAL INVOLVEMENT NETWORKS)**

The Head of Procurement and Property Services 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:

Councillor Marjorie James felt that the issue was social care and inclusion to enable people to have the services they want in their homes. She felt LINKs would result in 2 organisations fulfilling the same criteria and would be a waste of money. It might be better to use LINKs to

deliver services that were not already delivered by an existing group.

Councillor James also queried who would select the host organisation and why the consultation period was so short. The Head of Procurement and Property Services was in agreement regarding the tight timescales but indicated that this had been fixed by the Government. The host organisation would be chosen by a Panel of representatives from each Local Authority, the Primary Care Trust, voluntary sector and community sector. Councillor Geoff Lilley asked if the PPI would be included on the Panel and was advised that this would be the case. Councillor Lilley further requested that Age Concern be involved.

#### **42. 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 Marjorie James fully supported the proposed Orders but felt it could lead to irresponsible owners chaining their dogs up in the back streets. She also commented that a number of areas had been missed, including cemeteries and graveyards. The Dog Warden advised that dogs must be on a lead in all town cemeteries. Councillor Cath Hill felt there should be a total ban on dogs in cemeteries but the results of the consultation had shown a 50:50 split on this issue.

Councillor Shaun Cook requested an update on the legal position in relation to restraining dogs outside shops. The Dog Control Warden indicated that there was no law on this issue.

Councillor Cath Hill commented that many dog owners flouted the existing byelaws, specifically in Seaton Park. The Dog Control Warden indicated that the current byelaws were very difficult to enforce whereas the proposed dog control orders would be considerably easier. Signage would be erected advising owners of the consequences.

A query was made as to why school fields were not on the list. The Dog Control Warden explained that the permission of the head teacher was needed. He referred to one particular school which actively encouraged dog owners to let dogs use their field. This was felt by several of the Councillors to be an unacceptable state of affairs. Councillor Marjorie James acknowledged that schools were responsible for their budgets and land but if their actions were causing a problem the Council had a duty to intervene. The Dog Control Warden advised that the school had taken this action to prevent previous problems they had had with vandalism but Councillor

Gerald Wistow felt this suggested the school could be overridden. Vandalism should be dealt with, not bought off. The Neighbourhood Manager (South) commented that the school did police the land in order to keep it to an acceptable state but the Council could prosecute should this be deemed necessary. The Dog Control Warden advised that officers had tried to take enforcement action but had been asked to leave by the school. However Councillor Wistow felt this was inappropriate when the problem had not been resolved.

A resident asked how third party allegations were dealt with. The Dog Control Warden advised that witness statements were taken but complainants had to be prepared to give evidence in court.

A resident requested information on the law with regard to dog breeding. The Dog Control Warden advised that up to 3 dogs could be bred in a private house without a licence but commercial breeders needed a licence.

Resident Dorothy Clark commented that she had never seen a dog warden in Greatham. She cited a number of problems with dogs in the village specifically in the vicinity of the Post Office and Park. Councillor Geoff Lilley indicated that letters had been sent out previously to identified offenders. Councillor Lilley went on to praise the proposed Dog Control Orders, commenting that he hoped a similarly strict approach would be taken against children who were not under control.

The Chair thanked the Dog Control Warden for attending the meeting and answering 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 31<sup>st</sup> 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:

Councillor Geoff Lilley asked what weight would be put to the views of village residents who could be affected by the future expansion of the town. The Principal Planning Officer advised that officers were aware that this was an emotive issue and all viewpoints would be considered. Nothing had been ruled in or out.

Councillor Marjorie James commented that there should be checks and balances on the development of flats, citing the Golden Flatts development as a particular example of a development out of place. Councillor James further felt that there were issues with the availability of flats for young people in the outlying villages.

Councillor Cath Hill expressed disappointment that all consultations were taking place at the Central Library. The Principal Planning Officer acknowledged that this could have been better thought but it was the biggest venue in the town with the best public transport accessibility.

Resident Joan Unwin felt the timescale for comment was unreasonable and questioned why the material had not been available in November as promised. The Principal Planning Officer reported that copies had been sent out to the Library on time. When he had been advised that they were not at the library replacement copies had been taken by hand by council officers.

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 Jutland Road Youth Group and Seaton Carew Nursery.

Resident Dorothy Clark asked why the tree screen had been removed from the Queens Meadow Business Park. The Neighbourhood Manager (South) advised that plans were in place to replace these trees with more relevant species which would improve the appearance of this site. Councillor Geoff Lilley further reported that a planning application had recently been passed for another part of the Business Park and as part of this mature trees would be replaced with better quality trees.

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

#### **45. MINOR WORKS PROPOSALS**

The Neighbourhood Manager (South) reported on the following proposals for funding from the minor works budget.

Verge Re-instatement with Bitmac at the following locations –

- a. 2-14 Claymore Road - £6,109
- b. 1-24 Saltaire Terrace - £6525.89

The proposals were supported by the forum and would be presented to the Neighbourhoods and Communities Portfolio Holder for final approval

#### **46. M BLOCK TRAFFIC CALMING**

The Traffic Team Leader advised that a petition has been submitted to the Traffic and Transportation Section requesting traffic calming in Moffat Road. Further discussions with ward Councillors had led to proposals being drawn up to cover the whole of the M block, in particular Macrae Road. The proposed scheme would consist of a series of road humps and a 20mph zone covering the area. Full consultation with residents and ward Councillors would take place should funding be approved by the forum.

The total cost of the scheme would be £35,000. £10,000 had been requested from the Owton NAP Forum, £5,000 from the Local Transport Plan and £5,000 from Housing Hartlepool. Members were asked to agree the final £15,000 contribution from the Consultative Forum needed to complete the scheme.

Councillor Marjorie James confirmed that the residents would support the scheme in any future consultation.

The proposal was supported by the forum and, subject to a successful consultation exercise, would be presented to the Neighbourhoods and Communities Portfolio Holder for final approval

#### **47. OWTON NEIGHBOURHOOD ACTION PLAN (NAP) UPDATE (FINAL FOR ENDORSEMENT)**

A detailed report of the Head of Regeneration was presented by the Principal Regeneration Officer. This sought endorsement of the Neighbourhood Action Plan Update for the Owton area. A summary document of the plan was attached highlighting the priority concerns of the local community and the actions to address them with the complete plan available to anyone who requested it.

The Forum endorsed the report.

#### **48. WARD ISSUES**

**Parking** – Councillor Geoff Lilley requested an update on the Parking Working Group of Members which had been mentioned at previous meetings. The Highway Services Manager indicated that the group would be formed by February 2008.

**Post office closures** – Councillor Geoff Lilley referred to plans by the Post Office to carry out a review of their services. Councillor Marjorie James commented that this was a crucial issue and suggested consideration be given to the joint Neighbourhood Forum on this issue. The Neighbourhood Manager (South) would discuss this with the 3 chairs.

**Coastal Protection** – Councillor Mike Turner advised that the budget available for coastal protection engineering was limited and proposed a motion to garner the Forum's support as follows:

"This Forum asks the Cabinet to accept Neighbourhood Services budgetary pressure proposals for the Coastal Protection Budget"

The motion was supported by the Forum.

#### **49. NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the South Area Police and Community Safety Consultative Forum will be held on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2008 commencing at 10am at Owton Rossmere Resource Centre, Wynyard Road.

The next meeting of the South Neighbourhood Consultative forum would be held on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> February 2008 commencing at 10.00am at the Owton Rossmere Resource Centre, Wynyard Road, Hartlepool.

Councillor Marjorie James commended the Vice-Chair, Resident Representative Mary Green, on her chairing of the meeting.

MARY GREEN

CHAIR

**WARDS**

Fens  
Greatham  
Owton  
Rossmere  
Seaton

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

**7 September 2007**

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

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



<b>PRESENT:</b>
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Chair: Councillor Michael Johnson - Rossmere Ward

Vice Chair: Resident Representative Mary Green

Councillor Bob Flintoff	- Owton Ward
Councillor Michael Johnson	- Rossmere Ward
Councillor Alison Lilley	- Fens Ward
Councillor Geoff Lilley	- Greatham Ward
Councillor Ann Marshall	- Rossmere Ward
Councillor Arthur Preece	- Fens Ward
Councillor Michael Turner	- Seaton Ward
Councillor Gerald Wistow	- Owton Ward
Councillor David Young	- Seaton Ward

Resident Representatives:

Ann Butterfield, Rose Kennedy, David Rowe, Iris Ryder and Michael Ward.

