

# PLEASE NOTE VENUE

## CENTRAL NEIGHBOURHOOD CONSULTATIVE FORUM AGENDA



**Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> June 2008**

**at 10.00 am**

**at Belle Vue Community, Sports and Youth Centre,  
Kendal Road, Hartlepool**

**MEMBERS: CENTRAL NEIGHBOURHOOD CONSULTATIVE FORUM:**

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

**Resident Representatives:**

Chris Akers-Belcher, Brenda Buckley, Elizabeth Carroll, Bob Farrow, Ted Jackson, Jean Kennedy, Evelyn Leck, Alan Lloyd, Brenda Loynes and Brian McBean.

- 1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**
- 2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**
- 3. TO RECEIVE ANY DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS**
- 4. MINUTES**
  - 4.1 To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> March 2008
  - 4.2 To receive the minutes of the Central Area Police and Community Safety Consultative Forum held on 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2007
  - 4.3 Matters arising (maximum of 10 minutes) – Feedback sheet from last meeting attached.

# PLEASE NOTE VENUE

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

Rift House  
Stranton  
Burn Valley  
Elwick  
Foggy Furze  
Grange  
Park

6. **ITEMS FOR CONSULTATION**

6.1 Presentation – Proposed improvements to the Burn Valley Beck and Gardens  
– *Parks and Countryside Manager*

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

7.1 Affordable Housing Development Plan Document – Issues and Options  
Discussion Paper Consultation – *Director of Regeneration and Planning  
Services*  
7.2 Minor Works Budget 2008/2009 – *Director of Neighbourhood Services*

8. **ITEMS FOR DECISION**

8.1 Minor Works Proposals June 2008 – *Neighbourhood Manager (Central)*

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

The next meeting of the Central Neighbourhood Consultative Forum will be held on  
Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> August 2008 commencing at 6pm at Belle Vue Community Sports and Youth  
Centre.

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

**WARDS**

Burn Valley  
Elwick  
Foggy Furze  
Grange  
Park  
Rift House  
Stranton

# ***CENTRAL NEIGHBOURHOOD CONSULTATIVE FORUM***

## **27 March 2008**

# ***MINUTES OF THE MEETING***



The meeting commenced at 10.00 a.m. in the Civic Centre, Hartlepool

<b>PRESENT:</b>
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Chair:	Councillor Lilian Sutheran	- Rift House Ward
Vice-Chair:	Councillor Jonathan Brash	- Burn Valley Ward
	Councillor Gerald Hall	- Burn Valley Ward
	Councillor John Lauderdale	- Burn Valley Ward
	Councillor Frances London	- Foggy Furze Ward
	Councillor Dr George Morris	- Park Ward
	Councillor Robbie Payne	- Stranton Ward
	Councillor Carl Richardson	- Grange Ward
	Councillor Jane Shaw	- Stranton Ward
	Councillor Christopher Simmons	- Grange Ward
	Councillor Victor Tumilty	- Grange Ward
	Councillor Gladys Worthy	- Rift House Ward

Resident Representatives: Elizabeth Carroll, Alan Greenwell, Ted Jackson, Alan Lloyd, Brenda Loynes, Sarah Manes and Brian McBean

Public: E Cordiner, Mary Harrison, George Harrison, Stella Johnson, Gordon Johnson, D Kirkwood, D Kirkwood, D Loynes, William Morrish, Noma Morrish, Ray McAndrew, R Rigg, V Rigg, Ray Waller,

Council Officers: Brian Neale, Safer Hartlepool Partnership  
Colin Kay, Dog Control Warden  
Clare Clark, Neighbourhood Manager  
Sarah Bird, Democratic Services Officer

Fire Brigade Representatives: Stuart Simpson

Housing Hartlepool Representatives: Lynn McPartlin

<b>61. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</b>
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Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Stephen Akers Belcher,

Gordon Hennerly, Jane Shaw, Pauline Laffey, Residents Representatives Jean Kennedy and Evelyn Leck.

## 62. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

## 63. MINUTES

The minutes of the Central Neighbourhood Consultative Forum held on 31 January 2008 were agreed with the following amendment:-

Councillor John Lauderdale was present.

## 64. MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

## 65. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME AND WARD ISSUES

### Park

**Tunstall Court** – Resident Representative Elizabeth Carroll highlighted the problems with litter around these premises. The Neighbourhood Manager agreed to follow this up.

**Ward Jackson Park** – Councillor Morris highlighted the poor state of some of the drains and said that the lavatories needed attention.

**Dunston Road** – Resident Representative Brenda Loynes suggested that the 'beware of the ducks' sign be relocated as it was currently obscured by trees.

**Saddleston Close** – Resident Representative Brenda Loynes highlighted that there was graffiti at the rear of number 18.

**Waste** - Resident Representative Ted Jackson stated that there was waste and

rubbish caught in fencing and hedges beside highways and rail approaches. He said that he had already raised this with the Engineers Department.

### Stranton

**Plastic Carrier Bags** – Resident Noma Morrish expressed concern at the number of carrier bags issued by shops. He was informed that the Head of Neighbourhood Management was currently liaising with the larger supermarkets.

### Burn Valley

**Bus Passes** – Resident Ray Waller expressed concern that some bus passes may not be issued prior to the old ones expiring on 1 April 2008. He had been told that old ones may be used but was unsure whether he could travel in other counties using this and conflicting advice had been given by staff at Bryan Hanson House.

**Painting of Lamp Posts** – Resident Ray McAndrew said that a number of lamp posts still had not been fully painted in York Road despite assurances at the October meeting of the Forum. The Neighbourhood Manager asked that details of which lamp posts were affected be passed to her and she would follow this up.

**Thornton Street** – Resident Ray McAndrew said that there appeared to be insufficient fence posts put in the area surrounding the new park. It was clarified that the park was for the benefit of all, not merely residents of that street.

**Osborne Road** – Resident E Cordiner highlighted that there was a lot of water standing on the pavements.

**Elwick Road Post Office** – Councillor Hall reminded the Forum of the campaign to save this post office and said that he

hoped there was a strong argument to ensure it stayed open.

**Selective Licensing of Landlords** – Councillor Hall informed the meeting that following a Scrutiny Enquiry into the selective licensing of landlords, it had been approved by Cabinet to phase this in and parts of the Central area were included in this. There was a public drop in session at the Orb Centre, Shrewsbury Street on 28 March 2008 for information.

### **Foggy Furze**

**Oakland Avenue** – Councillor London highlighted problems with potholes in this area.

### **Grange**

**Street cleaning** – Resident Representative Alan Greenwell stated that street cleansing is now taking place after the waste collection has occurred.

**Throston Medical Centre** – Resident Representative Alan Greenwell commented on the poor layout of the parking. This would be passed to the North Neighbourhood Manager.

**Sheriff Street** - Resident Representative Alan Greenwell informed the meeting that there were a number of potholes in this road.

**Linden Grove and Granville Avenue** – Councillor Simmons stated that he was pleased with the five year rolling plan for road repairs but stated that there were a number of potholes in these roads, especially in the Wilton Road to Grange Road area of Linden Grove.

**Johnson Street** – Councillor Payne highlighted problems caused by motorists travelling the wrong way up the one way system and pointed out that this was dangerous.

**Stockton Street** – Councillor Payne said that it had been noticed that many motorists went through red lights.

**Sandringham Road rear alley** – Councillor Tumilty thanked the Neighbourhood Manager for facilitating the installation of lighting columns in this location.

**Rodney Street area** – Councillor Tumilty highlighted a large number of Anti-Social Behaviour incidents which had occurred in the Rodney Street and surrounding areas. He said that the Anti-Social Behaviour Unit and Housing Hartlepool enforcement officers were aware of the problem and asked what further help could be given. The Housing Hartlepool officer present agreed to liaise with Councillor Tumilty. Discussion took place as to whether the Selective Licensing of Landlords would alleviate this problem.

**Raeburn Street** – Councillor Richardson thanked the Neighbourhood Manager for the erection of alley gates at the rear of Raeburn Street.

**Laburnum Street** – Councillor Richardson stated that a local business habitually left the alley gates open and stated that businesses should comply in the same way as residents. He queried whether businesses could be forced to comply by signing a contract on receipt of a key for the gates.

**Sandringham Road** – Councillor Richardson told the Forum of problems with dolomite being dumped in the rear alley. The Contractors, Yuills had been asked to remove this and had complied but it was unsightly again. There had been a site meeting regarding this between Councillor Tumilty, the Neighbourhood Manager and Yuills.

