

# **SOUTH NEIGHBOURHOOD CONSULTATIVE FORUM AGENDA**



**Friday, 5<sup>th</sup> December 2008**

**at 10.00 am**

**in Owton Rossmere Resource Centre (ORCEL),  
Wynyard Road, Hartlepool**

## **SOUTH NEIGHBOURHOOD CONSULTATIVE FORUM:**

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

Resident Representatives: Mary Green, Ray Harriman, Rose Kennedy, Iris Ryder,  
Sally Vokes and Mike Ward

- 1. APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIR**
- 2. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**
- 3. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**
- 4. TO RECEIVE ANY DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS**
- 5. MINUTES**
  - 5.1 To confirm the minutes of the meeting of the South Neighbourhood Consultative Forum held on 17<sup>th</sup> October 2008
  - 5.2 Matters arising
- 6. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**
- 7. ITEMS FOR CONSULTATION**

No items

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

- 8.1 Update on Decisions made at Neighbourhoods and Communities Portfolio on 20<sup>th</sup> October 2008 affecting the South Area – *Head of Technical Services*

**9. ITEMS FOR DECISION**

No items

**10. WARD ISSUES**

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

The next meeting of the South Area Police and Community Safety Consultative Forum will take place on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> January 2009 at 10.00am at the Ow ton Rossmere Resource Centre (ORCEL), Wynyard Road, Hartlepool.

The next meeting of the South Neighbourhood Consultative Forum will take place on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> February 2009 at 10.00am at the Ow ton Rossmere Resource Centre (ORCEL), Wynyard Road, Hartlepool.

**WARDS**

Fens  
Greatham  
Owton  
Rossmere  
Seaton

# ***SOUTH NEIGHBOURHOOD CONSULTATIVE FORUM***

**17<sup>th</sup> October 2008**

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



The meeting commenced at 2.00 pm in Owton Manor Community Centre,  
Wynyard Road, Hartlepool

<b>PRESENT:</b>
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Councillor Bob Flintoff	- Owton Ward
Councillor Steve Gibbon	- Fens Ward
Councillor Marjorie James	- Owton Ward
Councillor Michael Turner	- Seaton Ward
Councillor David Young	- Seaton Ward

Also present: Councillor Jonathan Brash, former Chair of the Adult and Community Services and Health Scrutiny Forum.

Resident Representatives: Rosemarie Kennedy, Iris Ryder, Sally Vokes and Michael Ward.

Public: Dorothy Clark, S Kell and J Unwin

Officers:

- David Frame, Neighbourhood Manager (South)
- Derek Reynolds, Project Manager (Neighbourhood Services)
- David Mitchell, Neighbourhood Co-ordinator
- Amy Waters, Principal Housing Regeneration Officer
- James Walsh, Scrutiny Support Officer
- Jo Wilson, Democratic Services Officer

Housing Hartlepool Representatives: Helen Ivison and Andy Powell

Police Representative: Stewart Longstaff

Fire Brigade Representative: Stuart Simpson

<b>23. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR</b>
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In the absence of the Chair and Vice-Chair Councillor Marjorie James was appointed to chair the meeting. Members

requested that best wishes for a speedy recovery be sent to the Chair and Vice-Chair on behalf of the Forum.

**24. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Shaun Cook, Mick Johnson, Allison Lilley, Geoff Lilley, Ann Marshall, Arthur Preece and Gerald Wistow and Resident Representative Mary Green.

**25. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None.

**26. MINUTES OF THE SOUTH NEIGHBOURHOOD CONSULTATIVE FORUM**

The minutes of the meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> August 2008 were confirmed.

**27. MATTERS ARISING**

Resident Representative Mike Ward referred to his previous request for details on the funding for Building Schools for the Future (BSF) and Primary Capital Fund (PCP), indicating he had recently received this information. He queried whether recent savings that had been made to council tax via scrutiny had been necessary given the underspends that had been found through other departments. It seemed that despite claims that the Council was short of cash money could always be found when it was needed. Why could the BSF and PCP funding not be used for repairs to current schools? The Chair commented that underspends could come about for a variety of reasons such as departments not filling vacancies. The amount of underspend (£352,000) was relatively low given an overall budget of £90 million. Monies were always allocated for a specific purpose and could not be moved around without permission from councillors. In respect of BSF and PCP that was separate money specifically for these projects. Money had been set aside through the usual budgets for

repairs to schools but the schools had been specifically asked to defer non-essential repairs until the new builds and refurbishments were carried out as part of BSF and PCP. Councillor Jonathan Brash further indicated that it was a Government requirement that council tax savings be found by local authorities.

