

CENTRAL NEIGHBOURHOOD CONSULTATIVE FORUM AGENDA



Thursday, 14 August 2008

at 6.00 pm

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

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: Christopher Akers-Belcher, Ronald Breward, Liz 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 19 June 2008
 - 4.2 Matters arising (maximum of 10 minutes) – Feedback sheet from last meeting attached
- 5. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME and WARD ISSUES (maximum of 30 minutes)**

Foggy Furze
Grange
Park
Rift House

Stranton
Burn Valley
Elwick

6. ITEMS FOR CONSULTATION

- 6.1 Scrutiny Investigation into the Condition of Highways in Hartlepool - *Chair of the Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Forum*

7. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND/OR INFORMATION

None

8. ITEMS FOR DECISION

- 8.1 Minor Works – *Central Neighbourhood Manager*

9. WARD ISSUES

10. DATE, TIME AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

Thursday, 16 October 2008 at 2.00 pm in Belle Vue Community Sports and Youth Centre, Kendal Road, Hartlepool

WARDS

Burn Valley
Elwick
Foggy Furze
Grange
Park
Rift House
Stranton

CENTRAL NEIGHBOURHOOD CONSULTATIVE FORUM

19 June 2008

MINUTES OF THE MEETING



The meeting commenced at 10.00 a.m. in Belle Vue Community, Sports and Youth Centre, Kendal Road, Hartlepool

PRESENT:

Chair: Councillor Lilian Sutheran - Rift House Ward

Vice Chair: Resident Representative Evelyn Leck

Councillor Martin Aiken	- Foggy Furze 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 Carl Richardson	- Grange Ward
Councillor Jane Shaw	- Stranton Ward
Councillor Victor Tumilty	- Grange Ward

Resident Representatives: Christopher Akers-Blecher, Liz Carroll, Bob Farrow, Ted Jackson, Jean Kennedy, Alan Lloyd, Brenda Loynes and Brian McBean.

Public: A Barnes, Clive Hall, Gordon Johnson, Stella Johnson, Dennis Loynes, R Smailes, Ray Waller

Council Officers: Jon Wright, Neighbourhood Co-ordinating Manager (Central)
Clare Clark, Neighbourhood Manager (Central)
Irene Cross, Neighbourhood Development Officer (Central)
Amy Waters, (Senior) Planning Officer
Andrew Pearson, Parks and Countryside Manager
Richard Harland, Parks Development Officer
Brian Dixon, Programme Manager, New Deal for Communities
Sarah Bird, Democratic Services Officer

Housing Hartlepool: Lynn McPartlin

Police Representatives: Sgt Catherine Campbell

Environment Agency: Mike McNulty

Royal Haskoning: Peter Brunner

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Akers Belcher, Brash, Coward, Kaiser, Payne and Simmons

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

3. MINUTES

The minutes of the Central Neighbourhood Consultative Forum held on 27 March 2008 were accepted as an accurate account.

The minutes of the Central Police and Community Safety Consultative Forum were noted.

4. MATTERS ARISING

Ward Jackson Park

Councillor Morris said that he had been advised that the solution to the poor drainage would not be simple and therefore an expensive matter to put right. He thanked Officers for repairing the public lavatories.

Elwick Road Post Office

Resident Representative Alan Lloyd expressed disappointment that the town's Member of Parliament was unable to vote against the closure of this Post Office. Resident Ray Waller said that he thought that this would have fallen under the criteria of Post Offices to stay open.

5. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME AND WARD ISSUES

Rift House

Rift House Primary School – Resident Representative Alan Lloyd highlighted problems with parking outside the school.

This would be referred to the Traffic Team.

Rift House Recycling Bins - Resident Representative Alan Lloyd stated that there was a lot of rubbish around the area of the bins. The Neighbourhood Manager agreed to follow this up.

Stranton

Health Centre - Resident Representative Jean Kennedy asked that the Primary Care Trust and the Authority inform residents of the current situation with regards to the new health centre. She was in favour of the new health centre as it would be convenient for the nearby residents. The Neighbourhood Manager agreed to organise a meeting to update residents.

