

CENTRAL NEIGHBOURHOOD CONSULTATIVE FORUM AGENDA



Thursday, 5th February 2009

at 10.00 am

**in the Council Chamber, Civic Centre
Victoria 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 of the Central Neighbourhood Consultative Forum held on 4th December 2008
 - 4.2 Matters arising (maximum of 10 minutes) – Feedback sheet from last meeting attached
 - 4.3 To receive the minutes of the Police and Community Safety Consultative Forum meeting held on 15th January 2009

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

Rift House
Stranton
Burn Valley
Foggy Furze
Grange
Park

6. **ITEMS FOR CONSULTATION**

No items

7. **ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND/OR INFORMATION**

7.1 Neighbourhood Consultative Forum Review – *Neighbourhood Manager*

8. **ITEMS FOR DECISION**

8.1 Central Forum Minor Works Scheme Update – *Central Neighbourhood Manager*

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

The next meeting of the Central Area Police and Community Safety Consultative Forum will take place on Thursday 12th March 2009 at 10.00am in Committee Room B, Civic Centre, Victoria Road.

The next meeting of the Central Neighbourhood Consultative Forum will take place on Thursday 2nd April 2009 at 2pm in the Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Victoria Road.

WARDS

Burn Valley
Elwick
Foggy Furze
Grange
Park
Rift House
Stranton

CENTRAL NEIGHBOURHOOD CONSULTATIVE FORUM

4 December 2008

MINUTES OF THE MEETING



The meeting commenced at 10.00 am in the Civic Centre, Hartlepool

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| PRESENT: |
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Chair: Councillor Lilian Sutheran - Rift House Ward

Vice Chair: Resident Representative Evelyn Leck

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| Councillor Jonathan Brash | - Burn Valley Ward |
| Councillor Gerard Hall | - Burn Valley Ward |
| Councillor Pauline Laffey | - Park Ward |
| Councillor Frances London | - Foggy Furze Ward |
| Councillor Carl Richardson | - Grange Ward |
| Councillor Jane Shaw | - Stranton Ward |
| Councillor Chris Simmons | - Grange Ward |
| Councillor Victor Tumilty | - Grange Ward |

Resident Representatives: Liz Carroll, Alan Lloyd, Brenda Loynes and Brian McBean

Public: Vincent Auger, G and J Johnson, D and D Kirkwood and Ray Waller

Council Officers:

- Clare Clark, Neighbourhood Manager (Central)
- Jon Wright, Neighbourhood Co-ordinating Manager
- Irene Cross, Neighbourhood Development Officer (Central)
- Phil Hepburn, Parking Services Manager
- Peter Frost, Traffic Team Leader
- Paul Mitchinson, Highway Services Manager
- Jo Wilson, Democratic Services Officer

Housing Hartlepool Representatives: Libby Griffiths

Cleveland Fire Brigade Representative: Stuart Simpson

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| 28. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE |
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Apologies were received from Councillors Martyn Aiken, Stephen Akers-Belcher, Pamela Hargreaves, Stan Kaiser, George

Morris and Robbie Payne and Resident Representatives Bob Farrow, Ted Jackson and Jean Kennedy.

29. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

30. MINUTES OF THE CENTRAL NEIGHBOURHOOD CONSULTATIVE FORUM

The minutes were confirmed as a true record subject to the inclusion of Councillor Frances London in the list of apologies.

31. MATTERS ARISING

Burn Valley – Bus lay-by – Resident Ray Waller referred to a new bus lay-by in the East area of Park Road, advising that he had been informed that the reason there was no bus stop there was that planning permission had not been sought for it. He requested that in the case of the forthcoming reconstruction work at Lister Street planning permissions of this type be sought in advance of the commencement of work. The Neighbourhood Manager advised this would be included in the contract.

32. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME AND WARD ISSUES

Park

Saddlestone Close – Resident Representative Brenda Loynes indicated there had been reports of anti-social behaviour including fences being knocked down and stones being thrown at windows and doors. She would be meeting with representatives from High Tunstall College of Science and asked that more of a police presence be provided. Mrs Loynes also referred to a flooding problem on the close between nos 19 and 20.

Coniscliffe Road – Resident Representative Brenda Loynes requested

that the time of the refuse collection be altered as it was currently causing problems with the school run traffic.

Hart Lane – Resident Representative Brenda Loynes reported a faulty street light on Hart Lane near Aldi. The Neighbourhood Manager would notify the appropriate people but advised that in future such items be reported to the Contact Centre for immediate attention.

Ward Jackson Park – Resident Representative Elizabeth Carroll requested a completion date for the tarmacing of the path opposite the new zebra crossing. The Director of Neighbourhood Services would respond on this.

Wooler Road – Resident Representative Elizabeth Carroll asked if a traffic survey could be carried with a view to possible one-way status. The Traffic Team Leader advised that he would feedback on this issue at the next meeting

Park Ward lighting – Councillor Pauline Laffey thanked officers for their work in Cresswell Road and Cresswell Drive. However she highlighted ongoing problems with lighting on Park Ward.

