

SOUTH NEIGHBOURHOOD CONSULTATIVE FORUM AGENDA



Friday 17th April 2009

at 2.00 pm

**in Owton Rossmere Resource Centre,
Wynyard Road, Hartlepool**

SOUTH NEIGHBOURHOOD CONSULTATIVE FORUM:

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

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

- 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 South Neighbourhood Consultative Forum held on 6th February 2009
 - 4.2 Matters arising
 - 4.3 To receive the minutes of the Police and Community Safety Consultative Forum meeting held on 13th March 2009
- 5. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

6. **ITEMS FOR CONSULTATION**

- 6.1 Statement of Community Involvement – Update – *Director of Regeneration and Planning Services*

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

- 7.1 Hartlepool LINK – *LINKs Co-ordinator*
7.2 Pride in Hartlepool – Presentation – *Pride in Hartlepool Officer*
7.3 Play builder – *Director of Adult and Community Services*

8. **ITEMS FOR DECISION**

No items

9. **WARD ISSUES**

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

The next meeting of the South Neighbourhood Consultative Forum will take place at a time, date and venue to be confirmed

The next meeting of the South Area Police and Community Safety Consultative Forum will take place at a time, date and venue to be confirmed

WARDS

Fens
Greatham
Owton
Rossmere
Seaton

SOUTH NEIGHBOURHOOD CONSULTATIVE FORUM

6th February 2009

MINUTES OF THE MEETING



The meeting commenced at 10.00 am in Owton Rossmere Resource Centre (ORCEL)
Wynyard Road, Hartlepool

PRESENT:

Chair: Iris Ryder (Resident Representative)

Councillor Bob Flintoff	- Owton Ward
Councillor Steve Gibbon	- Fens Ward
Councillor Marjorie James	- Owton Ward
Councillor Alison Lilley	- Fens Ward
Councillor Geoff Lilley	- Greatham Ward
Councillor Ann Marshall	- Rossmere Ward
Councillor Arthur Preece	- Fens Ward
Councillor Michael Turner	- Seaton Ward
Councillor David Young	- Seaton Ward

Resident Representatives: Mary Green and Sally Vokes

Public: Donna Hotham, Sybil Hotham, H Oxley, Jean Unwin and Michael Unwin

Officers: David Frame, Neighbourhood Manager (South)
David Mitchell, Neighbourhood Co-ordinator
Sue McBride, Neighbourhood Development Officer (South)
Peter Gouldsbro, Community Safety Officer
Jo Wilson, Democratic Services Officer

Police Representative: PCSO Devonport

46. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were submitted by Councillors Mick Johnson and Gerald Wistow and Resident Representative Michael Ward.

47. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

48. MINUTES OF THE SOUTH NEIGHBOURHOOD CONSULTATIVE FORUM

The minutes of the meeting held on 5th December 2008 were confirmed subject to the following amendment:

Public Question Time – Greatham – that it be noted that the request made by the Parish Council that the village be a 20mph zone had not been part of a formal discussion but something mentioned by Parish Council members to Councillor Geoff Lilley casually.

49. MATTERS ARISING

Footpath Construction issues – Councillor Marjorie James asked if, as requested, a presentation on the issue of footpath construction had been scheduled for a future meeting. The Neighbourhood Manager advised that it had but which meeting had yet to be finalised.

50. MINUTES OF THE SOUTH POLICE AND COMMUNITY SAFETY CONSULTATIVE FORUM

The minutes of the meeting held on 16th January 2009 were received. The following amendment was made:

Anti-social behaviour – Councillor Alison Lilley commended officers on their work at St Patrick's Shops and asked that anti-social behaviour orders be inclusive of other shopping areas where appropriate eg Fens Shops.

51. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Maxwell Road – Resident Sybil Hotham referred to problems with anti-social behaviour around the derelict police station. The Neighbourhood Manager advised that demolition had been held up

by utility problems but was expected to take place imminently. Mrs Hotham's comments would be conveyed to Housing Hartlepool.

Greatham – In response to a query from resident Jean Unwin the Neighbourhood Co-ordinator advised that the results of a recent traffic survey had not identified a speeding problem in the village. The request for a 20mph speed limit had been added to the list and would be considered in the new financial year but it was not felt to be a high priority. Prior to any decisions being made full public consultation would be carried out. Councillor Geoff Lilley commented that the evidence suggested a 20mph speed limit would improve the quality of life of the residents while Councillor Marjorie James suggested that Hartlepool as a whole be designated a 20mph zone unless otherwise specified. The Neighbourhood Manager to refer these comments to the Traffic Team.

