

REGENERATION AND LIVEABILITY PORTFOLIO

DECISION RECORD

26 September 2008

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

Present:

The Mayor (Stuart Drummond)

Officers: Denise Ogden, Head of Neighbourhood Management
Derek Gouldbum, Urban Policy Manager
Sarah Scarr, Landscape Planning & Conservation Manager
Kate Ainger, Pride in Hartlepool Officer
Sarah Bird, Democratic Services Officer

Also present: Julie Rudge, secretary of the Dent and Derwent Resident Association

9. Dent and Derwent Resident Association Action Plan – *Head of Neighbourhood Management*

Type of Decision

Non key.

Purpose of Report

The report was presented in order to consider a request from the Dent/Derwent Resident Association for Hartlepool Borough Council's support in achieving the aims and objectives of the Association's recently published Action Plan.

Issues for Consideration

The Dent/Derwent Resident Association was established in 2001 to work with partners to improve the quality of life of local residents living in the area bounded by Raby Road, Murray Street and Victoria Road. The Authority was asked to provide continued support in the following areas:-

- ❖ Crime and Safety
- ❖ Environmental Improvements
- ❖ Social, Leisure and Educational Activities
- ❖ Health
- ❖ Private Rented Sector Housing
- ❖ Commercial Areas
- ❖ Traffic

The Association was located in the town centre area of Stranton ward which was within the top 1% of deprived wards nationally. In recent years the area had benefited from a number of regeneration initiatives including the City Challenge and New Deal for Communities Programme. The Hartlepool Community Strategy and Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy recognised that it was essential that in deprived neighbourhoods there was a need for additional support in order to improve the life chances of the residents who live and work there. With the New Deal for Communities programme due to terminate in 2011 it was recognised that support must be gained from other sources.

To assist in improving conditions at a local level there were locally based plans known as Neighbourhood Action Plans (NAPs) and the Neighbourhood Management Teams were responsible for their development, implementation and monitoring. The area was also supported by a Neighbourhood Panel which meets on a bi-monthly basis.

A copy of the action plan had been circulated and key specific issues identified were:-

The need for landlord licensing to tackle anti-social and transient tenancies

The need to tackle derelict key buildings/land (Young Street, Odeon, Church of the Nazarene)

The need to tackle litter, fly tipping including business waste and recycling material

The action plan had also been presented to the Neighbourhoods and Communities Portfolio earlier in the week and he had expressed support for this.

The secretary of the Association Julie Rudge, explained that the action plan covered the long term aims of the association and said that some of the problems including the Odeon, derelict land on Young Street and the Church of the Nazarene had been issues since 2001. She stated that the area was a crime hotspot due to its transient population and highlighted the problems with commercial litter. She said that currently there was partnership working with the Police and Hartlepool Mind which would hopefully prove effective in tackling some of the area's problems.

The Portfolio Holder stated that this was a very positive action plan, supporting residents and empowering the community which had his full support. He stated that the residents association had put together a very professional action plan.

The Head of Neighbourhood Management pointed out that there was work ongoing in the Young Street area to improve the land and pavements.

Decision

The Portfolio Holder expressed his support to the Dent/Derwent Association and confirmed that there would be continued general Council support in assisting with achieving their vision through the Council's Neighbourhood Management Structure and New Deal for Communities Neighbourhood Action Plan.

The Portfolio Holder also congratulated the Dent/Derwent Association in the production of their Action Plan and as a valued partner expressed thanks for their continuing contribution to improving the quality of life of the Dent/Derwent Community.

10. Conservation Policy Review – *Landscape Planning & Conservation Manager*

Type of Decision

Non key.

Purpose of Report

The report was presented in order to seek the Portfolio Holder's views on proposed policy guidelines for alterations to properties in Conservation Areas.

Issues for Consideration

The report gave details of the review by the Planning Committee of its policy guidelines for alterations to properties in conservation areas. A report had been submitted to the Planning Committee on 3 September 2008 which included proposed new policy guidelines referring to the use of modern materials for window replacements provided that certain criteria were met in the design, dimensions, details and opening mechanism. Consultation would be taking place with residents, the Portfolio Holder and the Headland Conservation Area Advisory Group. It was anticipated that public consultation would begin at the end of October and carry on into early November.

The Portfolio Holder acknowledged that there had been difficult negotiations for the past three years and stated that this appeared to

be a good compromise. He added that he hoped that there would be a robust policy so that the character of the Headland would be preserved and hoped that the use of traditional materials would be actively encouraged. He stated that he did not wish any conservation grants to be awarded for the installation of UPVC windows but would encourage grants for those who wished to return to traditional materials from UPVC.