Rift House

Rift House Primary School – Resident Representative Alan Lloyd advised that there had been no progress on the implementation of double yellow lines onto the school side of the road.

Blakelock Road – Resident Representative Alan Lloyd commented that the Kingsley Avenue corner by the Hartlepool Sixth Form College was becoming increasingly hazardous, particularly since a vehicle was being regularly parked on the corner.

Thackeray Road – Resident Representative Alan Lloyd commented on the recent demolition of the flats.

Villiers Street – Resident Representative Alan Lloyd advised that a utility company had recently dug up the pavement and suggested the Council take the opportunity to repair some of the cracked and broken flagstones.

Stranton

Odeon – Councillor Jane Shaw advised that brickwork had been reported as falling off the building. The Neighbourhood Manager to investigate.

Burn Valley

Park Road / Osborne Road – Resident Ray Waller indicated that this junction was becoming increasingly difficult for pedestrians to cross and asked if a pedestrian crossing could be installed particularly as Park Road was due to be closed between Lister Street and Elwick Road in the near future. The Traffic Team Leader advised that he would be meeting with engineers to discuss this.

Arncliffe Gardens – Resident Ray Waller queried whether this could be made one-way. The Traffic Team Leader indicated he would need to discuss this with the bus companies as they would be directly affected.

Queensberry Avenue – Councillor Jonathan Brash reported that consultation was currently underway with residents on the possibility of making this a one-way street.

Grassmere Street – Councillor Jonathan Brash thanked the Neighbourhood Manager, Anti-Social Behavior Officers and Police for their recent attendance at a meeting of the residents association to help resolve issues in the ward.

Drainage – The Vice-Chair advised that this was an ongoing problem in the Burn Valley ward. The Highway Services Manager indicated that this was a town-wide problem but he would be happy to pass any comments to Northumbrian Water during one of their regular meetings.

Elwick Road Shops – Councillor Jonathan Brash reported that although the vast majority of shops had stopped using Penryn Road as a loading area Burn Valley Wines continued to do so.

Foggy Furze

St Aidans – Councillor Frances London requested that a litter bin and dog waste bin be placed in this vicinity.

Orb Centre – Councillor Frances London expressed the frustration of residents that the Orb Centre was to close in January 2009 due to lack of funding. The Neighbourhood Manager advised that given the importance of the Centre as a community resource a Working Group would be convened in the New Year to look at alternative options for the future.

Grange

Duke Street – Councillor Chris Simmons advised that work was due to begin that day on tidying a derelict shop on Duke Street. Planning Officers would continue to negotiate with the owner on a more permanent solution as this issue had been ongoing for 4 years.

St Paul's Road – Councillor Chris Simmons indicated a French Foreign National living in St Paul's Road had been the focus of anti-social behaviour. He suggested that CCTV cameras be focused on the man's property and requested a visit from Neighbourhood Police.

Operation Cleansweep – Councillor Victor Tumilty thanked officers for the recent work in the ward.

Car vandalism – Councillor Victor Tumilty advised members of a recent increase in car vandalism in the ward which were not being officially reported.

Duke Street Supporters Club – Resident Representative Brian McBean indicated that the pavement outside was in a dangerous condition and repairs were needed.

Neighbourhood Policing – Resident Representative Brian McBean referred to promises made at the start of the Neighbourhood Policing initiative that officers would not be removed from their neighbourhood duties for other problems. He felt that the advent of 24-hour drinking meant this was happening regularly. The Neighbourhood Manager would look into this and Councillor Victor Tumilty volunteered to pass these comments on to the Police Divisional Director. The Chair suggested that this issue be put on the agenda for the next Police and Community Safety Consultative Forum in January 2009.

Rift House

Brierton School – Resident Representative Brenda Loynes reported that the lights on the top floor of Brierton School were being left on overnight. The Chair advised that this had already been reported.

Civic Centre – Resident Representative Alan Lloyd indicated that the block paving outside the Civic Centre was in a state of disrepair. This was noted.

33. UPDATE ON DECISIONS MADE AT NEIGHBOURHOODS AND COMMUNITIES PORTFOLIO ON 20th OCTOBER 2008 AFFECTING CENTRAL AREA

The Parking Services Manager and Traffic Team Leader advised on recent Neighbourhoods and Communities Portfolio decisions as follows:

- That the current limited waiting restriction in place between 223-255 York Road be amended from the current 30 minute stay to that of one hour (no return within two hours), that an additional one hour limited waiting area (no return within two hours) be created opposite the junction of Kilwick Street and that following the objection of businesses a proposed limited waiting area in Whitburn Street should not now be included in the scheme
- That alleygate schemes for Furness Street and Barbara Mann Court/Victoria Road be approved and that an alleygate scheme for Richard Court/Osborne Road be approved in principle subject to further consultation with the objector.
- That a prohibition of waiting order at Brunswick Street be approved and that the Head of Legal Services be asked to prepare and advertise the necessary Parking Orders as part of the formal advertising process.
- That the replacement of existing residents only parking controls with business only permit parking controls in Dalton Street, be approved and that the Head of Legal Services prepare and advertise the necessary parking

orders as part of the formal advertising process.