Residents: S Hotham, H Oxley, D M Clark, S Kell.

Officers:

- David Frame, South Neighbourhood Manager
- Dave Mitchell, Neighbourhood Coordinator
- Sue McBride, Neighbourhood Development Officer (South)
- Sally Forth, Anti-Social Behaviour Coordinator
- Joe Hogan, Crime and Disorder Coordinator
- Sue Grey, South Anti-Social Behaviour Officer
- Sue Willoughby, Safer Hartlepool Partnership

Housing Hartlepool Representative: Libby Griffiths.

Cleveland Police Representatives: Sgt Jonathan Wrigley, PC Helen Barron.

Cleveland Fire Brigade Representatives: Ian Harrington and Kevin Readhead.

**Resident Representative Mary Green  
(Vice-Chair) in the Chair.**

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Steve Gibbon, Cath Hill and Marjorie James and resident representative Michael McKie.

**2. MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 13 April 2007 were confirmed.

**3. MATTERS ARISING**

Councillor G Lilley referred to minute 21 and asked when Steve Ashman would be attending a meeting of the forum. David Frame reported that the Chair had written to Supt. Ashman asking if he would attend a future meeting.

**4. 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 South 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.

F3 – deliberately set “anti-social behaviour fires” – there had been 68 in the district.

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.

Ian Harrington indicated that the Owton Ward had been designated a Fire Safety Zone due to the number of incidents. Fire Officers worked closely with local Police and had requested increased patrols to combat deliberately set fires. There had also been incidents of crews being attacked when attending incidents. All Fire vehicles had CCTV installed recording from the time the vehicle left the station.

Ian Harrington did stress that in comparison to other districts, the Hartlepool figures were quite low and the percentage increases tended to only reveal a few additional incidents being recorded.

As a ward councillor, Councillor Wistow was concerned at the statistics for the Owton Ward and asked if any specific individuals had been identified as causing the problems reported. Mr Harrington indicated that the ward was monitored closely and had a concentrated service provision through increased police patrols and fire assessments etc. The ‘Play with Football not with Fire’ campaign had also been implemented in the ward with young school children. In conjunction with Housing Hartlepool homes had been visited to carry out free fire safety assessments and installing free fire

alarms for those that didn't have them. Commercial premises were also being visited as part of the campaign.

Kevin Readhead updated the forum on the situation at Seaton Meadows Waste Disposal site. In April and May, the brigade had attended the site eight times to deal with fires. The Brigade was working closely with the Environment Agency, as the site was becoming a significant draw on resources. The site had been served with an enforcement notice that gave the site management a list of works that needed to be undertaken. It was estimated that it would take 6-9 months for the company to comply in full with the notice. In the short-term, improvements had been made and the brigade had only had to attend the site once in the last three months.

Councillor Turner commented that there were many conflicting views as to the causes of the fires and asked if the Fire Officers could indicate if the fires were deliberately set or accidental. Mr Readhead commented that it was difficult to investigate these fires. It was considered that most were naturally occurring from the waste in the ground; the site was a long way from residential areas and he couldn't see children or youths going there to set fires.

Councillor Turner asked if the fire was still burning on the site. Mr Readhead indicated that it was not. It had been burning in a cell in the site but that had been capped and flooded and the fire was out. The site in general was quite a dangerous area for fire crews to operate, due to ground conditions and not knowing what was burning.

Councillor G Lilley understood that the cells were walled off using shredded tyres, were they not a fire risk. Mr Readhead commented that the site was

using shredded tyres for both drainage and walling off cells. They were not a fire risk.

Resident Representative Iris Ryder commented that the Planning inspector had recently approved another planning application for the site which included conditions for the new way the site would operate that would involve the Council and the Environment Agency in monitoring. Ina Harrington indicated that he considered that the Fire Brigade's recent action against the management of the site had caused them to act to improve the management of the site and materials on it.

**Councillor Johnson in the Chair.**

## **5. POLICE UPDATE**

Sgt Jonathan Wrigley reported on the crime figures for the south area for August 2006 through to July 2007. In general, total crime was down 8.1% with the detection rate up over 30%. Some figures had increased; robbery, vehicle crime, other crime and criminal damage. However, the vehicle crime increase related to only one additional vehicle. Criminal damage was becoming a particular problem and Sgt Wrigley reported that in the central area a group of children had been caught spray-painting cars in Surtees Street.

Sgt Wrigley referred to a recently published MORI survey that showed that the public perception of Cleveland Police was above the national average and in the top quartile of all local police authorities.

Sgt Wrigley also reported on Operation Asp at the end of June, which 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.

In Rossmere Park the new lighting had been completed and bushes thinned out. Youths were continuing to drink in the park but patrols were regularly going in and confiscating drink. There was concern that this activity was spilling out into the nearby residential areas.

No further problems had been reported at Brierton Allotments and the allotment holders were setting up a watch group.

A number of mini-moto and off-road bikes had been seized. There was to be an operation tackling these problems later in the month in the south area.

Drug usage and selling seemed to be on the increase in the Owton area. The drugs team were aware of the problem and actively tackling it. However, as with most drug related crime, the Police relied on the public to pass on any information and Sgt Wrigley sought the forums support in reporting any drugs matters to the Jutland Road office on 861678.

Resident Representative Mary Green indicated that she had reported a number of incidents of pigeons being shot in the green areas near McCrae Road. Sgt Wrigley indicated that officers would be looking into these incidents.

Councillor G Lilley referred to the ward crime figures and questioned the burglary figures for Greatham. Sgt Wrigley indicated that these referred to the Sharwood factory site. The problem had reduced dramatically following the installation of a new security camera.

Councillor G Lilley referred to incidents of anti-social behaviour in the Spillsby Close area. He also referred to milkmen having delivered milk stolen from doorsteps.

This had been reported to the Police but the milkman had commented that he didn't think the issue had been taken seriously.

Councillor Lilley also reported what he considered a statutory nuisance, which was the smell coming from the Northumbrian Water treatment plant that was affecting people living in Greatham. David Frame indicated that he would refer the matter to the Public Protection team.

Resident Representative Iris Ryder raised concern in relation to response times, particularly for ambulances and cited a recent incident, which the Chair undertook to discuss further with her.

Councillor A Marshall asked if the Police now had keys to Rossmere Park and if they would publicise the names of those who were fined for consuming alcohol in the park. Sgt Wrigley indicated that they were discussing the issue of keys with the Council's security contractors, NES.

Councillor Young reported problems of motorcycles around the Tees Road Retail Park and the fact there seemed to be a regular meeting on a Saturday morning. Sgt Wrigley indicated that he had noted the report. The Chair considered that the problem was there was nowhere for people to go to ride mini-motos and off-road motorcycles. Councillor G Lilley reported that Durham Police had become involved in organising regular events where owners of mini-motos could go to ride their bikes. Sgt Wrigley indicated that he would contact Durham Police to discuss the matter further.

Councillor Turner commented that because of the limited resources of the police motorcycle team, operations had to be planned weeks ahead; could Hartlepool not have its own team based here to deal with the problems we had. Sgt Wrigley commented that he would

like greater access to the motorcycle squad but did inform the forum that they would be in the town shortly.

Councillor Wistow formally proposed that the forum request that the Executive look to the possibility of finding land for the provision of a recreational off-road motorcycling facility in Hartlepool in an area acceptable to local residents. After discussion on the issues relating to the provision of such a facility, the forum supported the proposal.

Councillor Wistow stated that the on average Police in Cleveland and the Northeast do better than other forces but are rarely recognised for their work. Councillor Wistow noted from the presentation that crime figures in the Owton ward were up and asked what action was being taken. Sgt Wrigley stated that three officers were now based in the Owton area. There had been problems over recent months when cover had been down to one officer. Councillor Wistow also reported the problems being caused by the illegal drinking that was taking place behind the M Block area would be highlighted.

A resident pointed out that the CCTV camera at St Peters Shops appeared to be out of order as it was pointing into the trees. In addition, the phone box at the shops was being used as drugs ordering and delivery point. This had been reported to the Police but nothing appeared to have happened. Sgt Wrigley indicated he would report the CCTV camera to the control centre and report the drugs activity to the drugs squad.

Councillor A Lilley reported that the anti-social behaviour problems in the Upton Walk area had peaked again. Residents were reporting particular problems in the late evening. Sgt Wrigley indicated he would pass the issue on to the local beat officers.