**28. MINUTES OF THE SOUTH AREA POLICE AND COMMUNITY SAFETY CONSULTATIVE FORUM**

The minutes of the meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> September 2008 were received.

**29. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

No items

**30. DYKE HOUSE SCHOOL BUILDING SCHOOLS FOR THE FUTURE PROGRAMME OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT**

As part of the Building Schools for the Future Programme Hartlepool Borough Council would be making an outline planning application for proposals to carry out development to re-model Dyke House School. It was felt that a pre-application consultation would make the scheme better understood by the community and help local people shape the outcome of proposals that may affect them. It could also identify local issues of concern and facilitate planning applications to be processed more quickly and less controversially.

Events had been held at the school for nearby residents and users affected by the proposals and the Forum were asked to make any comments using the available form.

The Chair advised the Forum that discussions were currently ongoing

regarding the possibility of decanting students to the Brierton School for the period that remodelling was taking place. However it was possible that the Dyke House site could be operational during the construction work with some of the students being decanted to Brierton. She thanked the Project Manager for attending the meeting.

### **31. AFFORDABLE HOUSING DEVELOPMENT PLAN DOCUMENT**

The Principal Housing Regeneration Officer informed the Forum of the consultation arrangements for the preferred options paper, comprising the second stage in the preparation of the Hartlepool Affordable Housing Development Plan Document (HAHDPD), part of the Local Development Framework. This would address the issue of affordable housing provision in Hartlepool and set out the Council's preferred approach to the HAHDPD. The paper provided detailed feedback on the previous consultation stage (Issues and Options) and outlined the Council's preferred option and the reasons behind it. It looked at issues regarding site size, percentage of affordable housing and tenure of housing. The outcome of this consultation would provide a Policy Framework to secure affordable housing on new developments

The consultation would run until 27<sup>th</sup> October 2008. The Preferred Options paper and associated documents were available from the Civic Centre, Bryan Hanson House, Central Library and branch libraries throughout Hartlepool. Copies were also available online via the Hartlepool Borough Council website. Comments could be submitted by completing a questionnaire for return to Bryan Hanson House, completing an on-line questionnaire and sending a letter or email to the Planning Policy Team at Bryan Hanson House.

Councillor David Young commented that this was an example of government dictating to local authorities rather than listening to individual communities some of whom may want more affordable housing than others. The Principal Housing Regeneration Officer advised that government guidelines had been given but the preferred options detailed in the report were the result of extensive consultation and reflected needs. This first stage consultation had been conducted by utilising the website, all libraries, Neighbourhood Consultative Forum meetings, a drop-in shop and Neighbourhood Action Plan meetings. As this second stage of the consultation was not statutory it would not be as extensive however the third stage would be. Resident Representative Iris Ryder commented that libraries had run out of questionnaire forms. These could be replenished upon request.

The Chair thanked the Principal Housing Regeneration Officer for attending the meeting and answering questions.

### **32. ADULT AND COMMUNITY SERVICES AND HEALTH SCRUTINY FORUM – RESPONSE TO THE 'WITHDRAWAL OF EMERGENCY CARE PRACTITIONER SERVICE AT WYNARD ROAD PRIMARY CARE CENTRE' REFERRAL**

In February 2007 the Forum had received a presentation from Hartlepool Primary Care Trust on its 'Fairness and Equity in Primary Care' public consultation. Significant concern was expressed by members in relation to the withdrawal of Emergency Care Practitioner Services at Wynyard Road Primary Care Centre and as a result a referral had been made to Scrutiny 'of the service mix being proposed at Primary Care Centres in Hartlepool and whether this reflects local

needs and aspirations. Starting with Wynyard Road’.

The Adult and Community Services and Health Scrutiny Forum had subsequently investigated the issue in detail and produced a series of recommendations. These recommendations were considered and approved by Cabinet together with an Action Plan detailing the way forward. The Final Report and Action Plan were attached to the report for Members’ attention with the following points highlighted by the former Chair of the Scrutiny Forum, Councillor Brash:

- Wynyard Road Primary Care Centre was not closed – only the Emergency Care Practitioners (ECP) Service had been removed
- Information to residents regarding the correct usage of the ECP Service had been very poor and led to patients utilising the service who should have gone to accident and emergency in the first instance.
- Communication with patients, residents and the Council regarding the closure had not been good
- Wynyard Road Primary Care Centre had been the third attempt by the Primary Care Trust (PCT) to set up an ECP service in the area and it had been a bad choice.