Burn Valley

Elwick Road Post Office - Resident Representative Alan Lloyd informed the Forum that he was to meet with the Mayor the following Monday to discuss the closure of the Post Office and asked anyone who wished to put their view across to contact him. Councillor Hall endorsed the concerns of Resident Representative Alan Lloyd.

Burn Valley Gardens - Resident Representative Evelyn Leck said that there were no litter bins in the gardens. One had been pulled up and she had reported this. The Neighbourhood Manager agreed to look into this.

Burn Valley Update – Councillor Hall informed the meeting that he and Councillor Brash had undertaken a site visit of the area around Shrewsbury Street and Westbourne Road with the Neighbourhood Co-ordinating Manager to identify potholes and work was being progressed.

Oxford Road Residents' Group – Councillor Hall advised the Forum that this residents' group met every 4 – 6 weeks.

Burn Valley Steering Group – Councillor Hall stated that he attended these meetings which worked with the Police and Anti-Social Behaviour Unit to control behaviour in the park.

Park Road Co-operative Building – Resident Ray Waller asked why the scaffolding was still present on the building after two years as this was causing an obstruction for pedestrians. The Neighbourhood Manager said that she would look into this.

Forum Venues and Bus Services – Resident Ray Waller expressed concern that the next meeting of the Central Forum was being held on an evening at a venue not serviced by buses after 6.00 pm and requested that future evening meetings take place at a more central location such as the library.

Foggy Furze

Dead Trees - Resident Representative Bob Farrow highlighted that there was a dead tree at the end of Sydenham Road and one on the corner of Borrowdale Street and Sydenham Road. He said that the barriers were also missing there. The Neighbourhood Manager agreed to look into this.

Pride in Hartlepool – Councillor London thanked the Pride in Hartlepool team for their contribution to projects in the area.

Peebles Avenue – Councillor London highlighted that because the street was narrow residents had expressed a desire for parking permits. The Neighbourhood Manager agreed to investigate this request on behalf of Councillor London.

Grange

Appreciation - Resident Representative Brian McBean expressed his gratitude to the Neighbourhood Manager for sorting out a number of problems prior to the meeting.

Topcliffe Street - Resident Representative Brian McBean highlighted the overgrown weeds around the substation. The Neighbourhood Manager agreed to look into this.

Murray Street - Resident Representative Brian McBean stated that although the bulk of the street was clear of litter, a number of shop doorways and NTL boxes had litter in and on them. The Neighbourhood Manager agreed to resolve this problem.

Sheriff Street – Councillor Richardson queried why no barrier had been erected around the demolition site to prevent dust spreading to nearby homes and requested that in future this practice be adopted in demolition areas.

Alleygates – Councillor Richardson highlighted that the alleygates at the end of Sheriff Street were being left open by businesses. The Neighbourhood Manager stated that she had enquired with the legal department as to whether there was any way of enforcement if the gates were not kept locked and had been informed that the agreement was not enforceable. She stated that the Crime Prevention Officer met regularly with local businesses to highlight the crime prevention aspect of alleygates. Councillor Richardson requested a report outlining the current position.

Grosvenor Street – Councillor Tumilty thanked the Neighbourhood Services Department for removing the fly tipping but stated that within hours there was

more rubbish dumped there. The Neighbourhood Manager agreed to have this removed.

Rodney Street/Collingwood Street/Jobson Street – Councillor Tumilty stated that the alleyways should be re-positioned now that demolition has taken place in the area. The neighbourhood Manager said that she was aware of this need and that steps were being taken to have the gates re-located as quickly as possible.

Collingwood Road/Jobson Street – Councillor Tumilty pointed out that these gates were open at one end and the Neighbourhood Manager said that she was aware of this and steps would be taken to rectify this.

Mill House Leisure Centre – Councillor Tumilty informed the meeting that due to excessive rain causing the electrical system to blow, the Leisure Centre was currently closed.

Park

Elwick Road - Resident Representative Brenda Loynes thanked the Neighbourhood Services Department for relocating the signs advising motorists of ducks in the area.

Ward Jackson Park - Resident Representative Brenda Loynes asked whether there could be speed humps placed in the roads in the vicinity of the park. The Neighbourhood Co-ordinating Manager outlined details of the proposed crossing on Elwick Road which would include measures to slow down traffic on the approaches to the crossing.