The Chair thanked Sgt Wrigley for the presentation and asked for updates on the issue raised to be reported to the next meeting.

## **6. 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 to the forum, Sue Grey, the Anti-Social Behaviour Officer for the south area.

The key statistics for the south area were:-

ASB Cases by ward:

Fens	3
Owton	8
Rossmere	7
Seaton	4

A total 22 cases were closed in the period (147 Borough wide)

Currently 13 cases were open (89 Borough wide)

The types of issues/complaints:-

Animal related	1
Substance misuse	1
Football nuisance	2
Intimidation/ Harassment	3
Noise	5
Nuisance behaviour	2
Rowdy behaviour	7
Vehicle related	1

ASBO/CRASBO statistics:-

- 2 ASBOs obtained.
- Total number of active ASBO/ CRASBOs – 3 ( 34 Boroughwide )
- 2 current Acceptable Behaviour Contracts and 1 current Acceptable Behaviour Agreement. (Currently 22 ABAs and ABCs boroughwide )

- Working with 3 Families under the Family Intervention Project

Sally Forth indicated that future statistics to the Forum would be done in conjunction with Housing Hartlepool who also deal with many ASB referrals. It was highlighted that the anti-social behaviour problems in the south were relatively less than the other areas of the town.

## **7. 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 byelaws, 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.

## **8. UNITE COMMUNITY MEDIATION**

Jayne Grey 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 34 cases in Hartlepool in the last year. The Chair thanked Jayne Grey for her presentation to the forum.

## **9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

The forum was informed that Neighbourhood Watch was being re-launched and everyone who was interested in being involved was invited to the re-launch event at The Peoples Centre on 13 September at 10.00am.

A resident expressed concern at Council Officers who were undertaking the update of the electoral roll calling on residents in the evening. Sgt Wrigley commented that the Police had received calls and advice had been passed onto the Electoral Registration Team in the council.

A resident raised repeated problems of people parking cars across crossing points. David Frame commented that the issue had been reported to the Police and there was a possibility of yellow lines being introduced to alleviate the problem.

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@housinghertlepool.org.uk](mailto:margaret.scott@housinghertlepool.org.uk) or [lynda.igoe@hertlepool.gov.uk](mailto:lynda.igoe@hertlepool.gov.uk)**

**Report of:** Head of Regeneration

**Subject:** DRAFT ONE: ROSSMERE NEIGHBOURHOOD  
ACTION PLAN (NAP) UPDATE

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**1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To seek comments on draft one of the Rossmere Neighbourhood Action Plan (NAP) Update.

**2.0 BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 Neighbourhood Action Plans are the local elements of the Hartlepool Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy. The Strategy forms part of the Community Strategy and the overall policy framework for the Borough, and sets out the long term vision for Hartlepool and the approach to the continuous improvement of services. NAPs have been developed in line with government policy for each of the Hartlepool wards which fall within the 10% most deprived wards nationally.
- 2.2 Neighbourhood Action Plans are important in encouraging local people and organisations to work together to narrow the gap between the most deprived wards and the rest of the country, and they should be influential in the future allocation of resources. The objective of the NAP is to integrate policies at the local level to improve the way that services are provided.
- 2.3 The Rossmere Neighbourhood Action Plan was the fifth NAP to be successfully prepared for the town in 2005. The plan has been used by the Rossmere Forum (established as a result of the NAP) to identify how the Residents' Priorities Budget (allocated by the Hartlepool Partnership through its Neighbourhood Renewal Fund programme), would be spent. The Rossmere Forum comprises residents (including representatives from the local Residents' Associations), Ward Councillors, community/voluntary groups, the Borough Council and other key organisations such as Housing Hartlepool, Hartlepool Community Network and Cleveland Police. To date, the Rossmere Forum has supported a wide range of projects which includes car parking improvements in Arbroath Grove, Caithness Road, Campbell Road and Thirsk Grove, the provision of youth workers on Friday and Saturday evenings in Rossmere Park, arts and crafts workshops, IT classes plus various activities provided by local community/voluntary organisations.
- 2.4 The Rossmere Neighbourhood Action Plan is the fifth NAP to be updated, by the Regeneration Team, since the completion of six NAPs across the town; Dyke House/Stranton/Grange; Burbank; Rift House/Burn Valley; Owton and North Hartlepool. In addition to this, it should be noted that a NAP has been developed for the New Deal for Communities (NDC) area, undertaken by the NDC Staff Team, making seven in total across the town.

- 2.5 The Hartlepool Partnership agreed to allocate a further £17,000 of Residents' Priority Budget over the 2007/08 financial year specifically for the Rossmere Neighbourhood Action Plan area. This funding is being used to continue to address some of the residents' priorities identified in the existing plan.

### **3.0 CONSULTATION PROCESS AND CURRENT POSITION**

- 3.1 The Rossmere Neighbourhood Action Plan area lies to the south of the Borough and covers most of the Rossmere Ward. The NAP area also includes a small part of the Fens Ward, but does not include any residential properties. The area is bounded to the north by Brierton Lane and Belle Vue Way, to the west by Catcote Road into Torquay Avenue, Brenda Road in the east and reaches to and includes Queens Meadow Business Park in the south. The area has two distinct communities which are separated by Stockton Road. The area covers a fairly large community of approximately 2,510 households (JSU, 2002), which are predominantly owner occupied.
- 3.2 The community incorporates a good range of local facilities including local shopping parades at Jutland Road and lower Owton Manor Lane, community facilities such as Jutland Road Community Centre and Rossmere Community Building plus local churches at St James The Apostle Church on Rossmere Way and St Teresa's RC Church on Stockton Road. Rossmere Primary School and St Teresa's RC Primary School are also situated within the Neighbourhood Action Plan boundary.
- 3.3 The draft Neighbourhood Action Plan Update has been developed using the findings from the initial community conference that was held in November 2007 where residents, children and young people, Ward Councillors and those who deliver services to the area (e.g. Cleveland Police, Hartlepool Borough Council Officers, Housing Hartlepool and Hartlepool Community Network) were in attendance. This community conference was crucial in identifying the community's priority concerns and the actions required to address the concerns. Household survey data (Ipsos MORI, 2006) and other baseline data and statistics have also provided an understanding of the conditions in the Rossmere NAP area.
- 3.4 A copy of draft one of the Rossmere Neighbourhood Action Plan Update is currently being made available, with a comments book, at numerous venues throughout the area such as: Jutland Road Community Centre, SureStart (Rossmere Way), Rossmere Community Building, SureStart (Lealholm Road), St James The Apostle Church and Jutland Road Police Office.
- 3.5 Informal community drop-in sessions have also been arranged at a variety of venues throughout the Rossmere Neighbourhood Action Plan area for local residents, Ward Councillors and service providers to comment on the draft NAP. These will be held at various times of the day, including evenings, to ensure resident involvement is maximised. At the drop-in sessions individuals will be encouraged to speak to members of staff from the Regeneration Team about any concerns they have on the contents on the Plan, whether there are any gaps or omissions etc.

- 3.6 The draft Rossmere Neighbourhood Action Plan Update is also being placed on Hartlepool Borough Council's online consultation system: <http://consultation.hartlepool.gov.uk> as an alternative way for individuals to comment on the draft NAP.
- 3.7 In addition to this, all key service providers will be sent a copy of the draft and a newsletter has been sent to every household within the area to inform residents of the draft Rossmere Neighbourhood Action Plan Update and to highlight how residents can be involved in the consultation process. The Council's Regeneration Team will also be consulting further with various community/voluntary groups including Rossmere Action Group, Friends of Rossmere Park and the Home and Away Club as well as local schools and youth groups. Theme meetings are also being held with service providers to discuss how the priority concerns of the area can be addressed and taken forward by organisations using their available resources. Ward Councillors have been invited to these meetings.
- 3.8 The draft Rossmere Neighbourhood Action Plan Update was taken to the Rossmere Forum on Tuesday 22 January 2008, for comment. The draft NAP will also be taken to the Hartlepool Partnership on the afternoon of Friday 01 February 2008 and Neighbourhoods and Communities Portfolio Holder on Monday 25 February 2008, for comment.
- 3.9 It is essential that the draft Rossmere Neighbourhood Action Plan Update is widely consulted upon, to ensure that the views of the local community are reflected within the plan.