**Recycling Tees Valley Joint Consultation** – Resident Representative Alan Greenwell suggested that consultation meetings could be held in the evenings as well as during the day to enable as many people as possible to attend to give their views.

#### **66. DOG CONTROL ORDERS**

The Dog Control Warden outlined the Dog Control Order Regulations which were scheduled to be in place by 1 June 2008 at the earliest and provided for the five offences as follows:-

- ❖ Failure to remove dog faeces
- ❖ Not keeping a dog on a lead
- ❖ Not putting, or keeping a dog on a lead with directed to do so by an authorised officer
- ❖ Permitting a dog to enter land from which dogs are excluded
- ❖ Taking more than the specified number of dogs (4) onto land

The areas to which these were pertinent were outlined to the Forum and details of fines for non compliance were outlined. Appropriate signage would be put in place. The Dog Control Warden said that details of the Act and areas affected had been published in the Hartbeat magazine which was circulated to all households.

Councillor Lauderdale asked how the Burn Valley and family wood would be divided up and it was clarified that there would be appropriate signage in place to differentiate between the two areas.

Resident Representative Sarah Maness asked whether CCTV would be used to monitor problem areas and it was confirmed that there were covert CCTV cameras available. She stated that the area around Throston Primary School was particularly rife with dog fouling.

Councillor Payne said that another problem area was the rear of the Mill House Leisure Centre. Resident Ray Waller highlighted Park Road, especially after dark, as well as Eltringham Road and Grange Road.

It was clarified that signage in the relevant areas would reflect whether dogs were supposed to be on a lead. At present 15 people in the Borough are able to issue Fixed Penalty Notices for dog control offences but this will increase when Police Community Support Officers are able to do so. Hundreds of Fixed Penalty Notices were issued last year and 88% of these were paid.

#### **67. MINOR WORKS SCHEME UPDATE**

The Neighbourhood Manager informed the meeting of the schemes approved by the Central Forum during the last year. With the exception of Furness Street, Reedston Close and Totts Garden schemes which will be completed early in the next financial year, all the schemes are scheduled for completion prior to the end of this financial year.

The remaining budget of £2,658 would be added to next year's Minor Works Budget which has been confirmed as £87,000, making a total of £89,658 to spend in 2008/9. A number of schemes to address issues raised at previous Forums, and by residents or their representatives are currently being investigated and proposals will be brought back to the Forum at the next meeting in June.

#### **68. APPRECIATION**

Councillor Payne congratulated the Chair on her chairing skills at the Forums and Councillor Sutherland thanked Members, Resident Representatives and Officers for their support.

**UPDATE ON ISSUES RAISED AT THE LAST CENTRAL CONSULTATIVE FORUM**  
**HELD ON 27 MARCH 2008**

**PARK WARD**

**Tunstall Court** – Liz Carroll Resident Representative raised rubbish in the vicinity as a problem.

This was passed to HBC's Private Sector Housing Team for action. The landlord was contacted and rubbish subsequently removed from the grounds of Tunstall Court. The owners have also been stripping the interior of the property in an attempt to make safe and deter any further breaches. The Fire Service also regularly checks this property to ensure that it remains secure.

**Ward Jackson Park** – Councillor Morris raised a problem with drains and also commented on the poor condition of the lavatories in Ward Jackson Park

The Parks and Countryside Manager reports that advice has been sought over the drains which have been long out of use. To bring them back into use would require extensive funding and would probably mean laying new drains. Estimated costs are being sought but no immediate work is planned due to lack of resources. Refurbishment of the toilets in Ward Jackson Park commenced 28 April and will last approx 6 weeks.

**Dunston Road** – Brenda Loynes Resident Representative requested the 'beware of the ducks' sign be relocated due to being obscured by trees

The order has been raised to relocate this sign and works will be complete before the next Forum meeting.

**18 Saddleston Close** – Brenda Loynes raised the issue of Graffiti at the rear of number 18.

This issue has been actioned by the Central Area Cleansing Team Supervisor who has spoken to Aldi, the owners of the fence in question. The Central Area Cleansing Team has now removed the graffiti, and Aldi have agreed to repaint the fence.

**Litter and waste generally** – Ted Jackson concerned about the level of litter getting caught up in fences etc and asked if netting tips would be an idea –

Tips on the South Side of Newburn Bridge have now been covered with netting to reduce excess litter being blown across the town. Enforcement Action has also been taken on the North Side of Newburn Bridge and the surrounding areas have been de-littered.

## **STRANTON WARD**

**Carrier Bags** – Norma Morrish raised the issue of cutting down on usage of carrier bags issued by shops –

The Head of Neighbourhood Management will be working with supermarkets over the coming months to address these issues. The 'Joint Waste Management Strategy', signed up to by all Tees Valley Authorities, including Hartlepool Borough Council, incorporates as working principles the need to work with retailers and the general public to encourage a reduction in the use of single-use carrier bags, and to work with partners to lobby the commercial sector to reduce excess packaging.

**Park Road** – lamp post painting still not complete – Ray McAndrew to provide details to Clare Clark.

The Public Lighting Engineer reports that attempts have been made to paint the columns in question for quite some time. However because this is a residential area difficulty has been experienced in gaining access to the columns due to parked cars. At the time of writing a letter has been sent out informing residents of the proposed date that these works will be undertaken and requesting residents to remove their cars to enable access to the columns in question. The works will hopefully be complete before the next meeting of the Forum.

**Thornton Street** – Ray McAndrew questioned the adequacy of the fence posts put on boundary walls.

NDC who were responsible for the scheme acknowledge that whilst additional posts on the boundary walls would improve the aesthetics of the boundary treatments, the existing fencing is sufficiently robust. Unfortunately resources did not permit more than has been achieved.

**Osborne Road** – standing water on pavements – Ray McAndrew.

The gully team has attended this location and cleansed the gully in question.

**Johnson Street** – Councillor Payne raised the issue of motorists traveling the wrong way up Johnson Street.

It has been acknowledged that the transition to a one way system in this area has had its problems. In response the order has been raised to improve traffic signage in the area with a sign indicating 'no through road/for access only at the St Pauls Road/South Road Junction. The narrowing of this junction to emphasize that it is a one way system is also being investigated by HBC's Traffic Manager and NDC.



**Wilkinson's Corner (Stockton Street)** – many drivers 'jump' the lights – Councillor Payne.

This issue has been passed to the Police to monitor. With the introduction of new traffic legislation, it may be possible in future to use camera footage to catch offending drivers. The use of cameras for these and similar traffic related enforcement purposes is being piloted elsewhere nationally but are not yet available in Hartlepool.

### **FOGGY FURZE WARD**

**Oakland Avenue** – Councillor London raised problems with potholes

Oakland Avenue is currently included for resurfacing in 2009/2010. However an inspector has visited the area noted the repairs, and an order has been raised for these repairs to be undertaken.

### **GRANGE WARD**

**Sheriff Street** – Alan Greenwell raised the issue of potholes.

This has been inspected and all actionable defects have now been repaired.

**Granville Avenue and Linden Grove** – Councillor Simmons raised the issue of potholes especially on Linden Grove between Wilton Road and Grange Road.

The above works are now complete.

**Rodney Street** – Councillor Tumilty - problems with Anti-Social Behaviour in this area - Housing Hartlepool to liaise with Councillor Tumilty.

A number of agencies are active in this area and are working in partnership to address the issues in Rodney Street. Housing Hartlepool has contacted Councillor Tumilty and they have informed that they have taken the necessary steps with regard to their tenants. As a result one tenant has moved out and a second tenant is soon to move as a result of firm action taken.

**Laburnum Street** – Councillor Richardson questioned if businesses could be requested to sign up to a contract regarding the closure of alley gates.

It is the opinion of HBC Legal Section that a contract in these circumstances would be inappropriate and difficult if not impossible to enforce. The Environmental Action Manager is investigating this more under the Safer Cleaner Neighbourhoods Act. However in the meantime the Alleygate Officer will issue an instruction on looking after the gates on receipt of an alleygate key whether this be a resident or business owner. The Crime Prevention Officer has also reminded the business community in Murray Street of the need to close the gates from a crime prevention point of view.

**Sandringham Road** – Councillor Richardson raised the issue of dolomite from Yuills in the rear alley and lack of cleansing

This has been investigated with Yuills who are still undertaking work in the area in relation to the new development. This has meant that reinstatement of tarmacing up to the original fence line could not be undertaken, and sweeping of the rear alley during this period made difficult. It is anticipated that services will be fully installed on the new development at the beginning of June. At this point tarmacing will be reinstated and cleansing services will be able to operate as normal.