Kimbrace Road – Resident Donna Hotham indicated that a number of vans were parking on the grass verges. Councillor Alison Lilley suggested a campaign to raise public awareness about the problems caused by parking on grassed areas and the associated costs. Resident Representative Mary Green also advised that drivers would sometimes park long vehicles on their drives leading to pavement obstructions. All comments noted by the Neighbourhood Manager.

52. HARTLEPOOL BOROUGH COUNCIL COMMUNITY CCTV OPERATION

The Community Safety Officer gave a presentation on Hartlepool Borough Council's Community CCTV System. He dispelled some of the myths surrounding CCTV before looking at the types of

camera and their reliability. There were cameras in approximately 80 locations across Hartlepool and any images captured on them were kept for 28 days unless required for a criminal or civil investigation. Images were never released to the press and images could only be released to the person featured on them through the Freedom of Information Act.

The Forum were advised that the Community Monitoring Centre operates 24 hours a day, 365 days a year 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. However they should not be regarded as a panacea for resolving issues of Crime and Disorder.

The following issues were then raised:

Talking cameras – Councillor Marjorie James referred to concerns that had been raised about the possible usage of talking cameras and how these could lead to disturbance for residents. She indicated that if a situation had reached a point where a talking camera was utilised there was a fair chance that residents would already have heard the initial disturbance. The knowledge that it was being dealt with would probably not be a problem and she felt the majority of the public would welcome a disturbance of this nature.

St Patrick's Shops – a number of ongoing problems with the CCTV in this area were highlighted by residents Donna and Sybil Hotham including the cameras not being pointed in the right direction

and the lack of cameras at the back of the complex. The Community Safety Officer advised that the police were currently reviewing the camera patterns and he would highlight this issue specifically. In terms of anti-social activity at the back this was a problem because the shop owners refused to take responsibility for closing the gates on an evening and there was only so much the police could do.

Mini-CCTV – Councillor Geoff Lilley referred to the recent practice by Greatham police to place small cameras in problem areas. Any evidence they gathered was not of sufficient quality to use for a prosecution but could be used as an aid to identifying the perpetrators. The Community Safety Officer commented that the town's CCTV system was required to operate to a certain standard and this was expensive. A medium level system had been considered and smaller cameras installed in Ward Jackson Park and a number of licensed premises.

Longhill / Sandgate Industrial Estates – In reference to a query from Councillor Michael Turner the Community Safety Officer advised that 12 cameras had been installed. The initial installation would be paid for by Hartlepool Borough Council while the businesses within the estate would fund the day-to-day running costs. Any reports of fires on the estates would be forwarded directly to Cleveland Fire Brigade. Councillor Marjorie James asked that residents be made aware that recent work carried out at Longhill had been funded by Tesco as had the installation of a nearby pelican crossing.

Seaton Carew Park – In response to a query from Councillor Michael Turner the Community Safety Officer confirmed that there had been problems with this camera but these were being rectified. He clarified that not all cameras were

watched at all times. The operators were highly trained and would scan banks of monitors for any unusual activity. In addition certain areas were prioritised at certain times such as Church Street on Friday/Saturday nights.

Mobile cameras for school crossing patrols – Resident Donna Hotham suggested that mobile cameras could be used by ‘lollipop ladies’ as an aid to catch drivers who ignore them. The Community Safety Officer reported that trials were taking place however it should be noted that any evidence gathered could not be used for enforcement of road traffic incidents.

Greatham to Fens (Black path) – In response to a query from Councillor Alison Lilley the Community Safety Officer advised that a report on the anti-social and littering problems was virtually completed. Meetings were due to take place with the Tesco Express Manager and the Head of Community Safety and Prevention with the recommendation expected to be that a small CCTV system be put in place to record on site.

The Chair thanked the Community Safety Officer for attending the meeting.