#### **4.0 RESIDENTS' KEY CONCERNS**

- 4.1 All those in attendance at the community conference looked at seven key themes, as set out in the Community Strategy. The information below illustrates some of the key issues which residents feel need to be addressed in order to improve the Rossmere area:
- 4.2 Jobs and Economy
- Continue to address barriers to employment opportunities e.g. childcare issues (and increase access to basic skills/training provision).
  - Improve the communication channels between residents and local businesses to maximise employment opportunities and to address issues that affect the area.
  - Investigate further opportunities to improve bus transport links outside the area to enable residents to access employment/training opportunities.
  - Encourage take up of employment opportunities, particularly those from the Jutland Road area.
  - Encourage apprenticeship opportunities with employers, especially for young people.
- 4.3 Lifelong Learning and Skills
- Provide support to residents who face barriers to employment and learning opportunities both locally and Borough wide.

- Continue to improve achievement and attainment in local schools and in adult learning.
- Continue to raise awareness of existing courses and opportunities available within the area.
- Assist residents who want to improve their literacy skills.
- Provide support to those young people and parents/guardians who may be affected by the potential closure of Brierton Community School.

#### 4.4 Health and Care

- Reduce the prevalence of smoking, which is higher than the Borough wide average.
- Encourage people living in Rossmere NAP area to have more healthy lifestyles.
- Address concerns surrounding the reduction in health care services in the area, after the emergency care practitioner service was withdrawn from Wynyard Road.
- Address issues associated with the loss of the Health Development Worker.
- Increase support for the elderly population.
- Increase access to GP and Dentist Surgeries, particularly in the Jutland Road area, plus the difficulty in accessing hospitals and other health professionals.

#### 4.5 Community Safety

- Continue to investigate avenues to address anti-social behaviour and underage drinking in the area, especially the congregation of young people in certain areas including Rossmere Park and local shopping parades.
- Increase the take up of home fire safety checks available free of charge from Cleveland Fire Brigade.
- Tackle the illegal sale of alcohol to minors from local shopping parades.
- Investigate the perceived drug culture in the area.

#### 4.6 Environment and Housing

- Address road safety issues including speed, volume of traffic issues in the area and uneven road surfaces and pavements in the area.
- Continue to improve car parking issues across the area, particularly in Dundee Road and Dunbar Road.
- Assess the extent of litter problems in the Rossmere area, and look at effective ways of reducing this problem.
- Continue to improve the appearance and maintenance of public spaces in the area, especially Rossmere Park.

#### 4.7 Culture and Leisure

- Increase the use of community facilities in the area, particularly Jutland Road Community Centre.
- Promote existing activities available for the community, and increase activities where required.
- Improve open green spaces and play areas, to encourage increased usage and family congregation.

- Continue to support new activities in the area.
- Continue to build on the success of Neighbourhood Policing and their involvement in Culture and Leisure activities/integration in the community.

#### 4.8 Strengthening Communities

- Continue to encourage residents to be active in and across the community, particularly on the Jutland Road side.
- Increase the number of residents who feel they can influence decisions in their area.
- Increase the usage of Jutland Road Community Centre.
- Increase the provision of locations for young people to go and talk about their issues and problems.
- Promote existing groups in the area.

### 5.0 **THE CONTENTS OF THE PLAN**

- 5.1 The document has been structured in a way that is intended to give a clear picture of the strong themes running through the Neighbourhood Action Plan back to the Community Strategy and the Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy.
- 5.2 The format of the document differs slightly from that of the original Rossmere Neighbourhood Action Plan endorsed in 2005 as well as the Dyke House/Stranton/Grange and Burbank NAP Updates. The format of the document does however reflect the format of the Owton NAP Update which has recently been endorsed. The template has been amended as a result of the findings of the NAP Review as well as taking on board suggestions for improvement from service providers who refer to the plan on a regular basis.
- 5.3 The first page of the plan is a map of the area. The introductory section which follows this continues to cover the background to Neighbourhood Action Plans, a brief description of the Rossmere neighbourhood, how the Rossmere NAP Update has been developed, and a summary of the community's main concerns.
- 5.4 The following section then comprises the seven theme areas:- Jobs and Economy; Lifelong Learning and Skills; Health and Care; Community Safety; Environment and Housing; Culture and Leisure and Strengthening Communities. Each theme identifies the key statistics, the strengths and weaknesses and the gaps in service delivery which need to be addressed. Following this is a table which identifies the community's priority concerns, which are highlighted above (paragraph 4.2 to 4.8 of this report), the actions that are required to address these concerns, a column to identify whether actions are short term (within one year), medium term (between one and five years) or long term (five + years), the organisations who need to be involved in delivering the actions, possible funding and resources and how the actions will contribute to addressing strategic targets (such as the Local Area Agreement Indicators).
- 5.5 The next section outlines the key resources and programmes delivered in the area/accessible to residents of the Rossmere Neighbourhood Action Plan area. These follow the seven theme areas identified in the paragraph

above. The last section of the plan is a list of abbreviations and jargon buster with a separate summary document to accompany the plan.

- 5.6 A resident's summary pamphlet is currently being produced. This will outline the priorities which the Rossmere Forum is working to address in the current financial year, following the prioritisation exercise. This will be delivered to every household in the Rossmere NAP area to highlight the work of the Forum and encourage resident participation in the process.
- 5.7 Final endorsement will be requested at the Rossmere Forum on Tuesday 25 March 2008, the South Neighbourhood Consultative Forum on Friday 28 March 2008, the Neighbourhoods and Communities Portfolio Holder on Monday 21 April 2008 and the Hartlepool Partnership on Friday 09 May 2008.

## 6.0 FEEDBACK ON THE DRAFT

- 6.1 Comments on the draft Rossmere Neighbourhood Action Plan Update will be requested at the South Neighbourhood Consultative Forum on Friday 01 February 2008.
- 6.2 Alternatively, if you wish to make comments outside of the meeting you may do so in the following ways:
  - Telephoning Gemma Clough, Principal Regeneration Officer at Hartlepool Borough Council on Tel: 01429 523598.
  - Submitting comments in writing to Gemma Clough, Principal Regeneration Officer, Hartlepool Borough Council, Bryan Hanson House, Hanson Square, Hartlepool, TS24 7BT or to [gemma.clough@hartlepool.gov.uk](mailto:gemma.clough@hartlepool.gov.uk).
  - Submitting comments via Hartlepool Borough Council's online consultation system: <http://consultation.hartlepool.gov.uk>. This online consultation will be open until Friday 15 February 2008.
  - Contacting Gemma Clough, Principal Regeneration Officer to arrange to meet with you individually or as a group for an informal chat.
- 6.3 The final draft of the plan and summary document will then be sent out to all those who have been involved in the consultation process to ensure comments have been incorporated into the plan and reflected correctly.
- 6.4 The deadline for comments on draft one of the Rossmere Neighbourhood Action Plan Update has been set as **Friday 15 February 2008** for inclusion in the draft two of the Rossmere NAP Update. Any comments received after this date will need to be reflected in the final version for endorsement, in order to comply with timescales. The deadline for this is **Friday 07 March 2008**.

## **7.0 RECOMMENDATION**

- 7.1** *The South Neighbourhood Consultative Forum are requested to comment on the draft Rossmere Neighbourhood Action Plan Update at the meeting or forward any comments by Friday 07 March 2008 for inclusion in the final draft.*

## **8.0 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 8.1** It is essential that the draft Rossmere Neighbourhood Action Plan Update is widely consulted upon, to ensure that the views of the local community are reflected within the plan. This is vital as the Rossmere NAP Update will enable local people and organisations to continue to work together to successfully integrate policies at a local level, improving the ways that services are provided, to achieve goals of lower unemployment and crime, better health, skills, housing and physical environment, and a stronger community with improved culture and leisure opportunities.
- 8.2** It will also continue to look at how services can be made more efficient and effective for the local community and help local service providers and users to continue to ensure that gaps between existing and desired services are identified and considered by service providers, to effectively add value and improve the quality of life in the Rossmere area.

## **9.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 9.1** The original Rossmere Neighbourhood Action Plan was endorsed by the South Neighbourhood Consultative Forum on 07 October 2005, what used to be the Regeneration and Liveability Portfolio Holder on 21 October 2005 and the Hartlepool Partnership on 21 October 2005. As stated in paragraph 5.1, the NAP document relates back to the Community Strategy and the Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy.