**Tees Valley Joint Consultation** – Resident Rep Alan Greenwell requested important meetings such as this be held in the evenings as well as daytime to enable people who work to attend –

A request was made to hold a day meeting on the above to the Head of Neighbourhood Management. Unfortunately as the submission date was only 3 working days after the request was made by the Forum there was insufficient time to arrange a second meeting. The importance of holding evening as well as day time meetings has been noted. However it should also be noted that on this occasion views were received from members of the public through a combination of public events, exhibitions, and questionnaires. 95% of those responding agreed with the principles proposed as a way forward.

**WARDS**

Burn Valley  
Elwick  
Foggy Furze  
Grange  
Park  
Rift House  
Stranton

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

**3 April 2008**

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING**



The meeting commenced at 2.00 p.m. in the Civic Centre, Hartlepool

**PRESENT:**

Chair:	Councillor Lilian Sutheran	- Rift House Ward
	Councillor Stephen Akers-Belcher	- Rift House Ward
	Councillor Jonathan Brash	- Burn Valley Ward
	Councillor Gerald Hall	- Burn Valley Ward
	Councillor Dr George Morris	- Park Ward
	Councillor Carl Richardson	- Grange Ward
	Councillor Victor Tumilty	- Grange Ward
	Councillor Jane Shaw	- Stranton Ward

Resident Representatives: Elizabeth Carroll, Ted Jackson, Jean Kennedy, Brenda Loynes and Brian McBean

Residents: A Barclay, G Harrison, A E Jobson, M E Lumley, R Rigg, M Thorburn, Hilda Wales,

Council Officers:

- Denise Ogden, Head of Neighbourhood Management
- Jon Wright, Neighbourhood Co-ordinator
- Irene Cross, Neighbourhood Development Officer
- Brian Neale, Crime and Disorder Co-ordinator
- Sally Forth, Anti-Social Behaviour Co-ordinator
- Sarah Bird, Democratic Services Officer

Fire Brigade Representatives: Community Liaison Officer Stuart Simpson, Arson Task Force Manager Lol Craven

Police Representatives: Chief Inspector Phil Veitch, Acting Inspector Glen Ward, Sergeant Brian Crawley.

Housing Hartlepool Representatives: Libby Griffiths, Tenancy Relations and Enforcement Manager

## 18. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

The Chair Councillor Lilian Sutheran welcomed residents, Councillors, Resident Representatives and Officers.

## 19. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Coward, Cranney, London, Simmons, Tumilty, Resident Representatives, Bob Farrow and Evelyn Leck, Neighbourhood Manager, Clare Clark and Steve Patton, Fire Brigade.

## 20. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 10 January 2008 were agreed as an accurate record.

## 21. MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

Chief Inspector Phil Veitch presented details of the recorded crime performance between April 2007 and March 2008 which indicated that total crime had fallen by 4.2% with a drop in drug, robbery, house burglary, criminal damage and other burglaries, although there had been a rise in vehicle crime and other theft (theft of metal included). He stated that the police were working in collaboration with other agencies such as Housing Hartlepool and British Transport Police. Detections for the same period had risen by 5.4%, with rises in forgery, other theft, other burglary and drugs. He stated that the rise in detection of drug offences was due to the pro-active work of officers. Detections in vehicle crime, house burglaries, violence and criminal damage had fallen over than period.

He stated that the Neighbourhood Policing system appeared to be working well in Hartlepool and gave details of performance in the last twelve months. He stated that there was a joint Police/Partnership analytical unit and outlined the asset seizing powers of the Proceeds of Crime Act (POCA). He stated that there was currently particular focus on Class A Drug activity, burglaries, anti-social behaviour, criminal damage, valuable metal theft and counter terrorism.

Items of interest were:-

- Ringmaster scheme – This currently has 2700 members
- Polish Community – A liaison officer has recently been appointed
- Deaf Community – There is a sign trained Police Community Support Officer (PCSO)
- Emergency Services Deaf and Speech Impaired Initiative – This is to be launched at Police Headquarters on Monday, 21 April 2008 between 6.00 pm and 8.00 pm
- Respect Football Tournament – This had taken place recently between Police and Hartlepool College of Further Education and further events were to be planned.

Crime prevention advice regarding home and vehicle safety was outlined.

The following issues were then raised:-

**Councillor Richardson – Why are the figures for street encounters much higher for the Neighbourhood Policing teams than for the rest of the District?**

Chief Inspector Veitch stated that the nature of the team's role was about engaging with a challenging communities whereas response teams' duties were dealing with 999 calls and emergencies and therefore their opportunities to

produce street encounter forms were not as great.

**Councillor Shaw – Why is there no police presence in the Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) Monitoring Office when Middlesbrough have a dedicated officer?** Chief Inspector Veitch said that the policy was currently under review but a balance had to be obtained between having a visible presence on the streets or having a dedicated officer as opposed to using CCTV control centre staff.

**Councillor Shaw – When young people are moved on by Police Officers where are they supposed to go?** Acting Inspector Ward stated that youngsters were not moved on unless they were causing a nuisance but when a complaint had been made officers would attend.

**Resident Representative Brian McBean – Why aren't PCSOs been allowed to hand out fixed penalty notices for dog fouling as it is a problem in the town, and despite receiving training in 2002 but have not yet been given the power to hand out cautions?** Acting Inspector Ward explained that further training had taken place in October 2007 but a uniformed presence was usually a sufficient deterrent to offenders. The Head of Neighbourhood Management confirmed that the soon to be instated Dog Control Orders did insist that dogs should be kept on a lead in rear alleys and the dog control wardens would be working in conjunction with Police to ensure that these Orders were complied with.

**Councillor Akers Belcher – Could heat detectors be used in open green spaces to deal with anti-social behaviour?** Acting Inspector Ward stated that a crowd of people would not necessarily be moved on unless they were causing trouble but tools to combat

anti-social behaviour were always being considered.

The Crime and Disorder Co-ordinator then outlined the benefits of the Ringmaster scheme as an effective communication tool which runs alongside the Neighbourhood Watch scheme in sending safety awareness and crime prevention messages to residents in the appropriate areas of the town. He issued an open invitation to residents who wished to view the Ringmaster equipment in Church Street and welcomed any feedback on the service.

### 23. FIRE BRIGADE UPDATE

The Arson Task Force Manager and the Community Liaison Officer outlined the annual figures for F1 Fires, Accidental Dwelling Fires, Deliberate F1 Fires, Deliberate F3 Fires and Road Traffic Collisions (RTC) both in the Hartlepool District and the Central Neighbourhood. There had been a decrease in all fires in the calendar year across the town as well as in the Central area. Figures were also provided for the period January to March 2008 in comparison with the same period in 2007. There had been a slight reduction in F1 fires; accidental dwelling fires and deliberate F3 fires had remained the same; deliberate F1 fires had increased by 1 and there had been 3 more RTCs than the same period last year in the Central area.

The Arson Task Force Manager informed the Forum that there was now a fire fighter seconded into the Local Authority Community Safety Team and believed that this had been a success. He said that the latest Department of Communities and Local Government Figures had placed Cleveland 45<sup>th</sup> out of 45 Forces as there was a real problem with small fires but hoped that the Community Safety link would alleviate this.

The Community Liaison Officer outlined a multi-agency strategy at the Longhill and Sandgate industrial estate which had had a problem with fires that had taken up a lot of the brigade's time. He stated that there was close liaison with the Police and the Council's Enforcement Unit. The strategy had proved successful with one business recently being fined £24,000.

**Resident Representative Jean Kennedy – Some Seaton Carew residents feel unsafe because of the underground fires on the Seaton Meadows site.** The Arson Task Force Manager stated that a number of agencies were involved in looking at the internal combustion which caused the problem and the Head of Neighbourhood Management confirmed that the Environment Agency visited the site on a regular basis and the Council's Planning Committee was leading on the issue.

#### **24. ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR UPDATE**

The Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) Co-ordinator and the Housing Hartlepool Tenancy Relations and Enforcement Manager gave a presentation regarding anti-social behaviour activity in the central area. There had been an increase of 27% in the Central area compared to the same period last year and over 500 referrals have been made to other agencies including Police, Private and Registered Social Landlords, Victim Support, Family Intervention Project and Parenting Support. A breakdown of referrals by ward was provided as well as details of the Unit's activities in the past three months along with the work carried out by Housing Hartlepool's tenancy relations and enforcement team (TRET).

The ASB Co-ordinator felt it was positive that there were more referrals to the unit as it meant that people were reporting

more incidents and help could be given early on.