Councillor Brash commented that all the criticisms made within the report had been accepted by the PCT who were working toward future improvements. The following issues were raised:

Resident Representative Mike Ward asked if the removal of ECP Services had been clinically based rather than as a result of financial pressures. Councillor

Brash confirmed that the Scrutiny Forum’s findings and those of the Independent Investigation undertaken at Birmingham University had found no evidence to suggest otherwise. Mr Ward further commented that one of the recommendations within the final report was that the PCT would keep the Scrutiny Forum updated but this had not been done in terms of Urgent Care Provision services. Councillor Brash advised that in terms of service details the Scrutiny Forum had been kept fully involved. He was less concerned about being updated on contractor issues as he felt patients were more concerned that the eventual outcomes be right.

Councillor David Young felt that the initial advertising of the ECP service as a “walk-in centre” had been very misleading and had given the wrong impression. Councillor Brash acknowledged this commenting that it would not have been so bad if systems had been in place to deal with patients who were there in error. However there had not been.

The Chair indicated that the service provided now, while good, was not what residents had been promised. There had been a lot of public and political support to the original proposals which may not have been forthcoming if it had been known that it would eventually become a PCT health centre with GP provision. Councillor Brash commented that the ECP service had not been included in the original package and its inclusion had been an attempt to shoehorn it into Wynyard Road Centre after two failed attempts elsewhere.

The Chair thanked Councillor Brash for attending the meeting and answering questions.

### **33. HOUSING HARTLEPOOL UPDATE**

The Director of Housing Services for Housing Hartlepool updated the Forum on the work of Housing Hartlepool. They were the largest housing association in the town and a key partner with the Council in the regeneration of homes and neighbourhoods. In the previous two years improvements had been made to over 5,000 homes with 87% of Housing Hartlepool properties above the required standard. Tenant services had also been improved including the provision of 24-hour access, a freephone for repairs and dedicated neighbourhood teams. 38 homes had been built or bought with 60 unit extra care schemes scheduled for completion. The aim was to build 100 new homes a year.

Housing Hartlepool intended to continue the trend of improving services, increasing satisfaction and helping to deliver Hartlepool's housing regeneration agenda. From a business point of view they would retain and possibly increase Hartlepool jobs while bringing in income to benefit Housing Hartlepool residents.

Councillor Steve Gibbon indicated he had recently been on an audit with Housing Hartlepool staff and was very impressed with the speed at which residents problems were resolved. Mr Powell thanked Councillor Gibbon for his comments, adding that Housing Hartlepool were currently in the top 25% of housing associations in the UK when it came to customer satisfaction and this was partly due to the efforts of officers on the ground.

The following issues were then raised:

Councillor Bob Flintoff requested an update on the status of vacant properties in Maxwell Court and Thackeray Road. Mr Powell advised that the demolition of Thackeray Road flats would be starting that week and tenders were due to be

considered for the demolitions in Maxwell Court shortly.

The Chair indicated the concerns of Owton residents that their placing on the waiting list might drop as a result of the amount of regeneration going on around Hartlepool and subsequent demolition of properties. Those who had been made homeless as a result of these demolitions would naturally take priority over tenants on the ordinary waiting list. What information was being provided? Mr Powell acknowledged that the size of the waiting list was a problem which would only be solved by an increase in affordable housing. More could be done to advise people as to the current situation and Choice Based Lettings would be looking at how housing advice was given to residents. Given the current economic climate however the only answer was more bricks and mortar.

The Chair thanked Mr Powell for attending the meeting and answering questions.

#### **34. MINOR WORKS PROPOSALS**

The Neighbourhood Manager advised the Forum that £87,000 had been available for the Forum to spend on minor works in 2008/09. Of these monies £58,115 had been spent leaving a balance of £28,885.

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

Rossmere Ward – Loyalty Road – lighting scheme - £9,800

Fens Ward – Ingham Grove – lighting scheme - £2,500

Fens Ward – Lincoln Road – lighting scheme - £5,000

Fens Ward – Wainfleet Road and Fenton Road – lighting scheme - £3,100

Owton Ward – Newark Road – shrub replacement - £1,687.

### Decision

That the five schemes, at a total cost of £42,487, be referred to the Portfolio Holder for Neighbourhoods and Communities for final approval.

