

# PLEASE NOTE VENUE

## SOUTH NEIGHBOURHOOD CONSULTATIVE FORUM AGENDA



**Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> March 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 1<sup>st</sup> February 2008 (*attached*)
5. **ITEMS FOR CONSULTATION**
  - 5.1 Presentation - Primary Capital Programme - Stage 1 Consultation – *Assistant Director – Resources and Support Services*

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## 6. 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  
Ow ton  
Rossmere  
Seaton

# ***SOUTH NEIGHBOURHOOD CONSULTATIVE FORUM***

**1 February 2008**

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



The meeting commenced at 10.00 a.m. in the Ow ton Rossmere Resource Centre,  
Wynyard Road, Hartlepool

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

Members

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

Resident Representatives: Ann Butterfield, Rosemarie Kennedy, Michael McKie, Dave Rowe, Iris Ryder and Michael Ward

Public: M J Arnold, D Clark, S Kell, H Oxley, Joan Smith, Jean Unwin, M Unwin

Officers:

- Paul Briggs, Assistant Director - Resources & Support Services
- Denise Ogden, Head of Neighbourhood Management
- Pat Usher, Sport and Recreation Manager
- David Frame, Neighbourhood Manager (South)
- Lynda Igøe, Principal Housing Advice Officer
- Sue McBride, Neighbourhood Development Officer (South)
- David Mitchell, Neighbourhood Co-ordinator
- Gemma Clough, Principal Regeneration Officer
- Sarah Bird, Democratic Services Officer

Housing Hartlepool: Helen Ivison

Police Representatives: Sgt Wrigley PC Longstaff,

North East Ambulance Service: Mark Cotton

## **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Shaun Cook, Cath Hill and Res Rep Mary Green

## **50. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None.

## **51. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 30 NOVEMBER 2007**

The minutes were confirmed.

## **52. MATTERS ARISING**

Minute 40 – Public Question Time (Off Road Motorcycles)  
Councillor Geoff Lilley asked whether there had been any progress on this matter and was informed that the Mayor had taken this on board and it was now being taken up by the relevant departments. Future developments would be reported back to the Forum.

Minute 48 – Ward Issues (Post Office Closures) Concern was expressed by Councillors Geoff Lilley and Marjorie James that there had been no meeting yet organised to discuss the Post Office Closures. The Head of Neighbourhood Management confirmed that the Post Office had been invited to speak to the Mayor and Chief Executive, but as yet no response had been received. Councillor James stated that she was concerned as the consultation was due to start on 12 February 2008 and thought that a public meeting was a priority. The Chair agreed to liaise with the Chairs of the Central and North Forums in order that a town wide meeting could be organised to put forward public views.

## **53. MINUTES OF THE SOUTH POLICE AND COMMUNITY SAFETY MEETING HELD ON 7 SEPTEMBER 2007**

The minutes were received.

## **54. MATTERS ARISING**

Minute 4 – Fire Brigade Update  
Resident Rep Iris Ryder referred to the fires at the Seaton Meadows Waste Disposal Site and stated that the fire which was burning in a cell on the site was still burning, but that she had already reported this to the Fire Brigade.

Minute 5 – Police Update  
Councillor Wistow stated that at the last South Police and Community Safety Forum held on 11 January 2008, Acting Inspector Ward had promised to circulate the figures for the Owton Ward. Sgt Wrigley stated that he had not received these but agreed to obtain the figures from Acting Inspector Ward and arrange these to be circulated.

Sgt Wrigley reported that PC Todd would be commencing work at the Owton Manor Office on 23 February 2008 and that there was another vacancy to be filled. A Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) had been appointed and was due to commence work on 15 February 2008.

Councillor James referred to the CCTV cameras which were at St Patrick's not St Peter's Shops and Sgt Wrigley confirmed that these were capable of panning around the area.

Councillor Ann Marshall queried whether Police now had keys to Rossmere Park and Sgt Wrigley confirmed that they had.

## 55. BUILDING SCHOOLS FOR THE FUTURE (BSF) – PRIMARY CAPITAL PROGRAMME STAGE 2 CONSULTATION

The Assistant Director - Resources & Support Services attended the forum to give a presentation on the BSF Primary Capital Programme Stage 2 Consultation. Councillor Wistow expressed disquiet that a copy of the presentation was not available prior to the consultation. It was confirmed that the consultation process does not begin until 11 February but Councillor Wistow stated that the South Forum should meet during the consultation period in order to put across its views. The Assistant Director – Resources and Support Services therefore did not give his presentation at the Forum but encouraged Members, Resident Reps and residents to attend the consultation meetings.

## 56. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

**Parking at Fens Shops** – Councillor Alison Lilley highlighted the problems caused with inconsiderate parking in the area. There had been confusion as to whether parking tickets could be issued as the shops were privately owned. Sgt Wrigley stated that he thought that the area was classed as a road and therefore would be the responsibility of the Council rather than the police. The Neighbourhood Manager (South) agreed to contact the Parking Services Manager to elicit the status of the land and if applicable, the area to be covered at busy times. Sgt Wrigley asked that Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) be given the telephone number of the enforcement officers in order that they could be contacted if there was a problem.