Tarnston Road – Resident Representative Brenda Loynes pointed out that there were a large number of potholes near the Tarnston Road/Hart Lane interchange. The Neighbourhood

Co-ordinator said that he would investigate this.

Mounston Close - Resident Representative Brenda Loynes expressed concerns about the sitting area around number 39 and the Neighbourhood Manager agreed to meet with her to discuss this.

Dog Control Orders - Resident Representative Liz Carroll when these were to be enforced and was informed that it would be at least the end of July, possibly August.

Tunstall Court - Resident Representative Liz Carroll highlighted anti-social behaviour and litter problems with this building. The Neighbourhood Manager stated that the building was currently awaiting planning permission to be converted into living accommodation, but the fire and police services regularly visited the premises.

Wooler Road - Resident Representative Liz Carroll asked whether a crossing could be put into place but was informed that this had been looked into previously and found to be unfeasible because of the close proximity of a number of driveways. The Neighbourhood Co-ordinating manager agreed to bring details of the plans to a future meeting.

Ward Jackson Park drainage – Resident R Smailes outlined possible solutions to the drainage problems in the park. The Parks Development Officer said that this was currently being looked at and costs were being worked out.

6. PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS TO THE BURN VALLEY BECK AND GARDENS

Peter Brunner from Royal Haskoning gave a presentation outlining the proposed improvements to the Burn

Valley Beck and Gardens. These included flood risk management and environmental enhancements and were well received by those present at the Forum, although concerns were expressed regarding past flooding in the area of the Gardens.

The Chair suggested that there should be a separate consultation meeting for residents. The Parks and Countryside Manager stated that there was a steering group set up which had a planned walkabout in the park on 27 June and any resident was welcome to join this. He agreed to organise a separate meeting to discuss the proposed plans for the Gardens.

7. AFFORDABLE HOUSING DEVELOPMENT PLAN DOCUMENT

The (Senior) Planning Officer informed 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 which was part of the Local Development Framework. This was to address the issue of affordable housing provision in Hartlepool and suggesting possible policy options. The outcome of this consultation would provide a policy framework to secure affordable housing on new developments in Hartlepool.

The consultation was to run for three months until 30 June 2008. The Issues and Options discussion paper and associated documents were available from the Civic Centre, Bryan Hanson House, and Central Library. Drop-in sessions had been arranged at the Central Library with a further drop-in session taking place at the Middleton Grange Shopping Centre on 27 June 2008. Comments could be submitted via

questionnaire to Bryan Hanson House or online via planningpolicy.hartlepool.co.uk.

The (Senior) Planning Officer stressed that this was a policy document and there were no allocated sites outlined on it.

Resident Ray Waller asked whether Central Government were prepared to give up land as it wanted Local Authorities to do that.

Councillor Hall stated that only a small amount of affordable housing was being built each year and that private developers were unwilling to invest in areas where Local Authorities asked a high price for land and asked for 30% of affordable housing. He said that no stigma should be attached to affordable housing and this needed to be put across to communities and developers to offer houses suitable for first time buyers or shared ownership. Councillor London stated that there should be sympathetic developments with open spaces. Councillor Shaw commented that many people were unable to get a mortgage so affordable housing was necessary.

The members of the Forum noted the report.

8. MINOR WORKS BUDGET 2008/2009

The Neighbourhood Manager reported details of the Minor Works Budget allocation for 2008/2009 and the Forum's role with regard to the proposal and approval of schemes.

It was noted that

- ❖ £52,000 was available for general Minor Works schemes
- ❖ £20,00 was available for highway related schemes
- ❖ A further £15,000 had been allocated to specifically address

the issues concerning grass verge re-instatement.