Detailed information was provided within the report.

The following issues were then raised:

York Road pavement – Councillor Carl Richardson queried when the loose paving stones on Park Road and Victoria Road would be repaired. The Highway Services Manager indicated that the annual workload for 2009/10 was currently being pulled together and a full reconstruction on the pavements in that area would be considered. If agreed this work would take place in the next financial year. Resident Ray Waller commented that the current maintenance programme was not effective and the pavements in Victoria Road required attention,

Park Road drainage – Councillor Pauline Laffey referred to a letter sent to the Chief Executive from the Park Ward residents regarding problems with the drains. The Chair indicated that this was a problem across the town and asked if the Highway Services Manager would give a presentation on this issue at the next Forum meeting in February 2009.

Roker Street – Resident Ray Waller reported ponding in the car parks. The Parking Services Manager advised that this was due for reconstruction pending negotiations with the owner of Middleton Grange Shopping Centre.

Trinity Square, Hart Lane – Councillor Chris Simmons indicated that the pavement outside this new development was in a state of disrepair. The Highway Services Manager advised that the footway had not been topped off but this was the responsibility of the developer not the Council. It did not look nice but it

was safe. The Neighbourhood Manager would pick this up with the developer.

34. DATE, TIME AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Central Area Police and Community Safety Consultative Forum will take place on Thursday 15th January 2009 at 10.00am in Committee Room B, Civic Centre, Hartlepool

The next meeting of the Central Neighbourhood Consultative Forum would take place on Thursday 5th February 2009 at 10.00am in the Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Hartlepool.

The meeting concluded at 10:40am

Chair

ACTION SHEET FOR CENTRAL FORUM

4 DECEMBER 2008

PARK WARD

Saddleston Close – request for more police presence due to asb

This request was passed to the Central Neighbourhood Policing Team who immediately stepped up patrols and monitoring in the area. The Councils Environmental Enforcement Officers have also been actively involved in monitoring the area and a 'wrap around team' has also been established with the school and Anti-social Behaviour Unit to facilitate closer working relationships between the school and prevention agencies. Although recognized that this is an area that needs continued attention, the most recent update from residents is that problems have substantially reduced.

Flooding - problem between no's 19 and 20 Saddleston Close (Brenda Loynes)

HBC Highways inform that this was not a priority when judged against other drainage issues this year. However this has been included in HBCs Highways scheduled programme of works 2009/10.

Coniscliffe Road – request for alteration in time of refuse collection due to school run (Brenda Loynes)

HBCs Waste Manager informs that in order to avoid clashes with 'school run' traffic across the town it is the standard practice of refuse collectors to avoid these areas between 8.30am and 9am. The Waste Manager also confirms that Coniscliffe Road is one area where this is standard practice. He apologises if this has not been adhered to on occasion, and informs that he has reiterated to all staff that they must avoid this area at peak times.

Hart Lane – faulty street light near Aldi (Brenda Loynes)

Following night inspections to identify the exact locations HBCs Street Lighting Engineer has instructed repairs to be carried out to the two lights in question near to Aldi.

Ward Jackson Park – request for completion date of tarmacing of the path opposite the new zebra crossing.

Due to other priorities the cost of tarmacing this pathway cannot at the present time be justified.

Wooler Road – request for traffic survey -(Liz Carroll) –

The temporary closure of Wooler Road for re-surfacing works allowed an assessment of the impact of a one way system on the surrounding highway network to take place. It was found that the majority of traffic travelling south towards Park Road diverted along The Parade, Park Avenue and Elwick Road, with significant numbers also re-routing from further afield, such as Dunston Road/ Elwick Road. Observations showed that during the morning peak, traffic queues on Elwick Road formed as far back as the Dunston Road roundabout. There were also minor problems with traffic using The Oval as a through route, rather than using the signed temporary diversion route. This would be exacerbated if a one way system were to be implemented. From these observations, it is apparent that the implementation of a one way system on Wooler Road would have too much of a detrimental effect on traffic congestion on Elwick Road to be considered further

Park Ward – ongoing problems with lighting (Pauline Laffey)

With the assistance of HBCs Street Lighting Manager we will look to improve lighting in Park Ward next financial year and will include it as proposal for a Central area Minor Works Scheme in 2009/10.