**Sign at Owton Lodge Public House** – Resident Rep Iris Ryder stated that a car parking sign is loose and residents are

disturbed by it banging when it is windy. Sgt Wrigley agreed to contact the Public House and ask them to rectify this.

**Off Road Bikes** - Sgt Wrigley informed the meeting that there were Operations ongoing regarding the problem of off-road bikes. He stated that a number of Section 59 notices had been issued and vehicles had been seized. Councillor Lilley referred to a site in Sedgfield which was a good example of how the problem had been solved in that area. The Neighbourhood Manager (South) confirmed that action was being taken to find a suitable site in the Hartlepool area.

**Portakabins in Wainwright Walk** – Resident Rep Iris Ryder stated that a double storey portakabin had been sited in Wainwright Walk and was due to remain there for approximately one year. This was obscuring views for residents and therefore the Neighbourhood Manager (South) agreed to find out whether this could be replaced by single storey cabins.

## 57. CHOICE BASED LETTINGS

The Principal Housing Advice Officer gave a presentation on the Choice Based Lettings system due to be introduced to let vacant properties which should offer more choice to applicants selecting a new home. Applicants are banded to reflect their housing need, vacant properties are advertised and applicants are invited to express an interest in these. A sub regional scheme would bring together a larger pool of vacant properties offering more choice for applicants although a local connection rule would apply.

Councillor Ann Marshall queried whether supported housing would be covered by the scheme but it was clarified that the current procedures would stand.

Resident Rep Iris Ryder asked whether tenants who had an anti-social behaviour suspension would be allowed to apply for a property. It was explained that these tenants would be classed as being made homeless intentionally and the Council had no duty to provide a home for them, although temporary accommodation for a period of 28 days may be offered.

Resident Rep Mike McKie expressed concern that the current housing list would grow if it was opened up sub-regionally but the Principal Housing Advice Officer confirmed that the local connection rule would apply.

Councillor Marjorie James stated that she had been involved in the Policy Document and there had been a site visit to Erimus Housing in Middlesbrough with tenants and it appeared to be a much fairer system. She asked whether there were any links planned with County Durham and the Principal Housing Advice Officer stated that their scheme was not yet ready to be introduced but Hartlepool were working closely with them.

Helen Ivison from Housing Hartlepool referred to a national network for exchanging properties.  
[www.homeswapper.co.uk](http://www.homeswapper.co.uk)

#### **58. ROSSMERE NEIGHBOURHOOD ACTION PLAN (NAP) UPDATE – DRAFT 1**

The Principal Regeneration Officer sought comments on Draft 1 of the Rossmere NAP Update which had been circulated prior to the meeting and which outlined that the area had improved as an area in which to live. The document was currently available with a comments book at numerous venues throughout the area. A number of drop in sessions have been arranged in order that residents/community/voluntary groups and service

providers could make their views known. It was highlighted that there was still Anti-Social Behaviour in the area and there appeared to be two distinct communities, separated by the A689.

The Chair pointed out that improved standards have been brought about by a change in the boundaries and not by the NAP and that the Jutland Road/Seaton Lane areas have not benefited from this.

Councillor Wistow expressed concern surrounding the reduction in health care services in the area after the emergency care practitioner service was withdrawn from Wynyard Road and the loss of the Health Development Worker and felt that this should be brought to the attention of the Cabinet.

Councillor James who chairs the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee stated that one of their processes is to look at budget arrangements and said that one of the recommendations of the committee was to re-instate the value of the cuts in the area and another was that the Local Authority would need to secure £500,000 in order to support young people facing breakdown of their families to keep them in the Hartlepool area.

The Chair pointed out that there was a higher than average elderly/disabled and sick population in the area and therefore social care should be a priority for the Local Authority.

#### **59. INDOOR LEISURE FACILITY STRATEGY**

The Sport and Recreation Manager presented the outcomes of the recently adopted Indoor Leisure Facility Strategy which incorporates the future facility needs in Hartlepool. The Strategy was developed 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 Planning Policy Guidance 17 (PPG17) and took account of the opportunities presented by the BSF initiative. A facility audit had been undertaken in order to gain an understanding of the location, quality and long term future of the current provisions. Central to this was swimming facility provision, that from previous studies undertaken, had been highlighted as sub-standard. There were a number of sports hall available but some were in poor condition and there was limited day time access with a number of facilities fully booked at peak times. Consultation had taken place with selected members of the public as to their usage of and satisfaction with Sports and Leisure facilities.

The Development Option which seemed most feasible was Option Three which would utilise existing or a new Borough facility (Mill House or H<sub>2</sub>O) with a new pool at Brierton, utilising existing dry facilities (Headland and Belle Vue) and new /refurbished school halls. This option generally matches the demand model and has a generally good spread across the town. Disadvantages of this specific to the south of the town, would be that there was no specific provision in Seaton Carew.