## **10.0 CONTACT OFFICER**

- 10.1** Gemma Clough, Principal Regeneration Officer, Regeneration and Planning Services, Bryan Hanson House, Hanson Square, Hartlepool, TS24 7BT.  
Tel: 01429 523598. E-mail: [gemma.clough@hartlepool.gov.uk](mailto:gemma.clough@hartlepool.gov.uk).

## **Rossmere Neighbourhood Action Plan (NAP) Update** **Summary Document**

This document highlights the priority concerns and actions required, as identified in draft one of the plan, January 2008.

### **Jobs and Economy**

- **Continue to address barriers to employment opportunities e.g. childcare issues (and increase access to basic skills / training provision).**
- Improve training and skills opportunities for local people.
- Local service providers to work together to address barriers to employment.
- Further publicise existing childcare provision to raise awareness.
- **Improve the communication channels between residents and local businesses to maximise employment opportunities and to address issues that affect the area.**
- Encourage local businesses to employ local residents.
- Encourage local business representatives to attend the Rossmere Forum.
- **Investigate further opportunities to improve bus transport links outside the area to enable residents to access employment / training opportunities.**
- Explore the opportunities to increase the frequency of public transport in the area, especially to other parts of the Borough.
- Liaise with Stagecoach and HBC Transport Coordinator to see if resources can be put in place for more frequent/late service to be introduced for the area.
- **Encourage take up of employment opportunities, particularly those from the Jutland Road area.**
- Provide more learning opportunities in basic skills which are tailored to the needs of local residents.
- Further publicise Jobs Clubs within a close proximity to the area.
- Ensure that specialist advisors are available / accessible within the area to provide advice to residents.
- **Encourage apprenticeship opportunities with employers, especially for young people.**
- Work with local employers to discuss potential apprenticeship opportunities.

### **Lifelong Learning and Skills**

- **Provide support to residents who face barriers to employment and learning opportunities both locally and Borough wide.**
- Liaise with local service providers to ensure that affordable childcare places are available to allow parents / guardians to take up training opportunities.
- Ensure local courses are run at different times of the day and in a range of different venues to ensure that people have the choice of what courses to attend.
- Further publicise existing childcare provision to raise awareness.
- **Continue to improve achievement and attainment in local schools and in adult learning.**

- Continue to raise the awareness within schools of the importance of qualifications by promoting the benefits of education and training.
- Assess the amount of support that is available for school leavers.
- Continue to encourage young people whilst they are still at school to consider further education and training opportunities.
- **Continue to raise awareness of existing courses and opportunities available within the area.**
- Promote existing provision throughout the Rossmere NAP area.
- Establish what the education and training facilities are already operating in the area as well as the gaps in provision.
- Ensure that educational and training facilities that are not presently available to the public are considered to see if they can be provided in the future to enhance the employability of local people.
- **Assist residents who want to improve their literacy skills.**
- Provide facilities in the area at suitable times for residents to improve their literacy skills.
- **Provide support to those young people and parents / guardians who may be affected by the potential closure of Brierton Community School.**
- Ensure that support services are available for those who could be affected by the potential closure of Brierton Community School through the Building School for the Future (BSF) Programme.
- Continue to provide a contact point and sign posting services for pupils and parents who may have any queries regarding the potential closure of the school.

## **Health and Care**

- **Reduce the prevalence of smoking, which is higher than the Borough wide average.**
- Ensure people who want to stop smoking are aware of where they need to go for help and support.
- Educate young people about the dangers of smoking.
- **Encourage people living in Rossmere NAP area to have more healthy lifestyles.**
- Continue to publicise and provide 'Healthy Eating' initiatives and education.
- Investigate providing further localised 'Healthy Eating' initiatives and education to fill any gaps.
- Encourage residents of all ages to take part in physical and leisure activities.
- Advertise physical and leisure facilities that are available in the area including any concessionary rates.
- Ensure that support services are available to enable people to undertake physical and leisure activities, e.g. crèche and nursery facilities.
- Continue to work towards developing and strengthening existing care programmes.
- Increase awareness of the importance of health for good self-esteem / strong relationships.
- **Address concerns surrounding the reduction in health care services in area, after the emergency care practitioner service was withdrawn from Wynyrd Road.**
- Explore possibility of providing outreach emergency health drop in sessions at local venues.
- Publicise health care services that are currently available on an outreach basis in the area.
- **Address issues associated with the loss of the Health Development Worker.**
- Investigate the possibility of providing more health services on an outreach basis – for example health drop-in clinics.
- **Increase support for the elderly population.**
- More low level support required for the elderly.

- Implementation of the Citizenship Strategy through 50+ Forum
- Adaptations required to housing to allow the elderly to live on their own comfortably.
- Promote local clubs, which the elderly can attend.
- **Increase access to GP and Dentist Surgeries, particularly in the Jutland Road area, plus the difficulty in accessing hospitals and other health professionals.**
- Increase access to health services e.g. GP's, Dentists, Hospitals and other health professionals on an evening during the week and on Saturdays.
- Investigate the possibility of locating doctors and dentists to the area.

### **Community Safety**

- **Continue to investigate avenues to address anti-social behaviour and underage drinking in the area, especially the congregation of young people in certain areas including Rossmere Park and local shopping parades.**
- Encourage residents to report incidents of anti-social behaviour including acts of graffiti, vandalism, burglary, arson, fighting and intimidation to the Neighbourhood Policing Team Tel. 01429 235811, Anti-Social Behaviour Unit Tel. 01429 296588 or Cleveland Police Tel. 01642 326326 (Police Headquarters).
- Continue to increase the presence and high visibility patrols of PC's and PCSO's in order to maintain reduced crime levels and the good relationship with the local community.
- Assess the current security, CCTV and lighting provision within Rossmere Park, plus its opening times, bearing in mind that the withdrawal of the lighting to stop football activity in the park could also have implications (for example illegal activity and lack of visibility on CCTV cameras).
- Explore the opportunity of creating further diversionary activities for young people, in order to deter them from congregating and drinking in certain areas, including in the vicinity of Wilder Grove, the bus shelter at the bottom of Rossmere Way, in Rossmere Park and at local shopping parades.
- Explore the possibility of using designated action to counter anti-social behaviour and alcohol related nuisance behaviour, where appropriate.
- Seek to increase Police enforcement activities in 'hotspots' and further promote the reporting system so that residents understand and have confidence in reporting incidences.
- **Increase the take up of free home fire safety checks available free of charge from Cleveland Fire Brigade.**
- Increase publicity around the free smoke alarms and home fire safety checks along with improving fire safety in the home.
- Advertise this scheme through Housing Hartlepool newsletters and local community newsletters.
- Liaise with Accredited Landlords to promote these checks for their properties.
- **Tackle the illegal sale of alcohol to minors from local shopping parades.**
- Continue to work with local shops to encourage employees to ask for ID for alcohol purchases.
- Encourage residents to report incidents of sale of alcohol to minors, including incidents of alcohol purchased by adults on behalf of minors.
- **Investigate the perceived drug culture in the area.**
- Seek to increase drug related enforcement activities in the area.

- Continue to increase the presence and high visibility patrols of PC's and PCSO's in order to maintain reduced crime levels and ensure that good relationships are continued to be built with the local community, especially young people.
- Initiatives to increase awareness and educate the community, particularly young people of the dangers surrounding the use of illegal substances and associated litter.

### **Environment and Housing**

- **Address road safety issues including speed, volume of traffic issues in the area and uneven road surfaces and pavements in the area.**
- Carry out a traffic audit of the Rossmere NAP area and identify problem areas.
- Improve road safety in identified problem areas through appropriate traffic calming measures. Including congestion prevention and lowering speed limits in school areas.
- Investigate placing mobile speed cameras within in the Rossmere area as a deterrent to speeding.
- Improve uneven and patched road surfaces and pavements across the area including Jutland Road adjacent to the Jutland Road Community Centre.
- **Continue to improve car parking issues across the area, particularly in Dundee Road and Dunbar Road.**
- Investigate the parking issues in the Rossmere area and increase the parking provision in problem areas. Discuss and consult with relevant parties (including local residents) all issues / options and the feasibility of further car parking schemes.
- **Assess the extent of litter problems in the Rossmere area, and look at effective ways of reducing this problem.**
- Ensure that refuse collectors effectively clear rubbish from an area, especially if recycling has been displaced due to windy weather conditions.
- Address issues associated with refuse and recycling collections e.g. encourage residents to remove wheelie bins and recycling boxes / bags from the kerbside as soon as the collection has been made.
- Increase provision of road sweepers in the Rossmere area.
- Alleviate problems of litter gathering across the area including alleyways (especially between Dunbar Road and Dundee Road) and front gardens in Jutland Road.
- Develop community projects to help address littering issues in Rossmere Park.
- Address the dog fouling problem on public open green space in the Rossmere NAP area (in particular on the football pitches on Rossmere Way), through increased enforcement of fines, clearer signage and additional dog litter bins if required.
- **Continue to improve the appearance and maintenance of public spaces in the area, especially Rossmere Park.**
- Improve the appearance of shopping precincts, especially underused properties.
- Address maintenance issues within Rossmere Park especially vandalism of the perimeter fence and the furniture within the park (inc. play equipment), graffiti and litter.
- Address issues of fly tipping in the Rossmere area through increased enforcement.
- Improve the play park provision in the Rossmere area, particularly Rossmere Park and the play area opposite Jutland Road Community Centre.