The Anti-Social Behaviour Co-ordinator reported on the Good Tenant Scheme whereby tenants were given a green/amber/red rating to assist landlords in allocation of housing.

**Councillor Brash – As noise appears to be the largest complaint, is there a noise abatement officer in the ASB Unit?** It was established that any such complaint would be referred to the Authority's Neighbourhood Services Department but there were fortnightly liaison meetings between the departments. The Head of Neighbourhood Management advised it would be difficult to relocate this officer to the ASB Unit as they had other Environmental Health responsibilities included in their role.

**Resident Alan Barclay – Will those tenants with a red card find it difficult to find housing and therefore won't this make the homelessness problem worse?** The ASB Co-ordinator would liaise with the private sector landlords but it would be an incentive for tenants to re-think their behaviour in order to get a better rating. The scheme was linked to support through the supported housing panel and in extreme cases the Family Intervention Project could help.

**Resident Representative Jean Kennedy – Private Landlords are more likely to give tenants with a red card substandard accommodation and therefore this would make a vicious circle which was difficult to break.** The ASB Co-ordinator said that with Selective Licensing, standards of property are inspected and there is a private sector team which links into the Housing Aid Centre team. One measure of the success of the good tenants scheme

would be assessed by monitoring how many tenants went from red to amber.

Councillor Hall suggested that the ASB Unit should visit residents' associations in order to publicise the work it does.

## **25. NEIGHBOURHOOD ISSUES**

The Chair informed the meeting that Police Officers would be in attendance to speak about any concerns at the end of the meeting.

Acting Inspector Ward thanked the public for attending recent visual audits.

The Chair commented that it was disappointing that so few members of the public had attended the forum.

LILIAN SUTHERAN

CHAIR

**Report of:** Director of Regeneration and Planning Services

**Subject:** Affordable Housing Development Plan Document-  
Issues and Options Discussion Paper Consultation

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## **1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To inform the Forum of the consultation arrangements for the Issues and Options discussion paper, comprising the first stage in the preparation of the Hartlepool Affordable Housing Development Plan Document.

## **2. BACKGROUND AND INFORMATION**

- 2.1 The Issues and Options paper represents the first stage in the production of the Affordable Housing Development Plan Document, one document within the suite of documents that make up the Local Development Framework.
- 2.2 The paper aims to address the issue of affordable housing provision in Hartlepool. It sets out for comment a range of issues concerned with the provision of affordable housing and suggests possible policy options to address them. The outcome of this consultation will provide a policy framework to secure affordable housing on new developments in Hartlepool. The main purpose of the Issues and Options paper is to stimulate debate and seek the views of the community and other stakeholders on how what size developments affordable housing should be provided and what type of affordable housing is required in Hartlepool.

## **3 PUBLIC CONSULTATION**

- 3.1 Public consultation is currently being carried out on the Issues and Options Discussions paper and this will allow communities, organisations and businesses to have their say on what options should be used in the Hartlepool to deal with affordable housing issues. The consultation will allow any further issues to be identified, and for options to be put forward for consideration on how to deal with such further issues.
- 3.2 The consultation began on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2008 and will last for three months until June 30<sup>th</sup> 2008. The Issues and Options discussion paper its accompanying sustainability appraisal and a questionnaire are available from the Civic Centre, Central Library and branch libraries throughout Hartlepool and from Bryan Hanson House.



The Central Library will also have display boards during the consultation period and drop-in sessions have taken place throughout April and May. Further drop-in sessions will be arranged in Middleton Grange shopping centre within June. Officers are also available to speak to any community groups or interested parties on request.

- 3.3 There are various ways to submit comments. Either complete a questionnaire and return it to Bryan Hanson House, Hanson Square Hartlepool TS24 7BT – the questionnaires are available at Bryan Hanson House, the Civic Centre and the libraries, or can be requested by phoning 01429 523532 or emailing [planningpolicy@hartlepool.gov.uk](mailto:planningpolicy@hartlepool.gov.uk). The questionnaire can be completed on our online consultation website at <http://planningpolicy.hartlepool.gov.uk>. Users will need to register when visiting the site, and will then be kept informed by email of consultations on later stages of the Core Strategy and other planning documents that are being produced. Comments can also be sent by letter to the Planning Policy Team at Bryan Hanson House or by email to [planningpolicy@hartlepool.gov.uk](mailto:planningpolicy@hartlepool.gov.uk).
- 3.4 Planning officers are available to discuss the issues throughout the consultation period and are happy to give a detailed presentation to any groups that would like to know more about the document and the new planning system. All opinions are extremely important to us and this discussion paper provides a valuable opportunity to help shape the future of affordable housing provision the town.

#### **4 RECOMMENDATION**

- 4.1 That the report be noted and that interested parties be encouraged view the document or attend the drop in sessions and make formal representations on the Issues and Options report.

**Report:** Director of Neighbourhood Services

**Subject:** MINOR WORKS BUDGET 2008/2009

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## **1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To report to the Forum details of the Minor Works Budget allocation for 2008/2009 and the Forum's role with regard to the proposal and approval of schemes.

## **2. OUTLINE OF CONTENTS**

- 2.1 In 2007/2008 the Forum was responsible for recommending and undertaking Minor Works for the general improvement of the Central Area from a budget allocated by the Council.
- 2.2 The remit of the Forum for 2008/2009 will be to request approval for proposed Minor Works schemes from the Neighbourhoods and Communities Portfolio Holder. If approval is given, then these works will be progressed in the normal way.
- 2.3 The Forum has been delegated £52,000 for this financial year, 2008/2009, as a Minor Works Budget. As was the case in 2007/2008, an additional allocation of £20,000 has been made from Highways Budgets (£10,000 from the Local Transport Plan and £10,000 from the Highways Maintenance Budget). This money will address specific highways issues raised by the Forum in the Central Area.
- 2.4 Further to this, an additional £15,000 has again been allocated to the Forum to address the common issue of the conversion of grass verges to hard standing, where the Forum considers this appropriate.
- 2.5 The framework, when considering proposed schemes, will continue as in previous years, as follows:
- (i) Outline schemes to be proposed by Members, Residents, Residents' Representatives or Officers:
  - (ii) The Chair and Vice Chair of the Neighbourhood Consultative Forum will assess the proposal and where appropriate, instruct Officers to cost the works and report to the Forum;
  - (iii) Reports to the Forum will include estimated costs, alternative options where appropriate, residents' views and any other related information.

- (iv) Minor Works Schemes are likely to include any works of improvement to the area which benefit the community or a number of individual residents and enhance the quality of life in the neighbourhood. Individual repairs and improvements would not normally be funded from this budget but would be referred to other departmental budgets.

### **3. RECOMMENDATION**

#### **3.1 The Forum is asked to note that:**

- (i) The Forum will submit recommendations regarding Minor Works proposals to the Portfolio Holder for Neighbourhoods and Communities for final decision.
- (ii) £52,000 is available for general Minor Works schemes.
- (iii) £20,000 is available for highway related schemes.
- (iv) A further £15,000 has been allocated to specifically address the issues concerning grass verge re-instatement.

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

**Subject:** MINOR WORKS PROPOSALS JUNE 2008

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## **1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

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

## **2.0 BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 The Forum has been delegated a total Minor Works Budget of £87,000 for the financial year 2008/2009. This includes an allocation of £20,000 from highways budgets to address specific highways issues raised by the Forum in the Central Area, and a further £15,000 to address the common issue of the conversion of grass verges to hard standing. A sum of £2,658 is also carried over from the previous financial year leaving £89,658 as the total fund available in 2008/09.

**Total Budget: £89,658**

- 2.2 As in previous years the framework when considering proposed schemes is as follows:-
- (i) Outline schemes proposed by Members, Residents, Resident Representatives or Officers.
  - (ii) The Chair and Vice Chair of the Neighbourhood Consultative Forum to assess the proposal, and where appropriate instruct Officers to cost the works and report to the Forum.
  - (iii) Reports to the Forum will include estimated costs, alternative options where appropriate, residents' views and any other related information.

## **3.0 PROPOSALS**

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

### **(i) PARK WARD**

#### Elwick Road Crossing

Members of the Forum will recall that last year they agreed to support a request to improve pedestrian safety on Elwick Road through the installation of a zebra

crossing close to the junction of Park Drive. The crossing will serve pedestrians living in the locality, those travelling to and from the local schools, and users of Ward Jackson Park. The estimated cost of the scheme is £45,000. It is anticipated that there will be a £30,000 contribution from the Local Transport Plan. The Forum is therefore requested to approve a contribution of £15,000 towards this scheme. A map is attached at **Appendix A**.