53. NEIGHBOURHOOD CONSULTATIVE FORUM REVIEW

In 2005 the Best Value Strengthening Communities Review had recommended the review of Neighbourhood Consultative Forums. This had been supported by Cabinet who were keen to encourage residents’ participation across the town. The Neighbourhood Manager presented a report on the recently completed review. Information had been gathered from a Viewpoint survey, questionnaires to attendees, interviews with Council officers and service providers and focus groups involving Councillors and

Resident Representatives. The key findings showed most people were happy with the existing times and venues and felt their views were listened to and respected. However concerns had been raised that young people were not represented. The Neighbourhood Manager advised that the South Youth Forum was being introduced and should alleviate these concerns to some degree. Improvements in publicity were also required.

The report recommendations included improvements to the structure and content of the meetings (including one presentation per meeting), the establishment of a code of conduct and development of ways of bringing about greater levels of attendance and representation. A copy of the full review was available upon request with a final report expected to be considered by Cabinet May/June 2009.

The following issues were then raised:

Involvement of a wider age range – Councillor Marjorie James commented that it could be difficult to entice working age people to attend daytime meetings as they would have work and family responsibilities. Another evening meeting might be a possibility but if they did not want to attend they could not be forced to. In terms of children and young people Councillor James suggested that nominations be sought from each of the town’s school councils. Those nominated could then be invited to meet with members of the Forum in order to highlight any concerns they might have. The Neighbourhood Manager advised that he was already meeting with members of the school councils whenever pertinent issues arose. However he would look at the possibility of meeting with school councils on a more regular basis. Councillor Alison Lilley

commented that the Fens Residents Association were in regular contact with Fens School.

Minor Works Budget – Councillor Geoff Lilley felt that the £87,000 budgeted to the Forum for Minor Works was insufficient. The Neighbourhood Manager commented that this funding was relatively unique in allowing local decision making on spend although it was accepted that this was a relatively small amount there was always a balance to be found between centrally allocated resources and those allocated to an area. Councillor Mike Turner suggested that the Minor Works funding be divided equally between wards with wards then being given the choice of what they wished to spend the money on. However Councillor Marjorie James felt there was a risk of a drop in funding in this case. Councillor Lilley suggested that a proper discussion was needed on this matter. The Neighbourhood Manager stated that it had always been agreed by the Chair that funds would be wherever possible and appropriate shared between the Wards as each area had its own priorities.

Venues – Councillor Steve Gibbon suggested alternative venues be found in Seaton Carew and Greatham. The Neighbourhood Manager stated that meetings had been held at both of these locations.

Work behind the scenes – Councillor Geoff Lilley praised officers for the amount of work done behind the scenes, some of which was not highlighted at the meetings. The Neighbourhood Manager was in regular contact with Residents Associations and Parish Councils addressing issues of concern which are dealt with without needing to be raised at these forums.

Public attendance – Councillor Geoff Lilley noted the lack of public attendance at the Forums. Resident Donna Hotham commented that if people wanted to attend the meetings they would but some preferred not to. The Neighbourhood Manager indicated that the Resident Representatives could be approached to bring such issues of concern.

54. 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 £80,202 had been spent leaving a balance of £6,798.

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

1. Seaton Ward – Kildale Road / Elizabeth Way – Flowerbed maintenance and tree planting - £2,680
2. Various Wards – A689 Sappers Corner to Owton Lodge- Bulb planting - £4,118

Members indicated they were happy to approve the Flowerbed maintenance and tree planting in Kildale Road/Elizabeth Way but a number of concerns were raised regarding the bulb planting on Sappers Corner. Councillor Marjorie James felt that as this was something to improve the approach to the town it should be paid using central maintenance budgets £4,118 was a lot of money to pay for crocus bulbs albeit there was an element of traffic management included in the price and it could be better spent on grass verges for example. The Neighbourhood Manager stated that this scheme would be a continuation of bulb

planting on approaches to the town as carried out in previous years. He also stated that the tight timescales meant that a decision needed to be made on this item at this meeting. Councillor Alison Lilley commented that she would prefer grass verges to remain green rather than them being automatically concreted over.

Decision

That scheme 1, at a total cost of £2,680, be referred to the Portfolio Holder for Neighbourhoods and Communities for final approval.

That scheme 2 be refused.

Following refusal of scheme 2 a discussion ensued as to what the remaining monies should be utilised for. A number of suggestions were made including redamation of grass verges and the beautifying of another area. Councillor Geoff Lilley raised concerns that the money had originally been earmarked for a Greatham project and it could now potentially be given to another ward. It was commented that this scheme would be on the boundaries of a number of Wards. Councillor Mike Turner reiterated his previous comment that minor works funds should be divided equally between Wards. Wards could then make recommendations as to what their share should be spent on.