RIFT HOUSE WARD

Rift House Primary School – no progress on implementation of double yellows (Alan Lloyd)

School Keep Clear markings are located on the school side of Masfield Road and cover almost the full extent of the school. School Time parking restrictions are located on junction radii opposite the school and a single yellow line extends from Burns Avenue to No. 38 Masfield Road. The area closest to the school is therefore extensively covered by restrictions, keeping the area with the greatest concentration of children as safe as possible. Extending the restrictions further would only re-locate the parking further into residential areas, without giving any real road safety benefit.

Blacklock Road – Kings Road corner (by Sixth Form) becoming hazardous (Alan Lloyd)

A meeting is to take place in mid-January with the Senior Parking Enforcement Officer to discuss parking concerns outside the 6th Form college entrance.

STRANTON WARD

Park Road/Osborne Road junction – request for pedestrian crossing. PF to look at (Ray Waller) –

Due to the close proximity of adjacent junctions it would be difficult to provide a stand alone crossing, with signalisation of the junction (including pedestrian facilities) seeming to be the most practical option. Initial discussions with Traffic Signals Engineers have taken place, and surveys are to take place to determine the level of delays on Osborne Road at peak times.

Should the surveys show justification for installing signals, funding would need to be identified, consultation carried out and the scheme programmed.

Odeon – problem with brickwork. CC to investigate (Jane Shaw)

HBCs Structural Engineer has undertaken a site visit to assess the external condition of the Odeon building. The Engineer Reports that the building is safe and whilst there is an area of brickwork that appears to be bulging it is not deemed to be dangerous. A report has been passed to the owners of the building.

BURN VALLEY WARD

Arncliffe Gardens – Possibly make one-way. PF to investigate / discuss with bus cos (Ray Waller) –

The possibility of Arncliffe Gardens, and other adjacent streets, becoming one way has been investigated previously, and was found to be impractical, primarily due to the bus service. Elwick Road/ Baden Street junction is particularly tight, and buses are only able to travel straight across it without encountering problems. Test drives have taken place and the left and right turns which would need to be carried out were found to be extremely difficult, and also dangerous. In addition, to make Arncliffe Gardens one way would also require one of the adjacent streets to become a bus route (Eamont Gardens, Belmont Gardens, etc) which would be likely to be extremely unpopular with those residents. Creating a one way street would also increase vehicle speeds and the risk to road safety.

Burn Valley wines – request for action re continued use of Penryn Road as loading area (Jonathan Brash)

Burn Valley Wines have been visited and although the manager wasn't available a staff member informs that two large deliveries are made per week taking 15-20

mins normally before 9am. The owner also makes a delivery every morning using a small van which takes approximately 10 minutes. The staff member reported that Burn Valley Wines are unable to make or take deliveries to the front of the shop for a variety of reasons ie because they can't get parked, there is risk of theft, and the premises are not set up to take deliveries to the front ie access to the cellar etc. The shop assistant agreed to pass on the residents concerns to the manager.

St Aidans – request for litter bin and dog waste bin (Frances London)

Having investigated this issue further it appears that the problem is more one for HBCs Environmental Enforcement Team to deal with and this issue has been passed to their manager to progress. The main issue appears to be littering from both parents and children at the end of the school day. The area is also being monitored by the South Neighbourhoods Environmental Supervisor who will ensure a bin is installed if it is needed.

GRANGE WARD

St Paul's Road – request for more police presence re asb against French Foreign National (Chris Simmons)

This issue was passed to the Police and the family in question have been visited by the local Neighbourhood Police Team, the Crime Prevention Officer, and Victim Support. Unfortunately CCTV operating in the area was of no assistance on this occasion but the family report that they are happy with the response received from the agencies involved and have full contact details of appropriate agencies should they need assistance in the future.

Duke Street Supporters Club – pavement needs sorting (Brian McBean)

Reconstruction of this footway has been included in the highways scheduled work programme for 2009/10.

New Trinity Square, Hart Lane- dangerous pavement (Chris Simmons)

This work is now complete.

WARDS

Burn Valley
Elwick
Foggy Furze
Grange
Park
Rift House
Stranton

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

15 January 2009

MINUTES OF THE MEETING



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

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| PRESENT: |
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| Chair: | Resident Representative Evelyn Leck |
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| Councillor Jonathan Brash | - Burn Valley Ward |
| Councillor Pauline Laffey | - Park Ward |
| Councillor Dr George Morris | - Park Ward |
| Councillor Carl Richardson | - Grange Ward |
| Councillor Christopher Simmons | - Grange Ward |

Resident Representatives:

Liz Carroll, Bob Farrow, Ted Jackson, Alan Lloyd, Brenda Loynes and Brian McBean.