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

- 1.Park Ward - Elwick Road – Pedestrian Crossing
- 2.Park Ward - Ward Jackson Park - CCTV and Lighting
- 3.Park Ward - Cresswell Road - Lighting
- 4.Rift House Ward – Macaulay Road – tarmac grass verges
- 5.Rift House Ward – Bennett Road – tarmac grass verges
- 6.Rift House Ward – Browning Avenue – car parking for residents
- 7.Rift House Ward – Masfield Road – improve pedestrian access
- 8.Stranton Ward – Newhaven Court – improved vehicular access
- 9.Stranton Ward – Burbank Alleygate Scheme – creation of safe play area
- 10.Burn Valley Ward – Alston Street – removal of flower bed
- 11.Burn Valley Ward – Colwyn Road – creation of car parking bays
- 12.Elwick Ward – Saxon Church – resurfacing of car park
- 13.Elwick Ward – Church – repairing of steps
- 14.Various Wards – Tactile crossings
- 15.Various Wards – Pride in Hartlepool

Councillor Hall asked that the Forum could be updated on the Pride in Hartlepool and Tactile crossings projects when they are approved. Councillor Richardson commented that the Pride in Hartlepool projects contributed to a reduction in anti-social behaviour. Resident Clive Hall asked that the extension of the car park in Burbank Street be put forward as an item for future Minor Works.

Decision

That schemes 1 - 15 be recommended for approval to the Portfolio Holder.

The meeting concluded at 11.20 am.

Chair

ACTION SHEET CENTRAL FORUM 19 June 2008

RIFT HOUSE

Rift House School – problems with parking outside school (Alan Lloyd) –

This issue has been passed to the parking enforcement team who will carry out patrols of the area, enforcing where necessary, when the new school term commences.

Rift House Recycling Bins – rubbish dumped near to the bins (Alan Lloyd)

This is a town wide issue, and negotiations are ongoing with current contractors to resolve the problem of rubbish being dumped at bring centres. It is hoped that the current scrutiny investigation into recycling will result in recommendations that will assist in alleviating some of the problems currently being reported. In the interim we will endeavor to keep on top of the situation.

BURN VALLEY

Burn Valley Gardens – no litter bin/bin overturned (Evelyn Leck)

The overturned bin has been reinstalled. An additional three litter bins are expected to be installed in the Burn Valley over the next couple of weeks.

Shrewsbury Street/Westborne Road – pot holes (Ged Hall)

A Road Closure has been applied for and will be effective from the 4th of August. Therefore works will be carried out on either Sunday the 10th or 17th of August.

Burn Valley – meeting to set up to discuss proposed improvements to Burn Valley Beck area

There is still a lot more work to carry out to this strategy not only to discuss the burn itself, but either side of the burn and the surrounding area. As a consequence, once the completed study has been carried out, there will be further consultation with a wider audience. This will involve a full day and evening event to allow a greater uptake of residents.

FOGGY FURZE

Sydenham Road – dead trees/grill gone(Bob Farrow)

One of the dead trees has been removed and in accordance with residents wishes will not be replaced. The second tree on Sydenham Road will however be replaced along with the stolen tree grill.

Peebles Avenue – narrow road so parking permits required (Frances London)

We have looked at this site before as a possible permit controlled parking zone. The street is particularly narrow and a formalised scheme would significantly reduce the amount of vehicle capacity for residents themselves, i.e. parking would need to be prohibited on one side and parking bays created on the other side of the street. Residents felt that in such circumstances this would be unacceptable. However it is recognised that there are some parking issues particularly close to the shops which could well be an inconvenience for some residents. As a permit scheme would have other adverse effects other options will be explored in order to provide a solution e.g. some short stay parking at the shops that protects the long term interests of residents.

STRANTON

Problems with building works new health centre – Jean Kennedy

A meeting held on 29th July with Waldon/Holt/Lister residents to address these issues.

GRANGE

Topcliffe Street – weeds around the substation (Brian McBean)

These works are now complete.

Murry Street/Sandringham Road/ – litter Bests doorway/NTL boxes(Brian McBean)

Litter from the doorway at Bests has been removed. The area around Sandringham Road is swept by the mechanical sweeper twice per week. The Environmental Supervisor has again spoken with the cleansing teams indicating the need to retrieve rubbish from behind obstacles such as NTL cabinets, and will monitor the situation.

Sheriff Street – still a problem with alleygates not being locked by Kinnersley's (Carl Richardson)

As agreed a report will be brought to a future Forum meeting on this particular issue.

Grosvenor Street – still a problem with fly tipping (Vic Tumilty)

The Safer Cleaner Greener initiative is currently been rolled out in this area. Once all wheelie bins have been etched and section 46 notices issued we will be much better position to carry out enforcement.