**Total cost: £45,000**  
**Total cost to Forum: £15,000**

#### Ward Jackson Park CCTV and Lighting

In recent years there have been a number of cases of anti-social behaviour and criminal damage in Ward Jackson Park particularly around the bowling green. In addition the Elwick Road entrance to the Park and the pathway leading to the 'Place in the Park' does not benefit from any lighting. Following a request from Ward Councillors and Resident Representatives this proposal involves the installation of lighting and CCTV in the park to deter criminal damage, promote reassurance, and facilitate increased usage of the 'Place in the Park' as a community facility. The total estimated cost of the scheme is £20,850. A contribution of £3,000 has been approved by the Portfolio Holder for Culture and Leisure, and an application to the Grants Committee for £12,850 of Section 17 Community Safety Funding is pending. The Forum is therefore requested to approve the £5,000 that is needed to allow the scheme to go ahead.

**Total cost: £20,850**  
**Total cost to Forum: £ 5,000**

#### Cresswell Road Lighting

Poor lighting in Park Ward has been identified by ward Councillors and resident representatives as a problem requiring attention. The Borough Councils Street Lighting Engineer has also confirmed that lighting in parts of this Ward is in need of improvement. Following a survey undertaken by the Street Lighting Engineer into lighting levels, and the condition of existing columns, Cresswell Road has been identified as the most in need of improvement in this area. This proposal therefore involves the installation of six new columns and lanterns in the Cresswell Road area of Park Ward. The Forum is requested to meet the cost of the scheme, which is estimated at £5,000.

**Total Cost: £5,000**  
**Total cost to Forum: £5,000**

### **RIFT HOUSE WARD**

#### Macaulay Road

Residents and ward Councillors have requested this particular scheme to improve environmental quality and address ongoing problems with poor car parking provision in Rift House Ward. The proposed scheme will remove a stretch of badly damaged grassed verge on Macaulay Road opposite numbers

1-15 and replace it with tarmac hard standing. The Forum is requested to approve £5,460 to meet the cost of the scheme. A map is attached at **Appendix B**.

**Total cost: £5,460**  
**Total cost to Forum: £5,460**

#### Bennett Road

Similar to the scheme on Macaulay Road this scheme aims to improve environmental quality and increase car parking provision in the Rift House Ward through the removal of some badly damaged grassed verge areas which require reconstructing in tarmac. The scheme will improve the aesthetics of the area and provide hard standing for parking. The Forum is asked to approve £6,086 for this scheme to go ahead. A map is attached at **Appendix C**.

**Total cost: £6,086**  
**Total cost to Forum: £6,086**

#### Masefield Road

Residents have identified a problem with pedestrian access to the highway on the grassed area between numbers 43-61 Masefield Road. This scheme will introduce a number of small cross paths to aid pedestrian access from pathway to highway. The Forum is asked to approve £345 for this scheme. A map is attached at **Appendix D**.

**Total cost: £345**  
**Total cost to Forum: £345**

#### Browning Avenue

The need for improved parking facilities outside of the flats on Browning Avenue has been identified by residents of the Rift House Ward and ward Councillors. The scheme will create 8-10 car parking spaces and improve environmental quality through the removal of the grass verge. The total cost of this scheme is £20,000. Housing Hartlepool has agreed a contribution of £10,000 towards this scheme therefore the total funding requested from the Forum is £10,000. A map is attached at **Appendix E**.

**Total cost: £20,000**  
**Total cost to Forum: £10,000**

### **STRANTON WARD**

#### Newhaven Court

Following concerns raised by residents, ward Councillors have identified that the entrance to a parking facility servicing Newhaven Court is inadequate.

This proposed scheme therefore involves increasing the width of the vehicle entrance to the parking facility in question. The Forum is requested to approve the total cost of this scheme which is £1,425. A map is attached at **Appendix F**.

**Total cost: £1,425**  
**Total cost to Forum: £1,425**

#### Burbank Alleygate Scheme

This scheme involves a proposal to gate the rear alleyway running between Burbank Street and Ward Jackson School. The alleyway is currently used as a rat run and is an area where drug litter is frequently discarded. Residents have therefore requested that the area is gated to reclaim the land for community use and create a safe play area. The total estimated cost of the scheme is £5,400. The Forum is requested to approve the full amount to allow the scheme to go ahead. A map is attached at **Appendix G**.

**Total Cost: £5,400**  
**Cost to Forum: £5,400**

### **BURN VALLEY WARD**

#### Alston Street

Residents and Ward Councillors of Burn Valley Ward have requested the removal of a second flower bed on Alston Street to provide additional parking and improve the aesthetics of the area. The total estimated cost of this scheme is £4,000. The Forum is asked to approve this funding to enable the scheme to go ahead. A map is attached at **Appendix H**.

**Total Cost: £4,000**  
**Total Cost to Forum: £4,000**

#### Colwyn Road

This scheme will address an unsightly landscaped area on Colwyn Road and limited parking in this particular part of the Burn Valley Ward. The scheme has been requested by residents and ward Councillors following a recent visual audit. It involves the removal of the landscaped area and creation of 3 car parking bays. The total cost of the scheme is £8,800. The Forum is requested to approve this funding to enable the scheme to go ahead. A map is attached at **Appendix I**.

**Total Cost: £8,800**  
**Total Cost to Forum: £8,800**

**ELWICK WARD**Hart Parish Council – Saxon Church

As part of their ongoing work to restore the Saxon Church at Hart Village, the local Parish Council have been successful in a bid to the National Lottery for funding to resurface the car parking area attached to the Church. The car park is well used by both visitors to the attraction and by staff and visitors to the adjacent local school. The estimated cost of resurfacing the car park is £120,000. However there is a shortfall in funding of £12,000. The Forum is therefore requested to contribute £3,000 towards this scheme it being anticipated that contributions from the local school and the Parish Council itself will enable the proposed scheme to go ahead.

**Total cost: £120,000**

**Total cost to Forum: £ 3,000**

Elwick Parish Council – Church Steps

This scheme involves the reconstruction of the village church steps which are in a poor state of repair. The total cost of the scheme is estimated at £800 and the Forum is requested to approve a contribution of £400 to enable the repairs to go ahead.

**Total cost: £800**

**Total cost to Forum: £400**

**CENTRAL NEIGHBOURHOOD AREA SCHEMES**Tactile Crossings

The Forum is asked to consider the request to continue its annual support of the dropped crossing programme with a £3,500 contribution to schemes in the Central Neighbourhood area.

**Total cost to Forum £3,500**

Pride in Hartlepool

The Forum is asked to consider the request to continue its annual support of the Pride in Hartlepool project by contributing £5,000 to schemes in the Central Neighbourhood area.