Following further discussion the Neighbourhood Manager raised concerns that he was being asked to make decisions regarding which grass verges were in most need of attention or which areas most needed beautifying. Councillor Steve Gibbon suggested half of the money available be put toward the original scheme and half given to the bulb planting scheme. The Neighbourhood Manager felt this would diminish the impact of the original scheme. Councillor

Gibbon then referred to problems with flooding in the Fens Ward which these monies could be used to alleviate. Members voted to support this proposal.

Decision

That the remaining £4,118 of the South Neighbourhood Forum minor works budget be used to combat flooding concerns in the Fens Ward.

Councillor Marjorie James asked that a meeting of members take place in the next 8 weeks in order to prioritise the remedial works to grass verges in the South area. Councillor Geoff Lilley indicated he was concerned that prioritisation of this nature could lead to certain areas losing out with significant amounts being diverted to some wards to the detriment of others. The Neighbourhood Manager advised that the prioritisation could be carried out per ward.

55. Ward Issues

Road improvements – Resident Representative Mary Green thanked officers for their work in Loch Grove and Munro Grove, commenting that people were parking on the grass because there was no room on the road. Councillor Mike Turner also referred to problems in Farndale Grove, asking that some action be taken. The Neighbourhood Manager noted this.

56. ITEMS OF ANY OTHER BUSINESS AGREED BY THE CHAIR

Georgina Richards advised the Forum of the forthcoming Global Xchange volunteer exchange programme whereby young people from Ethiopia and the UK would be living in Hartlepool for three months in the summer of 2009. Host homes were being sought where two

young people, one from each country, would be able to live. Weekly payments would be made to householders to cover living costs and there was no requirement for homes to be made available for the full three months. Anyone interested was asked to contact Georgina on georgina.richards@vso.org.uk Tel 07867907937.

57. DATE, TIME AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the South Area Police and Community Safety Consultative Forum was scheduled for Friday 13th March 2009 at 10.00am at Owton Rossmere Resource Centre (ORCEL), Wynyard Road, Hartlepool

The next meeting of the South Neighbourhood Consultative Forum was scheduled for Friday 3rd April 2009 at 10.00am at Owton Manor Community Centre, Wynyard Road, Hartlepool

The meeting concluded at 12.25 pm.

CHAIR

WARDS

Fens
Greatham
Owton
Rossmere
Seaton

***SOUTH POLICE &
COMMUNITY SAFETY
CONSULTATIVE FORUM***

13th March 2009

MINUTES OF THE MEETING



The meeting commenced at 10.00 a.m. in Owton Rossmere Resource Centre, Hartlepool

PRESENT:

Chair: Iris Ryder (Resident Representative)

Councillor Bob Flintoff	- Owton Ward
Councillor Alison Lilley	- Fens Ward
Councillor Geoff Lilley	- Greatham Ward
Councillor Ann Marshall	- Rossmere Ward
Councillor Michael Turner	- Seaton Ward

Resident Representatives: Mary Green, Rosemarie Kennedy and Michael Ward

Residents: Dorothy Clark, Donna Hotham, H Oxley and J Smith

Officers: David Frame, Neighbourhood Manager
David Mitchell, Neighbourhood Co-ordinator
Sally Forth, Anti-Social Behaviour Co-ordinator
Julie Hetherington, Community Safety Assistant
Jo Wilson, Democratic Services Officer

Cleveland Police Representatives: Inspector Brown, Inspector Green, Sergeant Dawber, Sergeant Howarth, Sergeant Mansell, PC Longstaff and PC Myers

Housing Hartlepool Representative: Libby Griffiths

Prior to the commencement of the main business, Councillor Jonathan Brash referred in terms of regret to the recent death of Councillor Michael Johnson, formerly Chair of the South Neighbourhood Consultative Forum. Councillor Brash paid tribute to his qualities as a Councillor and as a friend and those present stood in silence as a mark of respect.

19. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Shaun Cook, Steve Gibbon, Cath Hill, Marjorie James and David Young and Resident Representative Ray Harriman.

20. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 16 January 2009 were agreed as an accurate record.