Residents:

Clive Hall, G Harrison, Gordon Johnson, Sarah Maness, Julie Rudge, M Thuburn, Ray Waller

Council Officers:

Sally Forth, Anti-Social Behaviour Co-ordinator
Peter Gouldsbro, Community Safety Officer
Clare Clark, Neighbourhood Manager (Central)
Irene Cross, Neighbourhood Development Officer (Central)
Jean Shenava, Anti-Social Behaviour Officer
Alison Carberry, Anti-Social Behaviour Officer/Environmental Warden
Sarah Bird, Democratic Services Officer

Police Representatives: Chief Inspector Phil Veitch, Inspector Tony Green, Sergeant Chris Dawber, Sergeant Dave Halliday

Fire Brigade Representative: Stuart Simpson

Housing Hartlepool Representative: Libby Griffiths

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| 36. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION |
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The Chair, Resident Representative Evelyn Leck welcomed residents, Councillors and Officers.

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| 37. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE |
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Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Aiken, Akers Belcher, Hall, Kaiser, London, Shaw, Sutheran

and Tumilty as well as Resident Representatives Christopher Akers Belcher, Bob Farrow and Jean Kennedy.

38. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 11 September 2008 were confirmed as an accurate record.

39. MATTERS ARISING

Call Response Times – Councillor Carl Richardson referred to a 100 minute response time for a call another Member had placed and said that no explanation had been given to the Member for this. Inspector Green apologised for the delay in response time.

Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) on Burbank Estate – Resident Clive Hall stated that there was now a key available for the office which controlled the CCTV equipment.

Police Officer in Stranton/Burbank Area – Resident Clive Hall asked whether the vacant post was likely to be filled. Inspector Green stated that the Officer was on long term sickness and the post could not be filled but a Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) had been placed in the area to alleviate the situation.

Ward Jackson Party in the Park – Resident Representative Elizabeth Carroll stated that she had had no response as to whether the correct procedures had been followed by organisers prior to the event and was aware that a number of residents had informed police that there was underage drinking at this event. Inspector Green said that he would liaise with Chief Inspector Williams and respond to Mrs Carroll.

40. UPDATE FROM POLICE

Inspector Green updated the Forum with regard to crime and performance figures for the District for the period September to December 2008 and compared these to the corresponding period in 2007. He informed the meeting that the overall trend for crime in the District was down by 2.13%. He stated that Officers were working hard to continue this downward trend and although there was a current surge in criminal damage, strategies had been put into place to combat this and violent crime was down. Figures for the Central area had shown an increase in crime of 5.36% for the period September to December 2008 as opposed to the previous year. He stated that the Police were working closely with the Anti-Social Behaviour Unit (ASBU), the Neighbourhood Manager and Councillors to reverse that trend.

Inspector Green highlighted the change in shift patterns which ensured that all officers were on duty at key times e.g. Friday nights. He informed the Forum of an initiative where PCSOs travelled on school buses on key dates in an attempt to stem any ASB. He reminded the Forum of the current policy where underage youths suspected of drinking alcohol were returned to parents and were breathalysed if necessary. He spoke of an initiative in another Force which provided a place of safety for youths whose parents were unavailable and said that it was hoped to provide such a venue eventually in Hartlepool. He stated that the current policy was such that if AS13 forms for ASB were issued to youths, then an officer would make a follow up visit within a couple of days. He reminded the Forum that the Church Street Office was now closed with the Central Area Office being located in York Road. He stated that the three Neighbourhood Policing vacancies had now been filled but those officers had not

yet been released from their current duties. A new initiative was Crime Mapping whereby residents could visit the Cleveland Police website and find out current trends in their locality. He also alluded to the Crimestompers initiative and stated that there was now a police desk in St John Vianney's School, a scheme it was hoped to introduce in all schools in the town.

The following issues were then raised:-

Cycling on footpaths - Councillor Chris Simmons highlighted this issue. Inspector Green said that this would be followed up by Sgt Halliday and he would liaise with the Hartlepool Mail to try to obtain some publicity regarding this.

Londis Shop, Raby Road - Resident Ray Waller thanked the residents of Cameron Road, Fumess Street and Belk for their zeal in relation to the campaign to limit the alcohol licence for this shop which had been assisted by the Police. The Neighbourhood Manager agreed to send a letter of thanks to the residents association on behalf of the Forum.

Dent Street - Resident Julie Rudge thanked Officers and PCSOs on behalf of the residents of Dent Street for their work in improving the lives of residents and also those residents who had provided information to the police to resolve problems in the street.

Policing Pledge - Resident Representative Brian McBean said that he was pleased that Cleveland Police had signed up to the National Pledge but asked how this would be implemented. Chief Inspector Veitch stated that the Assistant Chief Constable was currently assessing Cleveland Police's procedures in order to meet the requirements of the Pledge.

Park Ward Officer - Councillor George Morris asked what had happened to the designated Officer for Park Ward, PC Jim Blackwell and was informed that he had been moved and that a different Officer was now assigned to that Ward. Resident Representative Liz Carroll informed the meeting that PCSO Cathy Jones had contacted her to enable the new Officer to be introduced at the next residents' meeting.

Meadowgate Drive - Councillor Pauline Laffey highlighted a problem with gangs of young people indulging in ASB in this area. She was asked to liaise with Sgt Halliday regarding this. The ASB Officer stated that the office was already aware of problems in this area.