Councillor Ann Marshall stated that the provision of good transport especially from the Seaton Carew area was essential and the Sports and Recreation Manager confirmed that good transport links were vital to the sustainability of the option. Res Rep Iris Ryder stated that Stagecoach have indicated that in the near future they intend not to service the estates in Seaton Carew. The Chair agreed to write to Stagecoach to ascertain whether this was correct and to express the views of the Forum that this was unacceptable.

Councillor Gibbon asked about concessionary rates for pensioners and was informed that other criteria are used, i.e. particular benefits but a review is currently ongoing.

Councillor Wistow stated that there have been problems with the hydrotherapy pool at the hospital and asked whether the needs of this could possibly combine with the needs of the town. He was informed that the Health Services Scrutiny forum is currently looking into this.

Discussion then took place regarding conflicting advice given by council officers about shallow water pools and the Neighbourhood Manager (South) agreed to find out which was correct.

#### **60. SCRUTINY INVESTIGATION – 'SEATON CAREW – REGENERATION NEEDS AND OPPORTUNITIES**

The Chair apologised that Councillor Shaun Cook was unable to attend the meeting but gave details of the planned Scrutiny Forum Focus Group to be held on 6 February 2008 at Seaton Carew Golf Club at 6.00 pm. Resident Rep Iris Ryder said that this had not been publicised widely and that there should have been a leaflet drop to residents. The chair pointed out that there had been two articles in the Hartlepool Mail and Members and resident reps should let residents know. Councillor Wistow congratulated Scrutiny and Councillor James in organising the consultations. The chair said that he hoped that entertainment and public art would be put forward for consideration.

#### **61. MINOR WORKS PROPOSALS**

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

Verge re-instatement with Bitmac for –

- a) Outside numbers 1 – 7 Lindsay Road, Owton Manor - **£1,160**
- b) Outside numbers 52 – 56 Bolton Grove, Seaton Carew - **£4,440**

Improving drainage at Station Lane Greatham – (jointly funded with the Local Authority Highways Department at a total cost of £16,000) - **£8,000**

Jutland Road Play Area - **£10,000**

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

## 62. JUTLAND ROAD PLAY AREA

The area has suffered continued vandalism and deterioration of the play site and the majority of the playground features were removed to make the area safe and since 2006 the site has not been maintained as a playground. It has been proposed that a new play area be provided at Jutland Road in consultation with the community and community groups. 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 in partnership with local schools and youth groups. The new playground would cost approximately £50,000 and £10,000 of this was requested as a contribution from the Forum's Minor Works Budget.

Councillor Ann Marshall requested that consideration be given to the location of the play area in order that it could be covered by CCTV.

The proposal was supported by the forum.

## 63. WARD ISSUES

**Traffic Calming in M Block** – Councillor James asked for an update on this and the Neighbourhood Manager (South) reported that tenders had been received for this and it would be completed before the end of the financial year.

**Grass Verges** – Councillor Alison Lilley asked for clarification on the policy of parking on grass verges throughout the town. The Chair reported that the current rule is that this is not acceptable. Councillor Geoff Lilley stated that it was important not to lose green spaces but also to be practicable and that there were other options rather than tarmac.

**Length of time for proposed schemes to be implemented** – Councillor James stated that residents who raised issues would like a general timescale of when they could expect them to be implemented. The Neighbourhood Manager (South) said that schemes were selected according to need rather than the length of time they had been on the list.

**Endeavour Housing in Greatham** – Res Rep Dave Rowe expressed concern on behalf of residents of Greatham on plans to house two persons with complex social needs, locally. A number of meetings had been held with residents who had voiced their anxieties about problems which may occur. The Chair advised that the Ward Councillor get in touch with the Director of Adult and Community Services.

**Stranton Cemetery** – The Chair expressed concern that Stranton Cemetery was being used as a short cut and asked that people be more respectful as to its use.

**Transportation Links in local neighbourhood and to hospital**



**services** – The Chair gave notice of a Focus Group to be held on Monday, 11 February 2008 at 6.15 pm in the Board Room of the University Hospital of Hartlepool.

<b>64. NORTH EAST AMBULANCE SERVICE</b>
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Mark Cotton of the North East Ambulance Service attended to give details of the consultation process with regards to proposals to improve the resilience of A & E ambulances and provision of patient transport services in the North East. A public meeting had been arranged at 10.30 am on 20 February 2008 in the Historic Quay. Councillor James stated that it would be advisable for a further meeting to be held at 6.00 pm in order that people who worked would have a change to give their views. Mark Cotton agreed to feed this back to the Ambulance Trust.

<b>65. NEXT MEETING</b>
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The next meeting of the South Area Neighbourhood Forum is scheduled for Friday, 28 March 2008 at 10 am in the Owton Rossmere Resource Centre, Wynyard Road, Hartlepool.

COUNCILLOR M JOHNSON

CHAIR