## **Culture and Leisure**

- **Increase the use of community facilities in the area, particularly Jutland Road Community Centre.**
- Investigate the possibility of prioritising groups using local community buildings, so that local groups are considered before groups based outside the area.
- Provide new activities – for example, a Jobs Club for Rossmere residents.
- Publicise events, activities and facilities more effectively, to create an integrated timetable of all the area's activities.
- Further improve communication between Service Providers and local residents.
- Build other partnerships within the community – for example, with Faith communities.
- Ensure community representatives and community / voluntary organisations are better informed of what activities are available.
- **Promote existing activities available for the community, and increase activities where required.**
- Need to provide more cultural experiences in the area.
- Provide more indoor activities for young people after 3.30pm and encourage both genders to participate in sports activities.
- Provide more activities for teenagers (including discos for under 18s).
- Continue close work between St. James' and other churches in the area, and Friends of Rossmere Park.
- Provide childcare/crèche facilities and publicity alongside courses to allow parents to attend.
- Engage with Building Schools for the Future (BSF) programme to ensure community provision is improved and increased, where possible.
- **Improve open green spaces and play areas, to encourage increased usage and family congregation.**
- Develop partnership-funding opportunities to improve green spaces.
- Refurbish Basketball Court at Rossmere Youth Centre.
- Improve the Rossmere Park play area.
- Increase police patrols to reduce damage to facilities.
- **Continue to support new activities in the area.**
- Identify the needs of particular groups and develop shared activities.
- Support and seek funding opportunities to update and develop existing resources and initiatives.
- **Continue to build on the success of Neighbourhood Policing and their involvement in Culture and Leisure activities/integration in the community.**
- Seek to maintain Police presence in the area, to continue the good relationship between the neighbourhood PCs, PCSOs and the local community.
- PCs and PCSOs to continue enforcement and crime prevention work.

## **Strengthening Communities**

- **Continue to encourage residents to be active in and across the community, particularly on the Jutland Road side.**
- Continue to provide support, assistance and encouragement to residents already involved in groups and residents associations.
- Raise the profile and further promote awareness of the role of the Rossmere Forum.
- Realise the potential for partnership working through the NAP process.

- Identify ways to bring the two separate communities together more.
- **Increase the number of residents who feel they can influence decisions in their area.**
- Encourage local residents to become more involved in the community and better able to influence decisions.
- Raise awareness of the Rossmere Forum and its activities with a view to engaging more resident involvement.
- Provide training for residents, community / voluntary sector groups to improve skills and capacity building.
- **Increase the usage of Jutland Road Community Centre.**
- Seek to use the facilities at Jutland Road Community Centre to their full potential for residents of the area.
- Raise the awareness, promote and advertise the activities and facilities which are available at Jutland Road Community Centre.
- **Increase the provision of locations for young people to go and talk about their issues and problems.**
- Explore the possibility of expanding existing youth services for young people to access.
- Explore the possibility of opening schools up on a night to hold extra activities for young people.
- **Promote existing groups in the area.**
- Improve publicity and increase advertisement of the activities of groups operating in the area.
- Develop a Community database and index of community groups and activities operating in the area.

**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:** Chair of the Regeneration and Planning Services  
Scrutiny Forum

**Subject:** SCRUTINY INVESTIGATION - 'SEATON CAREW –  
REGENERATION NEEDS AND OPPORTUNITIES'

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## **1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To advise the South Neighbourhood Consultative Forum of the investigation being undertaken by the Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum into the 'Seaton Carew – Regeneration Needs and Opportunities'.
- 1.2 To seek the Forum's views on the issue, to be relayed back to the Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum and invite / encourage resident participation throughout the investigation, and in particular to the Focus Group session, on the 6 February 2008.

## **2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

- 2.1 A key element of Hartlepool Borough Council's democratic arrangements is the Overview and Scrutiny Process, one of the functions of which is to investigate issues of local concern.
- 2.2 At the beginning of each year the Council's Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee and each of the four Scrutiny Forums, sets a Work Programme. The Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum for this year selected as one of its investigations 'Seaton Carew – Regeneration Needs and Opportunities'.
- 2.3 The Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum will be dedicating a period of three months to explore this issue in detail and will during the course of its investigation be receiving evidence / views from a variety of sources, including the Town's MP.
- 2.4 In recognition of the importance of resident input into the investigation I am here today, as Chair of the Scrutiny Forum, to:-
  - (i) Seek your views on Seaton Carew's regeneration needs and opportunities, which will be reported back to the Scrutiny Forum for consideration during the investigation, and
  - (ii) Raise awareness of the investigation and encourage resident participation in the process.

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

**6 February 2008** (Focus Group commencing at 6pm in Seaton Golf Club)

**15 February 2008** at 2pm in Belle Vue Community Sport and Youth Centre

**22 February 2008** at 2pm in Belle Vue Community Sport and Youth Centre

**3 April 2008** at 2pm in West View Community Centre

- 2.6 I would like to draw particular attention to the Focus Group to be held on the 6 February 2008, which has been specifically organised to enable the Forum to obtain the views of residents and local businesses, and seek your participation in this session. In relation to all of these meetings it is advisable that you check with the Council's Democratic Services prior to attending, to ensure that the venues / start times etc. have remained unchanged.

### 3. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 That the views expressed by all those in attendance at the South Neighbourhood Consultative Forum meeting, held on 1 February 2008, be relayed to the Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum for consideration during its investigation into 'Seaton Carew – Regeneration Needs and Opportunities'.
- 3.2 That all those present by invited / encouraged to participate in the Scrutiny investigation and in particular attend the Focus Group to be held on the 6 February 2008, commencing at 6pm in Seaton Golf Club.

### 4. CONTACT OFFICER

Joan Wilkins – Scrutiny Support Officer  
Chief Executive's Department - Corporate Strategy  
Hartlepool Borough Council  
Tel: 01429 523 339  
Email: joan.wilkins@hartlepool.gov.uk

### BACKGROUND PAPERS

No background papers were used in the production of this report.

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

**Subject:** MINOR WORKS PROPOSALS

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## 1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

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

## 2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Minor Works budget remaining for the financial year to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2008 amounts to **£23,601.12** (See Appendix A).
- 2.2 A number of schemes are detailed below to address concerns raised by Elected Members, Residents' Representatives, and Residents in the South Forum Area.

## 3 PROPOSALS

- (i) Verge re-instatement with Bitmac.

a) Lindsay Road, Owton Manor – Outside of Numbers 1 - 7 (See Appendix B)

The verge outside of the above properties has been severely damaged by cars cutting across the corners and parking on it. An Elected Member and resident have independently approached the Local Authority asking for the verge to be replaced with tarmac hard standing. This will improve the aesthetics of the area while helping with parking congestion.

**Total Cost                      £1,160**

b) Bolton Grove, Seaton Carew – Outside of numbers 52 – 56 (See Appendix C).

Due to the narrow width of the road, at the above location, parking and turning around in the street can be very difficult especially for delivery and Waste Services Vehicles, which in the past have damaged the verge trying to gain access. Therefore, In order to alleviate these problems it is proposed that part of the verge will be replaced with tarmac. This will allow cars to park off road thus relieving congestion and allowing access for larger vehicles.

**Total Cost                    £4,440**

The costs of both of these schemes are dependent upon the location of utilities in the area not making the cost prohibitive and any necessary consultation.

(ii) Improving Drainage

a) Station Lane, Greatham.

During periods of moderate to heavy rainfall the soak away drains, at the entrance to the sports field, cannot cope with the volume of water resulting in water flooding across Station Road. Drivers trying to avoid this flooding could cause a danger to other drivers and pedestrians. In addition the flooding is a big problem for anyone who wants to access the sports field.