Murray Street - Councillor Chris Simmons referred to a problem in Murray Street which he said had been dealt with by Officers.

Communication with Residents - Councillor Jonathan Brash expressed the importance of police officers communicating with the public and said he believed that this was taking place and that officers were popular with residents.

41. NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Resident Representative Evelyn Leck outlined the benefits of residents joining their local Neighbourhood Watch Scheme. She suggested that signage be re-placed in streets in an attempt to deter crime and that security devices could be sold to members of the scheme at a subsidised cost. A further suggestion was that a message be sent out on the Ringmaster Scheme, informing residents who their local Officers were.

Sgt Dawber re-inforced the benefits of the Scheme and said that recent research in a London Borough had stated that

membership of the scheme had shown a 76% in fear of crime.

Voice Messaging - Resident Ray Waller informed Sgt Dawber that a number of elderly females had stated that the voice used to send messages, sounded threatening and Sgt Dawber said that he would look into this.

42. UPDATE FROM CLEVELAND FIRE BRIGADE

Cleveland Fire and Rescue representative Stuart Simpson outlined the figures for fires in the October to December 2008 period in comparison with the same period the previous year, both town wide and specifically for the Central area.

He stated that the Brigade was working closely with Housing Hartlepool and local colleges giving fire safety advice. He stated that during the period around Bonfire night the Brigade had worked closely with the police and Local Authority. He stated that items had been collected promptly by the Authority so that there was less rubbish to burn. He stated that there had been a significant reduction in the number of bonfire and refuse fires over that period and thanked partners for their involvement.

He informed the Forum that there was to be a new build programme for the Headland, Stranton and Headquarters and it was suggested by the Chair that this could be the subject of a future presentation.

The following issue was then raised:-

Regional Fire Control Centre – Resident Ray Waller queried why this had been empty on 1 January 2009 and was not operational at that time. Stuart Simpson stated that the build was behind schedule but there were a number of

people working there. He agreed to provide a more in depth answer for Mr Waller.

43. UPDATE FROM ASBU

The Anti-Social Behaviour Co-ordinator updated the meeting on current anti-social behaviour statistics relating to Hartlepool. October-December referrals were broken down ward by ward, into types of anti-social behaviour and where referrals were from as well as actions taken on referrals. She outlined the introduction of a victim and witness award scheme and the introduction of Straightline, an award winning alcohol intervention programme aimed at young people. She stated that the introduction of Personal Digital Assistants (PDAs), should enable faster and more detailed information to be available. She also highlighted details of the youth crime action plan such as the Stay Safe, Ride and Hide schemes to deal with low level ASB. She stated that the Family Interventions Project (FIP) was linked to the primary school teams and access gained to secondary school pupils via the Connexions team.

The following points were then raised:-

Good Tenants Scheme - Resident Julie Rudge asked how many landlords had signed up to the scheme and was informed that the way the system was set up, the approach was made by potential tenants rather than landlords so it would be difficult to glean this information but attempts would be made to do so.

Schools Initiative – Councillor George Morris stated that he welcomed the initiatives taking place with schools.

44. HARTLEPOOL BOROUGH COUNCIL COMMUNITY CCTV OPERATION

The Community Safety Officer gave a presentation dispelling some of the myths about CCTV and looked at the types of camera and their reliability. There were 80 cameras in Hartlepool and any images captured on them were kept for 28 days unless required for a criminal or civil investigation.

The Forum was advised that the Community Monitoring Centre operates on a continuous basis with a back up generator and business continuity measures in place. Staff were highly trained and licensed and there was an open link with Cleveland Police via the Ladgate Lane Communications Room. Cameras were installed to assist in the detection and prevention of crime and anti-social behaviour and to assist in reducing the public's fear of crime.

He explained that there had recently been a Council Scrutiny investigation into CCTV which in turn had led to a review of the locations of CCTV sites in the town and the adoption of a CCTV strategy.

45. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Drug Dealing – Resident Clive Hall expressed concern about a resident who was dealing drugs. He was advised to give details to the Neighbourhood Manager and Sgt Halliday.

46. ISSUES RAISED BY COUNCILLORS AND RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVES

Elwick Road - Resident Representative Liz Carroll highlighted safety issues with regard to part of the path in Elwick Road.

The Neighbourhood Manager agreed to look into this.

Crime Statistics – Councillor Richardson asked whether crime figures could be made available on a Ward basis. Chief Inspector Veitch highlighted the Crime Mapping system on the Cleveland Police website which could be accessed by pressing the Neighbourhood Policing icon and then putting in details of the relevant Ward.

The Chair thanked all those who had attended the meeting for their input.

The meeting concluded at 12.05 pm.

CHAIR

Review of the Neighbourhood Consultative Forums

Prepared by Hartlepool New Deal for Communities -
Evaluation Project
for Hartlepool Borough Council

“If local government is to act in the interests of its community, influence its partners and ensure it tailors its work to the most important local priorities, it needs to make a step change in the quality of its engagement work.”