The Portfolio Holder asked about current enforcement action which may be affected by the new criteria and was informed that each case would be looked at individually by the Planning Committee.

Decision

The above comments made by the Portfolio Holder in relation to the Conservation Policy Review were noted.

11. Pride in Hartlepool Proposals – *Pride in Hartlepool Officer*

Type of Decision

Non key.

Purpose of Report

The report was presented in order to consider recommendations by the Pride in Hartlepool Steering Group.

Issues for Consideration

The Pride in Hartlepool Steering Group recommended the following projects for approval:-

£500 towards the Friends of Greatham Primary School enhancement of the schools grounds and provision of a safe play area for village children. The group had already had a £500 grant previously.

£5,000 towards the Rift House East Residents Association fencing and planting at a site close to the allotments on Waverley Terrace to provide a community allotment/garden. Advice had been sought from the Parks and Countryside Manager in relation to the project.

Decision

The Portfolio Holder agreed with the recommendations of the Pride in Hartlepool Steering Group.

12. Headland Conservation Area Advisory Committee – *Landscape Planning & Conservation Manager*

Type of Decision

Non key.

Purpose of Report

The report was presented in order to provide information on the recently formed Headland Conservation Area Advisory Committee and its status.

Issues for Consideration

The formation of this committee and its suggested membership had been agreed at a previous Portfolio meeting. Three meetings of the committee had taken place and the Committee decided that it would prefer to be independent rather than a Council Committee. Officers had suggested that they be known as the Headland Conservation Area Advisory Group to avoid any confusion that they may be a Council committee. The group would remain supported by Officers of the Regeneration and Planning Department for as long as it was required subject to available resources. Advice had been sought from Hartlepool Voluntary Development Agency and the North of England Civic Trust on issues such as a constitution and other similar organisational tasks.

Decision

The Portfolio Holder noted the report.

13. Park Conservation Area Appraisal – *Landscape Planning & Conservation Manager*

Type of Decision

Non key.

Purpose of Report

The report was presented to provide details of a recent appraisal of the Park Conservation Area.

Issues for Consideration

The document considered the location and setting of the Park describing the local context and how it sat within the wider Tees Valley area and its current physical character. Following on from that the

historic development of the Park was reviewed detailing the initial use as agricultural land and the first proposals to provide a planned estate for residential development. Further to that, the area was examined in detail in three sections i.e. spatial analysis, contribution of buildings and contribution of spaces. The report concluded by outlining measures that could be taken to manage the conservation area which could potentially be incorporated into a Conservation Area Management Strategy produced in the future. Suggestions included setting out proactive policies addressing issues such as a review of the Conservation Area boundaries, a review of Permitted Development rights of householders which allowed alterations to dwellings without planning permission and how this had affected the character of the Conservation Area as well as the preparation of Local Lists to protect buildings which contributed to the local scene or had local historic associations. The North of England Civic Trust (NECT) had been commissioned to carry out the appraisal of the Park area and following the completion of this had given a presentation which had been well received by the Park Residents Association.

The report had been put on the Council Website and would be distributed to residents.

Decision

The Portfolio Holder noted the report and recommendations of the final Park Conservation Area Appraisal document.

14. Tees Valley Single Programme – Progress Report – *Urban Policy Manager*

Type of Decision

Non key.

Purpose of Report

The report was presented in order to provide an update of progress on the Hartlepool Single Programme package for 2007/08 and the development of the 2008/11 Single Programme Regeneration Plan.

Issues for Consideration

Three new projects commenced with Single Programme support in 2007/08, namely the Tall Ships Cultural Surround, the Southern Business Zone Study and the Central Area Investment Framework and the introduction of the new arrangements associated with the Tees Valley Multi-Area Agreement (MAA). The report gave further details of these studies and projects undertaken and expenditure for these.

The 2008/11 Single Programme regeneration plan was now being developed under the MAA which was recently approved by the government. Tees Valley Unlimited were co-ordinating the development of this in consultation with the five local authorities.

The Urban Policy Manager informed the Portfolio Holder that there was ongoing work with partners to develop a programme including the Central Area, Southern Business Zone and Seaton Carew and Headland Infrastructure Improvements. A case was still being put forward to try to secure Single Programme funding for Hartlepool's projects as there remained some difficulty in securing One NorthEast's support to aspects of the Coastal Arc Programme with regard to Seaton Carew and the Headland.

Decision

The Portfolio Holder noted the progress on the schemes included in the 2007/08 programme and also noted the progress in developing the 2008/09 programme

The meeting concluded at 10.30 am.

P J DEVLIN

CHIEF SOLICITOR

PUBLICATION DATE: 1 October 2008