**Total cost to Forum £5,000**

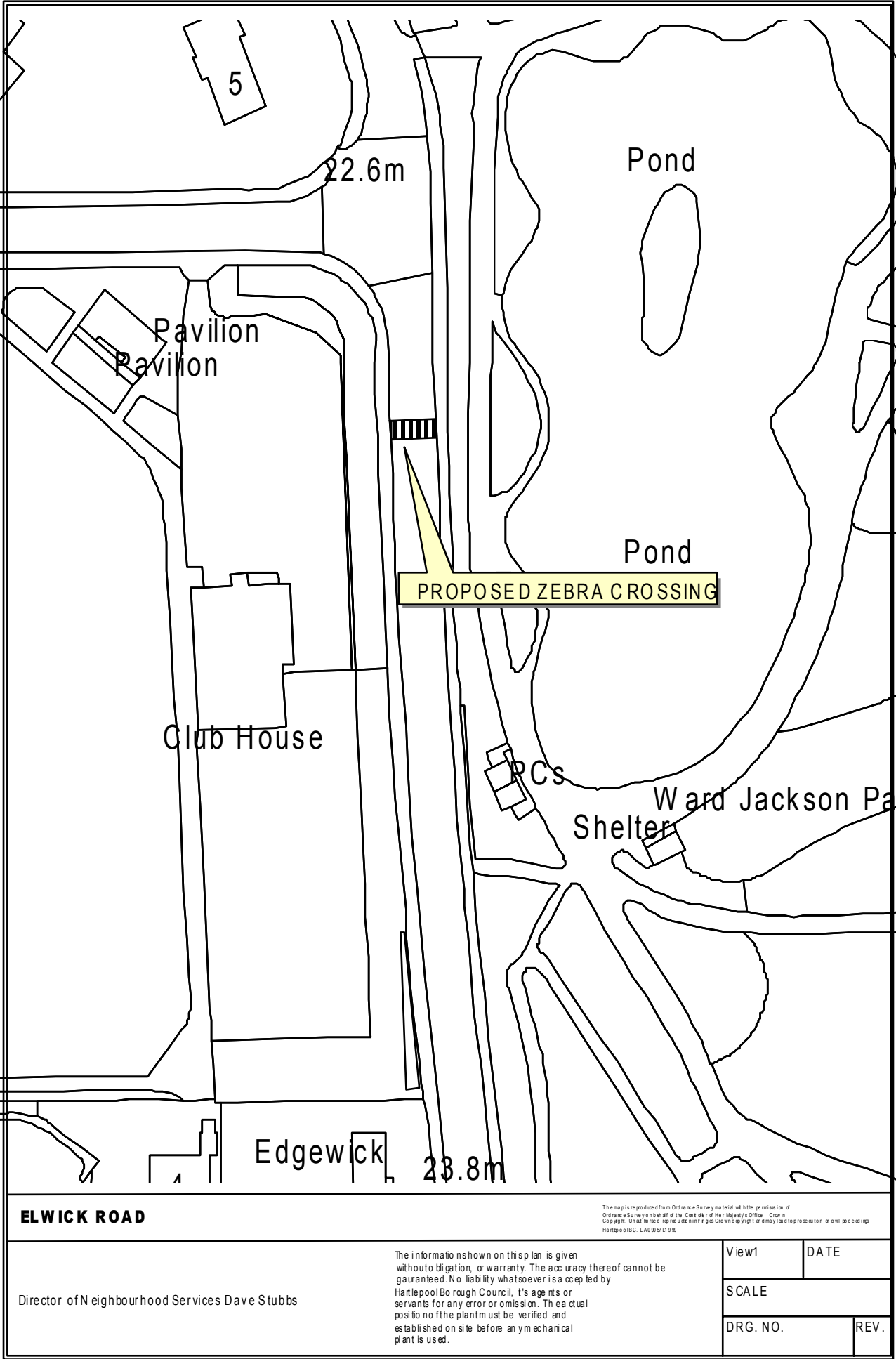
**4.0 RECOMMENDATION**

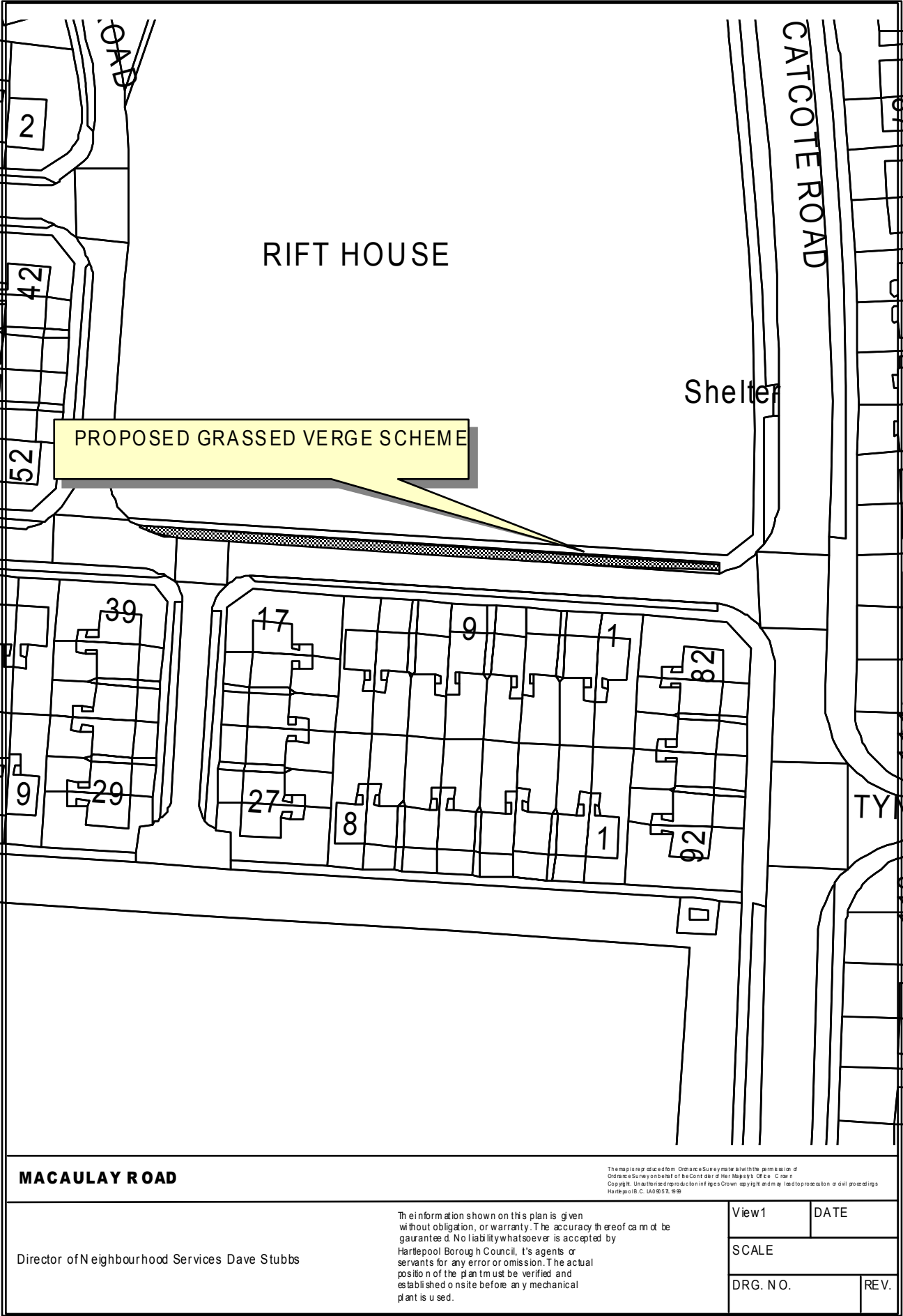
- 4.1.1 Members are asked to recommend approval of the above expenditure to the Portfolio Holder for Neighbourhoods and Communities.



<b>Total cost of proposed schemes</b>	<b>£78,416</b>
<b>Total Fund available</b>	<b>£89,658</b>
<b>Total Fund remaining</b>	<b>£11,242</b>