Sir Michael Lyons, The Lyon's Inquiry into Local Government, Place-shaping: a shared ambition for the future of local government. March 2007, p.19^[1]

Executive Summary

Neighbourhood Consultative Forums were established by Hartlepool Borough Council in 2000 as an 'integral part of the Council's consultative framework'. They were developed to increase levels of community involvement in local governance issues. The Evaluation Project at Hartlepool New Deal for Communities was commissioned to produce a review of these Forums in July 2008. For this purpose, data from four sources relating to Forums (NCFs) was supplied by Hartlepool Borough Council (HBC): (1) Viewpointsurveydata; (2) a batch of completed questionnaires that had been available to all that have attended Forum meetings – the findings from which have been collated and analysed in the review; and two summaryreports (3 and 4) one compiled from a series of one to one interviews with a number of Council officers and service providers, and one from three focus groups conducted with Councillors and Resident Representatives.

The findings of these data sources have been analysed and are reproduced in this report (no other sources were supplied or have been used.) These are initially presented individually in turn, followed by a concluding section that draws out key messages. Given the fact that all four sources deal with the same terrain, there is inevitably some repetition in the findings. It is also the case that, reflecting democratic process generally, many of the suggestions and comments recorded are in contrast! Key issues that have emerged from the review include

Attendance at NCFs

- 6% of Viewpoint respondents had attended an NCF meeting in the past year – an increase of 2% on the previous year. A common perception uncovered in the review is that NCFs are poorly attended. No targets relating to attendance are in place; therefore it is not possible to assess the effectiveness of NCFs in this respect. Nevertheless, there remains much scope for increasing attendance at NCF meetings.
- On the basis of the completed questionnaires the demographic profile of attendees is far from representative of the wider community, with a disproportionate over-representation of older age groups, relatively few middle-aged and no young people attending.
- Evidence suggests there is potentially much willingness for people to become involved (only 15% stated they were not interested: Viewpoint)
- Over half of attendees come to every meeting, with around a quarter attending 3 or 4 meetings a year, and 20% attending when an agenda item affects them.

Information about NCFs

- Publicity relating to NCF meetings is not sufficiently effective and needs to be improved (15% had seen information about NCFs in the previous 12 months: Viewpoint.)
- NCF attendees are largely satisfied that they receive their minutes on time and that feedback is good.

Timings and Locations of NCF Meetings

- Around a third of Viewpoint respondents thought meetings at weekends or evenings would encourage greater attendance.
- However, 67% of NCF attendees are happy with existing times and venues – this finding is evident in the majority of responses in all three areas.
- When asked for potential alternatives, perhaps inevitably, no alternative suggestions stood out.
- Changing meeting times and locations was also identified as having a potentially detrimental impact on existing attendance levels, although some support was evident for experimental trials.

Structure and Content of NCF Meetings

- No clearly discernable consensus was evident in respect of the number of NCF Forums that should take place
- Contrasting views were also gathered relating to the structure of meetings – for example, disagreement over whether the strategic and consultative elements should take place at different Forums.
- Common concerns raised included
 - Meetings over-run
 - Presentations are too long, not delivered by personnel skilled in presenting
 - A code of conduct or guidance on in-meeting etiquette should be introduced
 - Some Councillors can dominate meetings, leading to
 - Limited opportunities for contributions from residents
- 60% of attendees agree the same issues are raised time and again
- 61% of attendees agree that their views are listened to and respected when they speak at meetings
- 81% of attendees 'feel that they have the opportunity to comment or ask questions'
- Some officers requested greater clarity regarding in-meeting expectations, such as whether to attend the whole meeting.

Purpose of NCF Meetings

- A level of resident/community perspective is present at NCF meetings although as stated earlier this is demographically unrepresentative of the wider town.
- On the key question of whether residents have the power to influence the decision making process through attendance at NCF meetings, overall, 45 % of respondents answered 'yes' and 45% of respondents answered 'no'. Responses to this question were slightly more positive at the North and Central Forums than at the South.

Recommendations

On Attendance

Hartlepool Borough Council to...

1. Establish targets for attendance at NCF meetings.
2. Develop new strategies and forms of support to bring about greater levels of attendance at Neighbourhood Consultative Forum meetings.
3. Develop measures to address the unrepresentative demographic profile of attendees at Neighbourhood Consultative Forum meetings such that it more closely reflects that of the wider town.
4. Develop and implement a monitoring and review process to track number and demographic profile of attendees

On Information about Neighbourhood Consultative Forum Meetings

5. Hartlepool Borough Council develops more effective advertising of NCF meetings and considers a full re-branding/marketing exercise to promote Forums anew.