It is proposed that the existing drain is linked to the sewer drain outside of No's 6 and 7 Station Road (See Appendix D). This will involve a channel being dug and drainage pipes being laid.

The cost of this project will be in the region of £16,000. A request is made to the Forum to joint fund the project with the Local Authority Highways Department.

**Total Cost circa    £16,000**  
**Cost to Forum        £8,000**

(iii) Jutland Road Play Area

See separate report for proposal for funding towards Jutland Park Play area.

**Totals Cost to Forum        £10,000**

## **4 RECOMMENDATION**

- 4.1 The Forum is asked to consider the above schemes. Approved schemes will need to be presented to the Neighbourhoods and Communities Portfolio Holder for final approval. Subject to approval these schemes will ensure that the full South Forum Minor Works Budget of £87,000 for 2007/8 has been spent.

**SOUTH AREA – MINOR WORKS 2007/2008 - £87,000.00 BUDGET**

<b>FORUM APPROVED DATE</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>	<b>WARD</b>	<b>WORK</b>	<b>COST</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
15/06/07	South Area	All	Pride in Hartlepool Contribution	£5,000.00	£5,000.00
15/06/07	South Area	All	Dropped Crossing Programme	£3,500.00	£8,500.00
15/06/07	Newark Road	Fens	Street Lighting Scheme	£11,500.00	£20,000.00
15/06/07	Glaisdale Grove	Seaton	Street Lighting Scheme	£3,500.00	£23,500.00
15/06/07	Bilsdale Road	Seaton	Landscape Scheme	£2,605.00	£26,105.00
12/10/07	Buckie grove	Rossmere	Verge Re-instatement with Tarmac	£658.99	£26,763.99
12/10/07	Thursby Grove	Fens	New Lighting Scheme	£4,000.00	£30,763.99
12/10/07	Victoria Street	Seaton	New Period Style Lighting Scheme	£2,000.00	£32,763.99
12/10/07	Queen Terrace	Seaton	New Period Style Lighting Scheme	£3,000.00	£35,763.99
30/11/07	Saltaire Terrace	Greatham	Verge Re-instatement with Tarmac	£6,525.89	£42,289.88
30/11/07	Claymore Road	Rossmere	Verge Re-instatement with Tarmac	£6,109.00	£48,398.88
30/11/07	M Block	Owton	Verge Re-instatement with Tarmac	£15,000.00	£63,398.88

**15,700 PER WARD**

Fens has spent	£15,500.00	Leaves	£200.00
Seaton has spent	£11,105.00	Leaves	£4,595.00
Rossmere	£6,767.99	Leaves	£8,932.01
Greatham	£6,525.89	Leaves	£9,174.11
Owton	£15,000.00	Leaves	£700.00

**Total remaining    23,601.12**

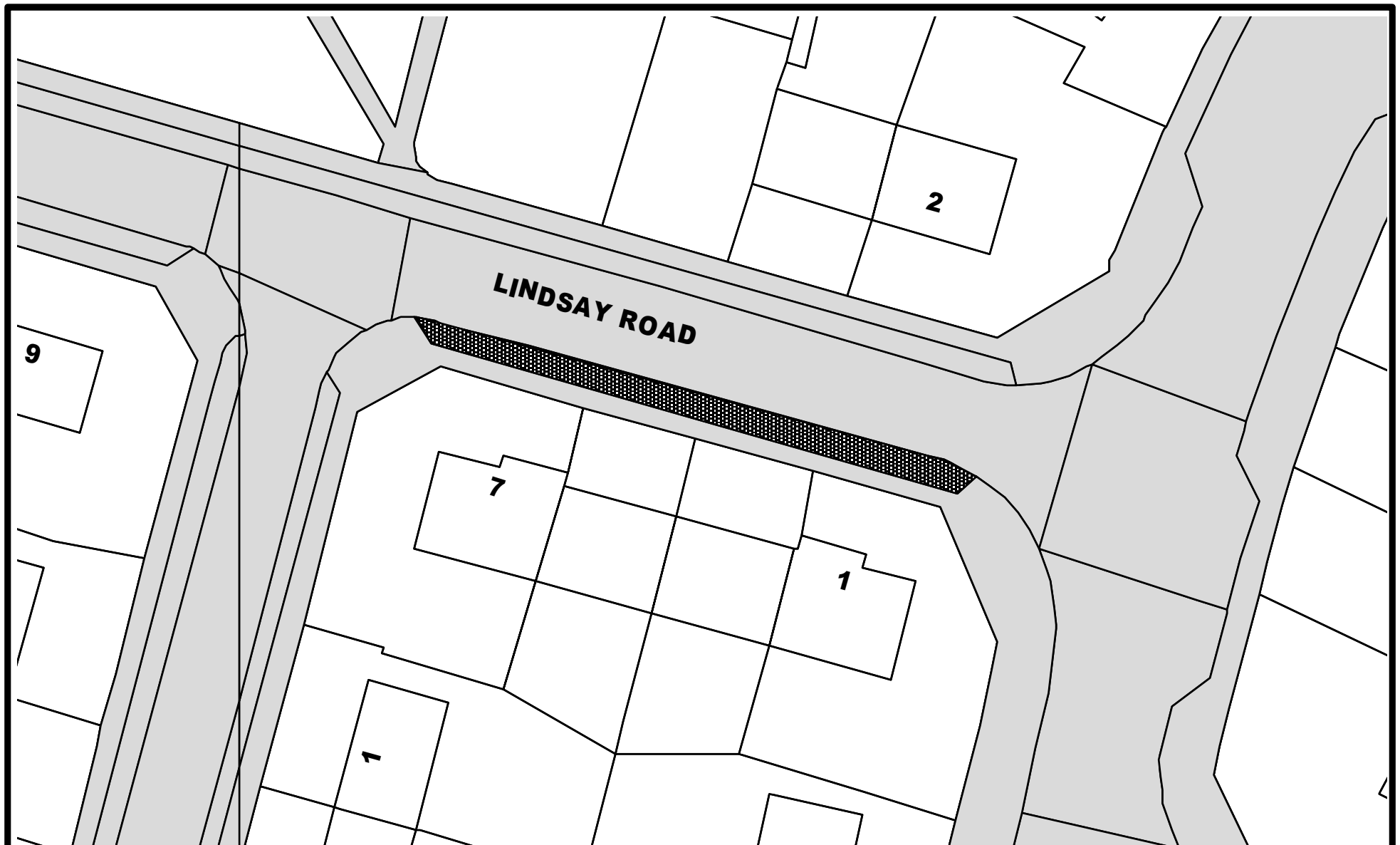
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**4042**