8.1 APPENDIX A







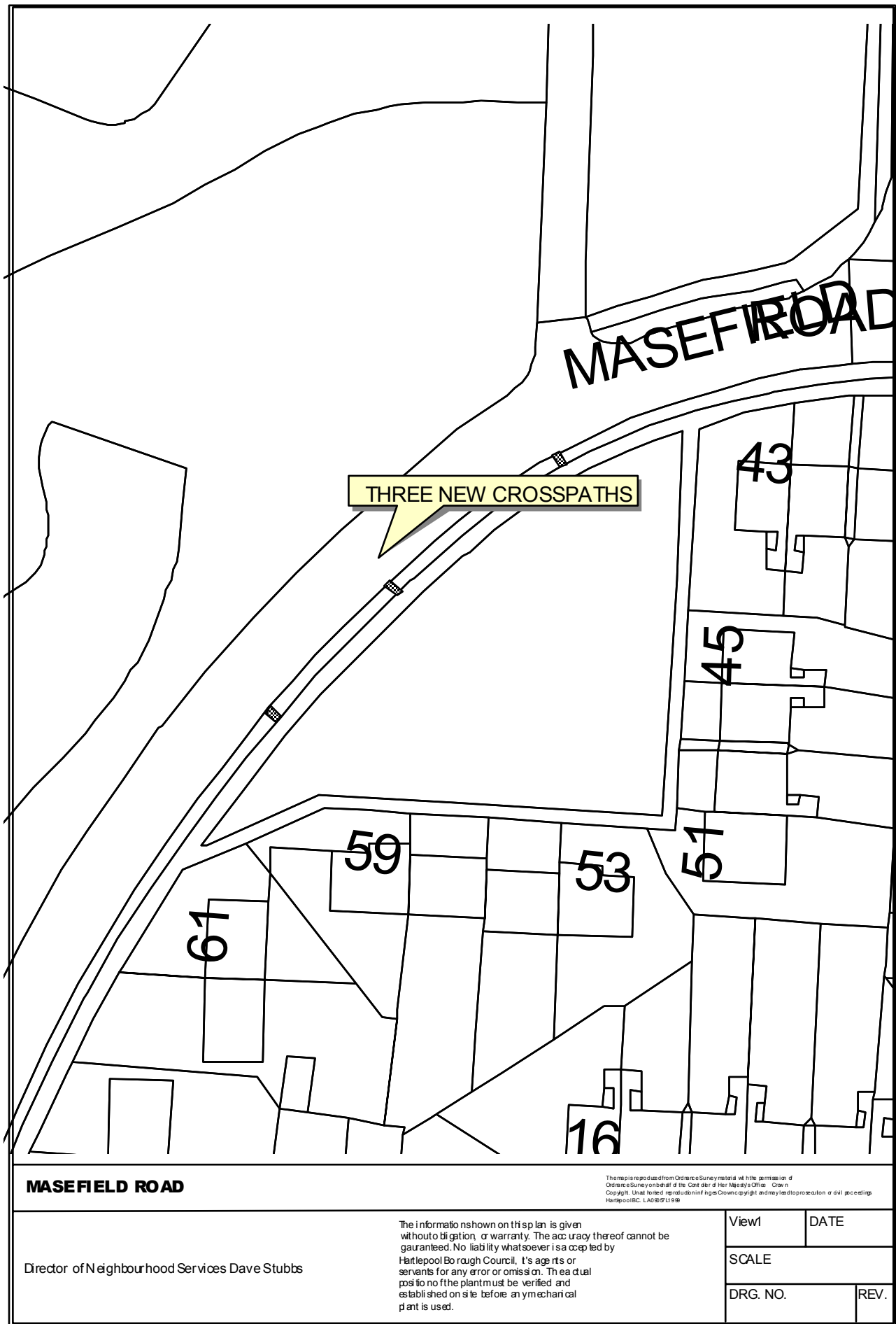
**BENNETT ROAD**

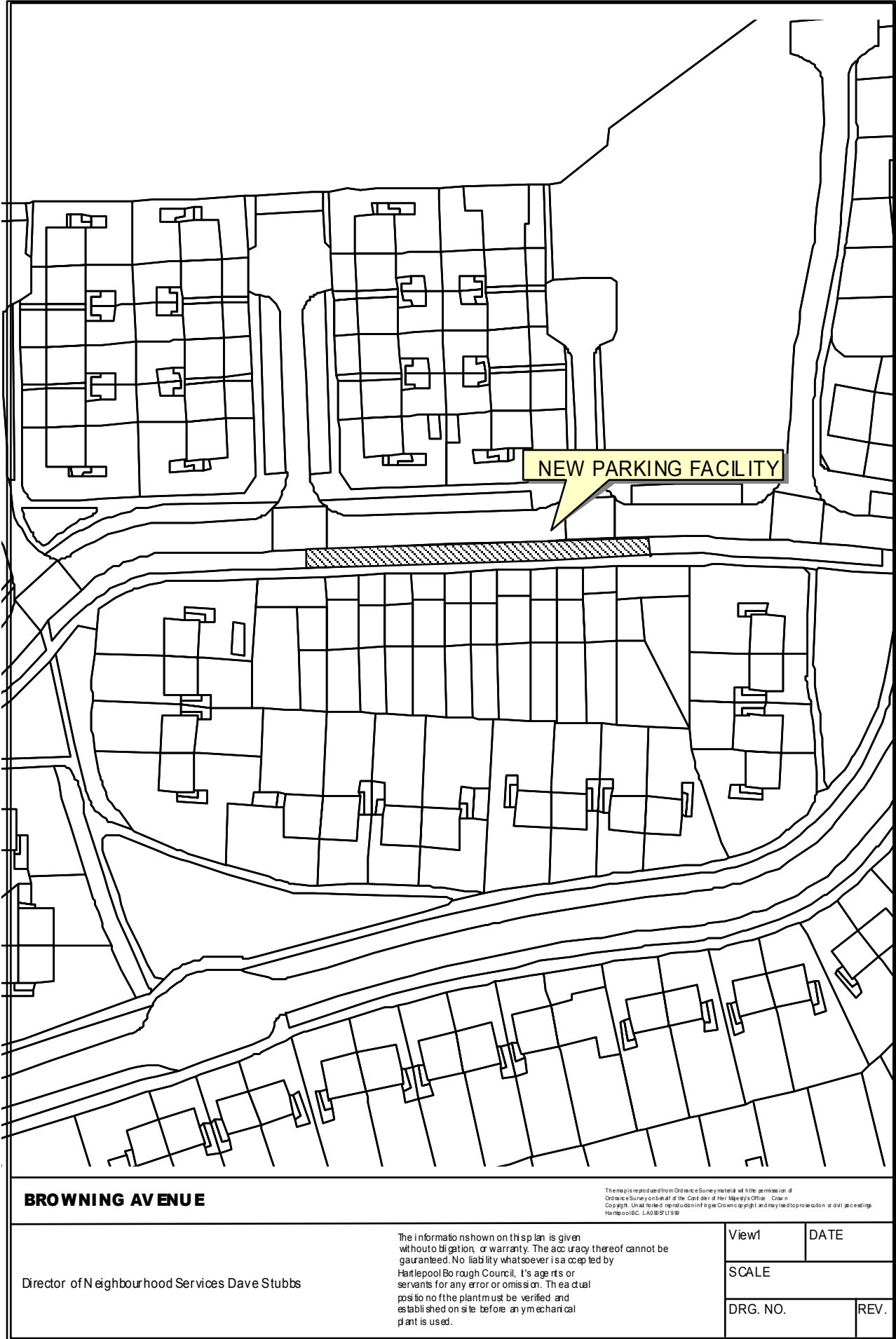
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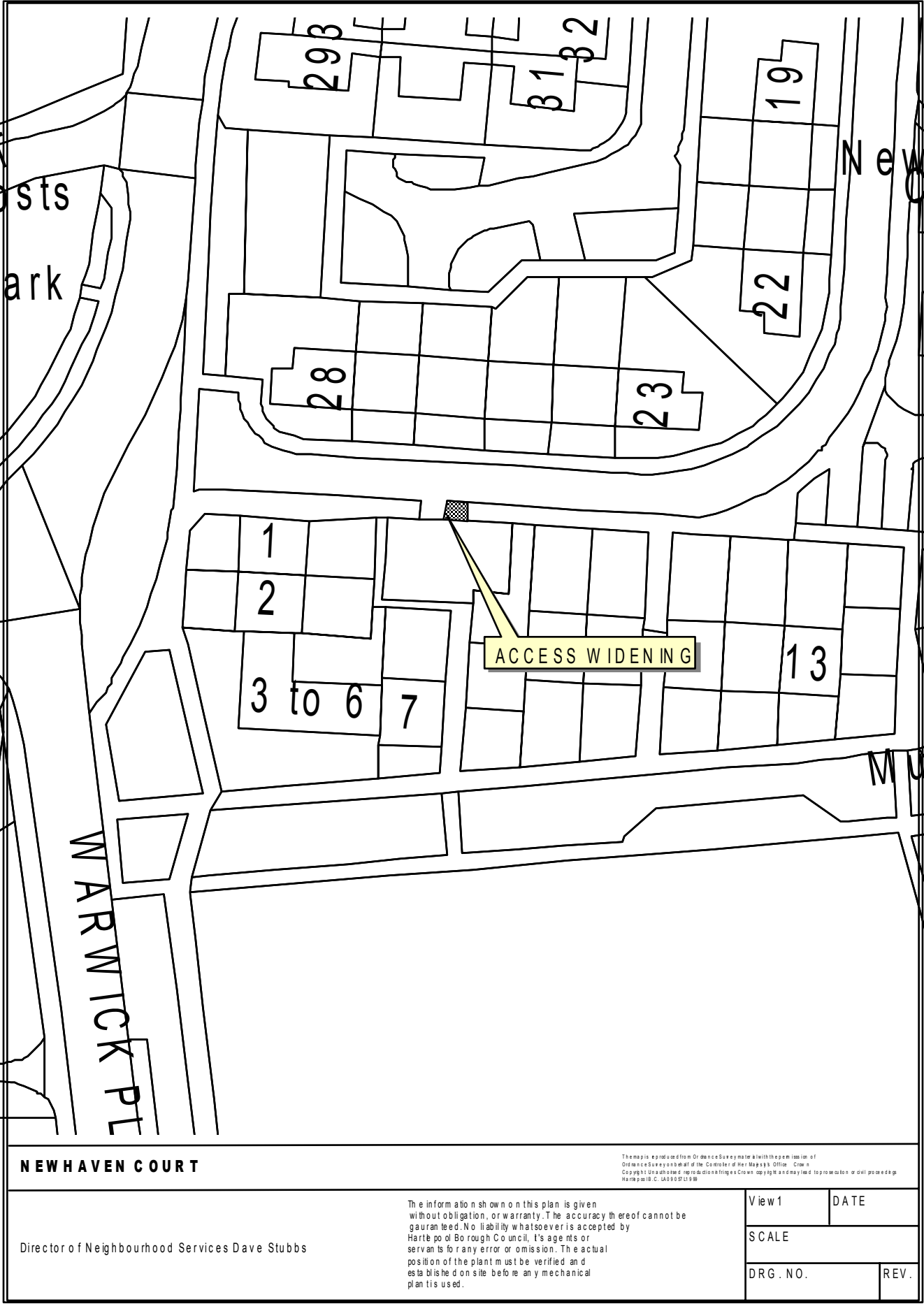
Director of Neighbourhood Services Dave Stubbs