Rodney Street/Jobson – alleygates should be re-positioned now demolition taken place

Gates have now been relocated to secure the rear of the properties in Rodney/Jobson.

PARK

Tarnston Road – potholes near new junction (Brenda Loynes)

The section of Hart Lane from the roundabout at Dunston Road up to the traffic light controlled junction at Tarnston Road is to be resurfaced in October of this year. When the road is closed we will look to repair the pot holed section.

Mounston Close – problems near number 39, sitting area (Brenda Loynes)

A site meeting has taken place with Jon Wright and Steve Cranston the Police Crime Prevention Officer along with Brenda Loynes to discuss available options for target hardening the property in question. Once agreement has been reached appropriate target hardening measures will be implemented.

CENTRAL NEIGHBOURHOOD CONSULTATIVE FORUM REPORT

14 August 2008



Report of: Scrutiny Support Officer

Subject: SCRUTINY INVESTIGATION INTO THE CONDITION
OF THE HIGHWAYS IN HARTLEPOOL

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To provide Members with an introduction to the presentation, which will be delivered at today's meeting by the Chair of the Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Forum and the Scrutiny Support Officer, as part of the Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Forum's investigation into the 'Condition of the Highways in Hartlepool'

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 The Chair of the Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Forum and the Scrutiny Support Officer will be in attendance at today's meeting to deliver a presentation, as part of the Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Forum's investigation into the 'Condition of the Highways in Hartlepool' in relation to the following issues:-
- a) the overall aim of the investigation;
 - b) the terms of reference for the investigation; and
 - c) key dates.

3. RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 That Members of the Forum note the presentation and submit their views and comments on the subject matter, which will then be fed directly into future meetings of the Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Forum.

CONTACT OFFICER

Laura Starrs – Scrutiny Support Officer
Chief Executive's Department - Corporate Strategy
Hartlepool Borough Council
Tel: 01429 523 647
Email: laura.starrs@hartlepool.gov.uk

BACKGROUND PAPERS

The following background paper was used in preparation of this report:-

- (a) Scrutiny Investigation into the Condition of the Highways in Hartlepool –
Scoping Report (Scrutiny Support Officer) – 11.07.08

Report of: Neighbourhood Manager (Central)

Subject: MINOR WORKS PROPOSALS

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

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

2.0 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Forum has been delegated a total Minor Works Budget of **£89,658** for the financial year 2008/09. The total committed spend to date is **£78,416** Therefore the total budget available is **£11,242**

Total Budget: £11,242

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 area.

(1) STRANTON WARD

Cumbria Walk

This proposal involves the removal of two grassed build-outs within the existing parking area in Cumbria Walk to create an additional 4/5 parking spaces. The Forum is requested to fund the full costs of this project to enable it to go ahead.

Total cost: £5,636.00

(2) RIFT HOUSE WARD

Dryden Road

At the requests of local residents this scheme involves the removal of a grassed verge and its replacement with tarmac hard standing to help with parking and accessibility in this congested area. The Forum is requested to approve the full costs of this project to enable it to go ahead.

Total cost: £3,520.00

Oakland Avenue

At the request of local residents this scheme will visually improve the look of an area of open space located at the junction of Oakland Avenue and Caledonian Road. Rose bushes in this area currently act as a litter trap. Consequently the scheme proposed will remove the existing rose bushes and replace them with more attractive and manageable shrubbery. The area surrounding the shrub bed will remain grassed.

Total cost: £1,000.00

(3) HART WARD

Hart Village

There has been a request from residents of the village for the resurfacing of the village hall car park. This is a very popular venue for events in Hart Village and is well used by the community most nights of the week. The total estimated cost of the scheme is £35000.00/ £40000.00 The Forum is asked to contribute £1,086.00 towards the scheme.

Total cost: £1,086.00

3.0 RECOMMENDATION

3.1 The Forum is requested to recommend to the Neighbourhoods and Communities Portfolio Holder that the above schemes be approved from the Minor Works Budget

3.2 The total cost of schemes proposed is **£11,242**

3.3 Total Minor Works monies remaining - **£00,000**

3.4 Residents and members are reminded to contact members of the Neighbourhood Management team if there are any schemes you would like the Forum to consider in the next financial year.