## 35. WARD ISSUES

**Seaton seafront** – Resident Representative Iris Ryder requested that the replacement tarmac on the sea front be patched in certain areas. The Neighbourhood Manager to action.

**Rossmere Way** – Resident Representative Rosemarie Kennedy asked if a speed survey could be carried out as the speed of cars was becoming an issue particularly around tea time. The Neighbourhood Manager started that this request would be forwarded to the traffic and transportation section for a potential speed survey. The police would be asked to undertake some spot checks in addition. Mrs Kennedy asked if electronic speed signs could be installed, querying why Westbrooke Avenue had been considered more of a priority. The Neighbourhood Manager indicated that evidence would have been obtained in order for this to be a priority Councillor Steve Gibbon commented that such signs were only effective in the short term and the only way to slow traffic on Rossmere Way was by cars parking on both sides of the carriageway. Improvements had already been made on Rossmere Way including traffic islands, double yellow lines in the vicinity of the Rossmere Community Building and additional roadway speed markings. The Chair asked that any speed surveys be carried out during the regular working week tea

time traffic rather than during holidays or at lunchtime.

**Braemar Road / Barra Grove** – A resident highlighted problems with faulty street lights. The Neighbourhood Co-ordinator to note the precise details.

**Rossmere Park** – A resident asked that security officers ensure all children had vacated the park before the gates were locked. The Neighbourhood Manager advised that this would happen as a rule but security officers were not responsible for children jumping back over the fence into the park.

**Litter** – Resident Dorothy Clark commented on the amount of litter and dog fouling in Hartlepool. She asked if Pride in Hartlepool monies could be spend on improving the situation and suggested a board be put in place similar to those used in traffic blackspots detailing the number of fines which had been issued over a set time period. The Neighbourhood Manager to forward this suggestion to the Enforcement Section.

The Neighbourhood Manager advised the Forum that Greatham Village had recently been awarded a Northumbria in Bloom Silver Gilt medal.

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

The next meeting was scheduled for Friday 5<sup>th</sup> December at 10.00am at Owton Rossmere Resource Centre (ORCEL), Wynyard Road, Hartlepool

The meeting concluded at 3.25pm.

CHAIR



**Report of:** Head of Technical Services

**Subject:** UPDATE ON DECISIONS MADE AT  
NEIGHBOURHOODS AND COMMUNITIES  
PORTFOLIO ON 20 OCTOBER 2008 AFFECTING  
SOUTH AREA

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**1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To advise on recent Neighbourhoods and Communities Portfolio decisions relating to Seaton Carew Station Improvements.

**2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 The following report was considered by the Portfolio Holder.

**Seaton Carew Station improvements**

- 2.2 The Head of Technical Services advised that although a number of minor improvements had been carried out in recent years there had been repeated vandalism and anti-social behaviour at the station. This had resulted in facilities being removed and discouraged further improvements and investments. The Council had agreed to contribute Local Transport Plan (LTP) funding toward improvements, following discussions with Northern Rail. The LTP includes a rail strategy to improve the frequency and reliability of local rail services, secure regular direct services to the East Coast Main Line, open new rail halts and enhance existing stations. A range of required improvements had been highlighted, details of which were given within the report. The highest priority was to improve safety and security at the station, particularly the prevention of cable theft which was perceived as a major problem. In order to achieve this it was intended to remove the majority of trees and shrubs lining the footpath approaches and replace them with low ground cover planting, thereby visibly opening up the station. Northern Rail had requested that these works be undertaken before leaf fall and it had therefore been agreed at an extra-ordinary meeting of the Railway Approaches Forum that these works should take place as soon as possible. Verbal approval had been given by the Portfolio Holder. Further improvements had been agreed in principle by the Railway Approaches Forum and the Portfolio Holder was asked to approve these. LTP funding of £50,000 had been identified with additional monies from Northern Rail.

### **3. PROPOSALS**

- 3.1 The following decision was made by the Portfolio Holder.
- 3.2 That the removal of the majority of trees and shrubs adjacent to both approaches to station to improve security and reduce antisocial behaviour be noted.
- 3.3 That the other intended improvements to be supported by funding from the LTP budget be approved.

### **4. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 4.1 That the Forum notes the above decisions.

### **5. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 5.1 To ensure that the Forum are made aware of Portfolio decisions relating to their area.

### **6. CONTACT OFFICER**

Mike Blair, Transportation and Traffic Manager  
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