On Structure and Content of Neighbourhood Consultative Forum Meetings

6. Measures to be implemented to ensure that NCF meetings finish at a pre-agreed time where practicable.

7. The agenda-setting process and pre-meeting organisation of meeting structure to include resident representation.
8. Presentations at Neighbourhood Consultative Forum Meetings to follow the established practice of the Hartlepool Partnership – a maximum of one presentation per meeting with ten minutes presentation time permitted prior to questions from the floor.
9. All staff that deliver presentations at Neighbourhood Consultative Forum meetings to have undergone specific training in presentation skills.
10. Measures be implemented to address concerns about expectations of behaviour and etiquette during meetings / development of a 'Code of Conduct'.
11. Inform all Councillors that a number of comments have been received as part of this review process which state that meetings are sometimes dominated by Councillors, with this seen by some NCF attendees as limiting contributions from members of the public.

On Purpose of Neighbourhood Consultative Forum Meetings

12. Hartlepool Borough Council consider undertaking a broader review of consultation and participation mechanisms focussing on the extent to which they are structurally embedded into all HBC operations; and the extent to which they accord with the government empowerment white paper, 'Real People, Real Power.' This should include a review of the purpose of the Forums, the powers they have and the budgets they control, the roles of local Councillors at Forum meetings, and support to the administration of Forum meetings.
13. Hartlepool Borough Council to repeat the survey of NCF attendees conducted for this report after implementation of the recommendations made, in order to determine their impact on the key finding that 45% answered positively that they have any influence over the decision making process by attending NCF meetings.

Report of: Central Neighbourhood Manager

Subject: Central Forum Minor Works Scheme Update

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To update the Central Consultative Forum on progress with approved Minor Works Schemes for the financial year 2008/09.

2.0 APPROVED SCHEMES

- 2.1 The following schemes have been approved by the Central Forum this financial year:

| SCHEME | Forum Allocation |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Elwick Road Crossing | £15,000 |
| Ward Jackson Park CCTV /Lighting | £ 5,000 |
| Cresswell Road Lighting | £ 5,000 |
| Macaulay Road | £ 5,460 |
| Bennet Road | £ 6,086 |
| Masfield Road | £ 345 |
| Browning Avenue | £10,000 |
| Dryden Road | £ 3,520 |
| Oakland Avenue | £ 1,000 |
| Newhaven Court | £ 1,425 |
| Burbank Alleygate Scheme | £ 5,400 |
| Cumbria Walk | £ 5,636 |
| Alston Street | £ 4,000 |
| Colwyn Road | £ 8,800 |
| Hart – Saxon Church | £ 3,000 |
| Hart Village | £ 1,086 |
| Elwick Church Steps | £ 400 |
| Tactile Crossings | £ 3,500 |
| Pride in Hartlepool | £ 5,000 |
| Total | £89,658 |

2.0 SCHEME PROGRESS

2.1 Good progress on approved schemes can be reported with most now being completed. Funding approved by the Forum to implement tactile crossings has also been allocated and crossings will be installed at the following locations before the year end:-

- Marlowe Road/Chesteron Road/ Arnold Grove/Walpole Road x8
- Darwin Grove x2
- Teesbrooke/Tynebrook Avenue x2
- Stratford Road/Wolvistion Road/Barton Avenue/Beechfield Drive/Leamington Parade/Sterling Street x10
- Victoria Road/Avenue Road x2

The Pride in Hartlepool allocation will be the subject of a future presentation to the Forum.

Two schemes approved by the Forum in 2008 will not go ahead this financial year. This includes the Hart Saxon Church Car Park which will not go ahead due to other external sources of funding not being made available, and the Masfield Road Scheme which has also been withdrawn at the request of residents who no longer wish this scheme to go ahead.

3.0 CURRENT FINANCIAL POSITION

3.1 The total Minor Works Budget available to Central Forum area at the beginning of this financial year was **£89,658**. As reported above, this funding was fully allocated by the Forum earlier in the year. However due to the Hart Saxon Church car park, and the Masfield Road schemes not being progressed this year there is **£3,345** remaining in the Central Forum Minor Works budget.

4.0 PROPOSED SCHEME

4.1 Spenser Grove Car Parking Scheme

Members of the Forum will recall that in 2007/08 funding for a car parking scheme in Spenser Grove was approved by the Forum but was not implemented due to an existing planning application in relation to the land in question. This application has since been withdrawn and we are now in a position to proceed with the Spenser Grove car parking scheme. The proposed scheme will increase car parking provision in the Grove and reduce congestion. It has been drawn up in full consultation with local residents and ward Councillors. The total cost of the scheme is £ 23,000. The Forum is asked to contribute their remaining Minor Works Budget of **£3,345** to this scheme.

4.0 RECOMMENDATION

4.1 Members of the Forum are asked to recommend approval of the above scheme to the portfolio holder for Neighbourhoods and Communities.

4.2 Members are asked to communicate any further ideas for future Minor Works Schemes to the Central Neighbourhood Manager to enable these schemes to be considered for approval and implementation in 2009/10.