**1160**

**8400**



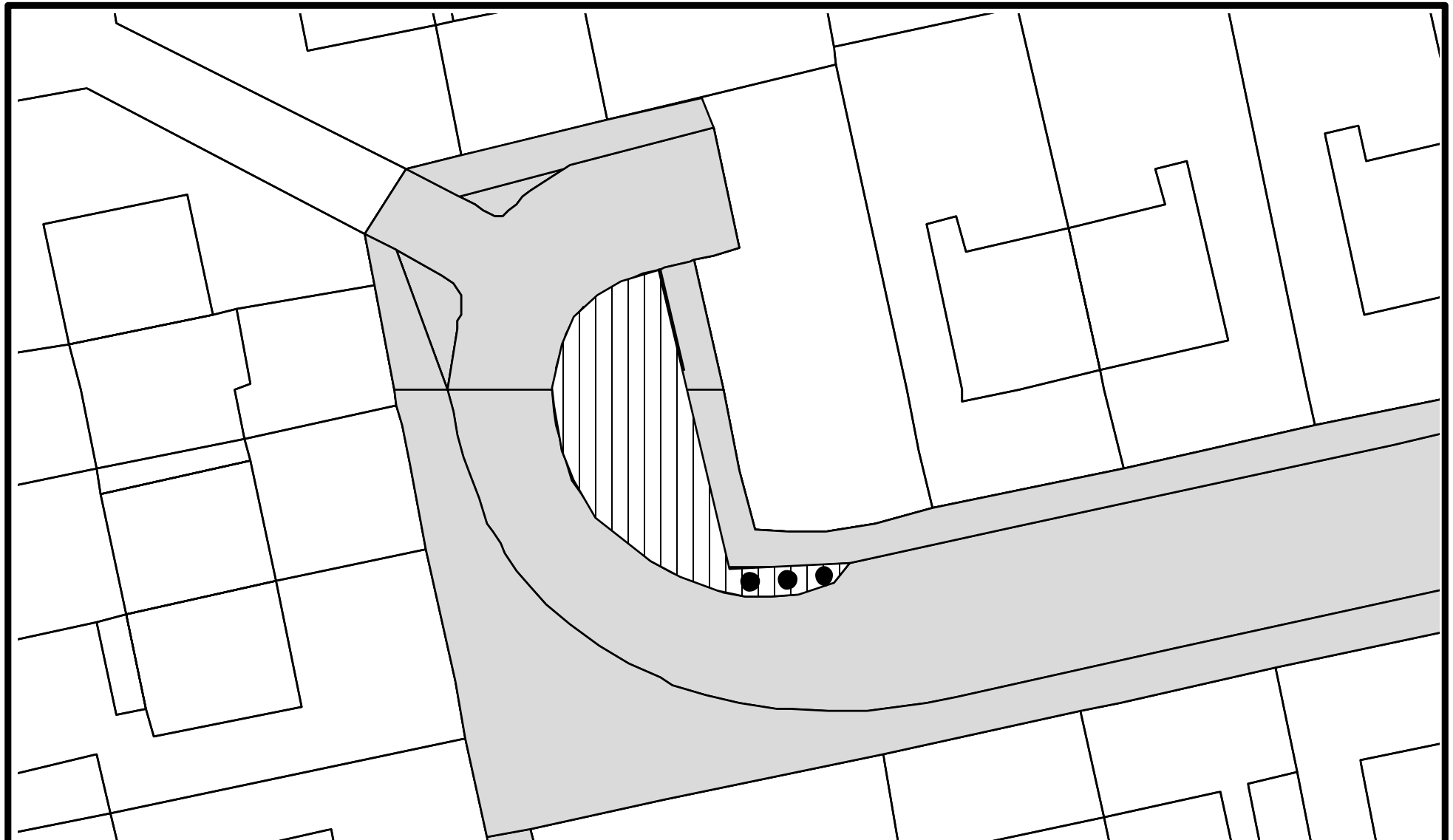
**Lindsay Road - Shaded area represents the area of grass verge to be reinstated with tarmac.**

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Director of Neighbourhood Services  
D.Stubbs

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View1	DATE
SCALE	
DRG. NO.	REV.



**Bolton Grove - Hatched area represents the area of grass verge to be reinstated with tarmac.**

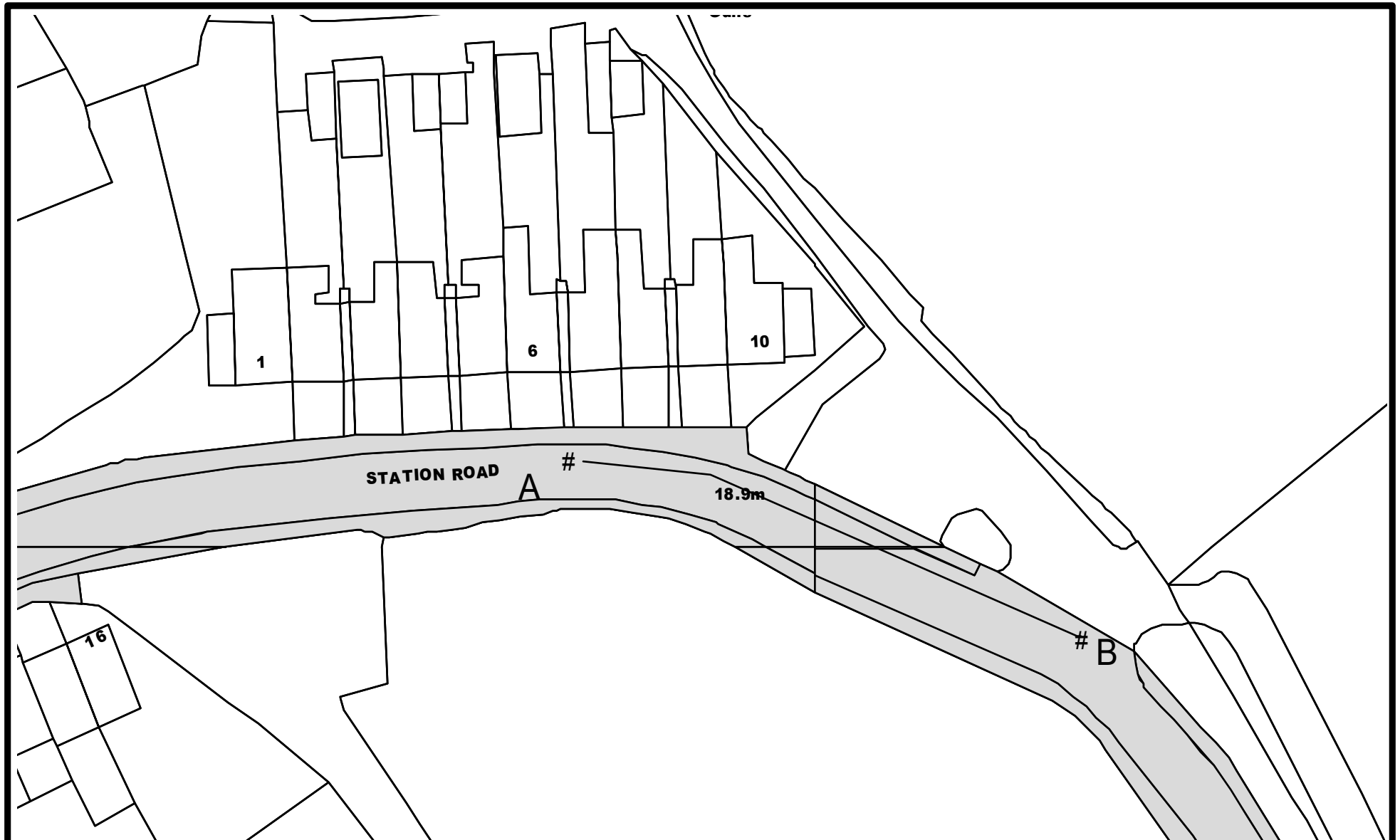
**The black circles represent bollards to prevent traffic mounting the pavement**

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D.Stubbs

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DRG. NO.	REV.



**Station Road, Greatham - Link the soak away drain at the Sports Field (B) to the main sewer drain (A).**

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D.Stubbs

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View1	DATE
SCALE	
DRG. NO.	REV.

**Report of:** PARKS AND COUNTRYSIDE MANAGER

**Subject:** JUTLAND ROAD PLAY AREA

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**1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To update the Forum on progress in relation to the renewal of Jutland Road Play Area and for consideration to be given to Minor Works Funding towards the renewal.

**2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 The recent open space assessment of Play Areas, conducted as part of the PPG17 Open Spaces Assessment has identified the play area at Jutland Road as scoring low in both play value and care and maintenance. The poor condition of the play area was also highlighted in a ROSPA report dated February 2005.
- 2.2 As a result of continued vandalism and deterioration of the play site the majority of the play ground features were removed to make the area safe.
- 2.3 Since approximately 2006 the site has not been maintained as a Playground.
- 2.4 There is a desire for a new play ground and the local Home and away Club, based at Jutland Road have expressed a desire to become involved in the fundraising required for a new play ground.

**3. PROPOSALS**

- 3.1 That a new play area be provided at Jutland Road in consultation with the community and community groups such as the Home and Away Club and other youth organisations in the Jutland Road area.
- 3.2 Once sufficient funding is achieved the Parks and Countryside Team will invite companies to tender for the design and installation of a new play area. The selection of company and design will be done in partnership with local schools and youth groups.

#### 4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 To build a new playground approximately £50,000 would be required. Confirmed funding to date has been received through section 106 agreements relating to new housing developments in the area.

**£28,000** is secured through Section 106 Agreements

The Home and Away Club, based in Jutland Road, are currently seeking funding from a range of organisations including the Youth Forum to contribute to the development of the Play ground and make up any shortfall. Officers are working closely with the organisation to identify any potential funders of this project.

**£10,000 is requested towards this scheme as a Contribution to the new play area.**

#### 5 OFFICER ADVICE

- 5.1 That a sum of £10,000 be allocated from the Minor Works Budget to contribute towards the renewal of the existing playground on Jutland Road to improve play provision in the area.