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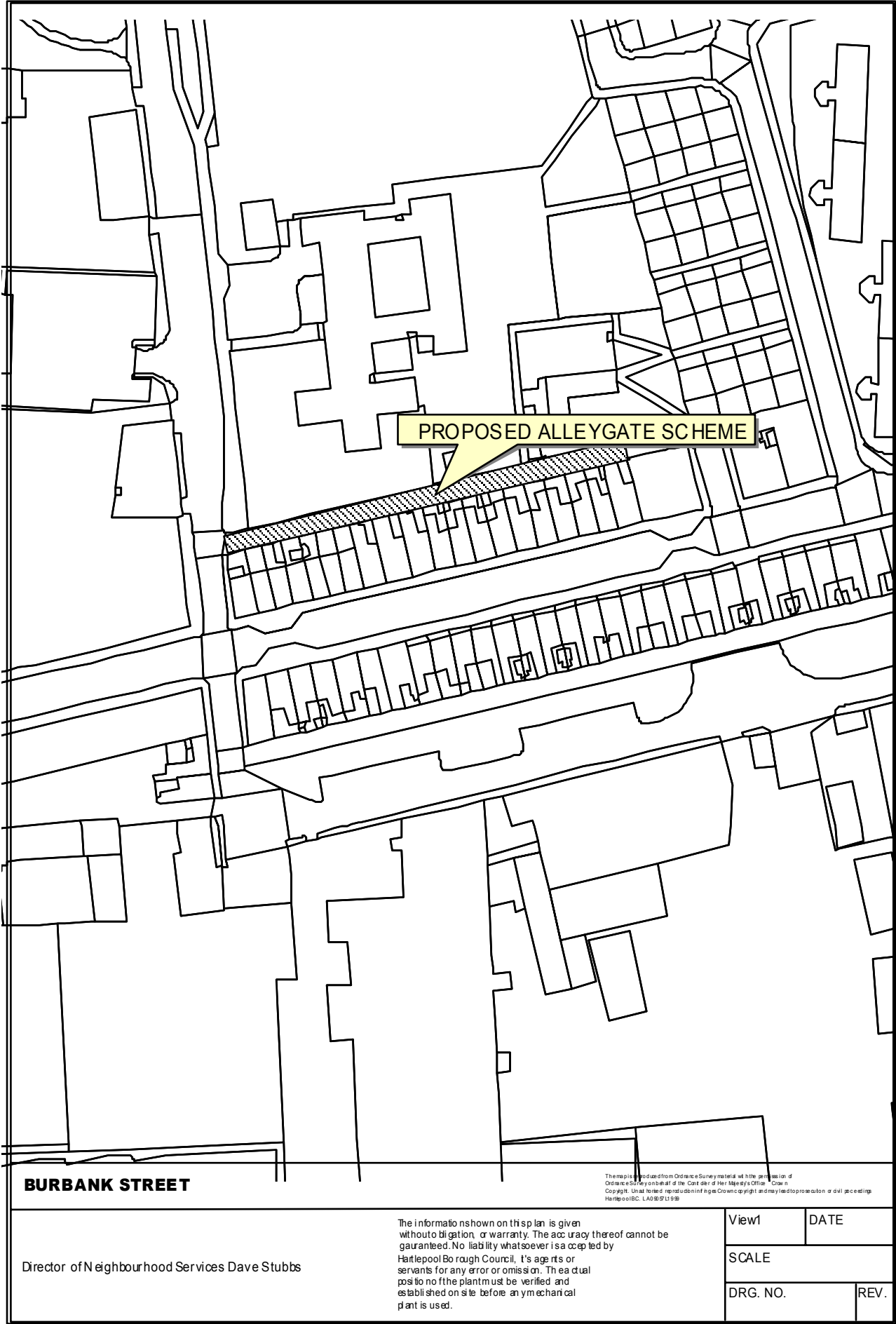
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8.1 APPENDIX G



BURBANK STREET

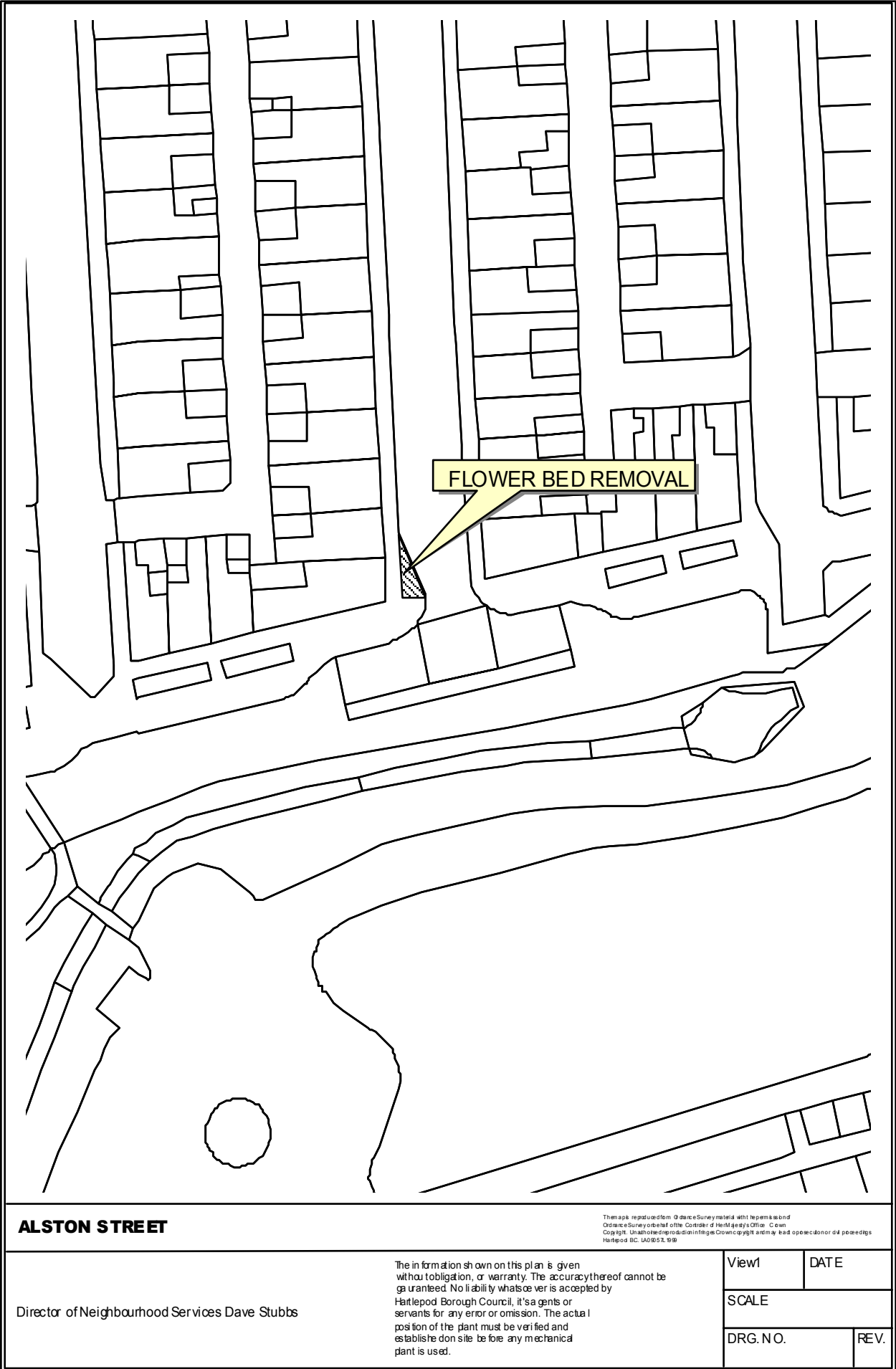
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## 8.1 APPENDIX I