21. MATTERS ARISING

Jutland Road – Councillor Ann Marshall requested an update on the possible closure of the Jutland Road Police Station. Inspector Brown advised that the decision had yet to be made however there would be a public consultation on the matter before any decision was made. Councillor Ann Marshall reiterated her previous comments that the office should not close while Councillor Geoff Lilley asked that a message be sent back to those evaluating the possible closure that members wished to make a more formal representation. Inspector Brown to feed the views of the Forum back.

Alcohol abuse – Resident Representative Mary Green advised that her reference to more random roadside breath tests on drivers at the previous meeting had stemmed from concern at the number of people drinking all day and then driving vehicles. She had witnessed cars being driven in an erratic manner during daylight hours, presumably as a result of alcohol or cannabis usage and asked that police bring the timing of their breathalyser tests up to date in line with this. Inspector Brown referred to ongoing initiatives in this area.

Anti-Social Behaviour – Councillor Alison Lilley clarified that she had

previously stated that both St Patrick's shops and the Fens shops would be affected. She thanked the police for their efforts.

22. NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING UPDATE

The North and South Neighbourhood Inspector, Mick Brown, provided an overview of crime in the South area of Hartlepool. Most categories of crime were on a downward trend apart from vehicle crime and robbery. There had been 1096 arrests with 906 having a positive outcome. He also referred to recent success stories involving drugs, mounted branch and Operation Smash whereby areas known to have regular occurrence of criminal damage were targeted by police. Other initiatives were highlighted including the provision of a palm pilot to all officers and plans to install a police desk in every Hartlepool school.

The following issues were then raised:

Police in schools – Councillor Ann Marshall praised the police but queried whether plans to have a police presence in every school would impact their ability to police the streets. Inspector Brown advised that they intended to provide a proportionate presence in schools rather than permanent. However he expected their presence to help alleviate problems which would otherwise have been dealt with by officers on the beat,

Mowbray Road – Councillor Alison Lilley thanked the police for the recent police car presence in Mowbray Road as drivers were now slowing down automatically.

Stamford Walk – Councillor Alison Lilley thanked the police for removing alcohol from young people the previous week.

Fens Shops – Councillor Alison Lilley praised officers for a recent public relations exercise involving mounted police at the shopping parade. Inspector Brown thanked her for her kind comments saying that constant criticism tended to demoralise officers.

Manor Residents Association – Resident Representative Mary Green referred to a forthcoming project involving young people, the details of which she would bring to a future meeting.

CCTV – Councillor Geoff Lilley reported ongoing problems with gangs of young people coming into Greatham Village and asked if small CCTV cameras could be installed at key points in the village. Inspector Brown acknowledged these concerns but felt that public reassurance was better served by foot patrols. Officers attended Greatham woods every day but response had to be proportionate.

Maxwell Court – Councillor Bob Flintoff requested an update on demolition plans. The Neighbourhood Manager advised it would commence the first week in April. Resident Donna Hotham asked for assurances that the adjoining wall would be demolished also.

Anti-social behaviour in Greatham – Resident Dorothy Clark reported a number of incidents in Greatham including the setting off of fire extinguishers, the vandalism of windows at the Greatham Estate Office and stolen bins being taken to the woods and set on fire. Sergeant Mansell indicated that he was unaware that there had been any thefts of bins but assured Mrs Clark that officers patrolled Greatham woods every day at varying times. Inspector Brown asked that Mrs Clark give any information she had to officers after the meeting. The Neighbourhood Manager reminded residents of the need to report incidents of this kind to the police rather than

waiting for Neighbourhood Forum meetings. He asked that information relating to bin thefts be forwarded to the Neighbourhood Services Department so they could be replaced as soon as possible.

Sappers Corner – Councillor Alison Lilley asked if any progress had been made on requests for CCTV at Sappers Corner. The Neighbourhood Manager advised that an update was expected from the Community Safety Officer imminently.

Seaton Carew – The Chair asked for an increased police presence as the area was becoming a magnet for youths. Inspector Brown highlighted the police's limited resources but advised that they did try to address public concerns. PCSOs regularly attended the area and would bring youths engaging in anti-social behaviour away on buses. Inspector Brown would provide a fuller update on police activity in Seaton Carew at the next meeting.

The Chair thanked Inspector Brown for attending the meeting and answering questions.

23. UPDATE FROM THE FIRE BRIGADE

The Neighbourhood Manager advised that nobody from the fire brigade was in attendance. However details of figures for fires in the District and specifically for the South area for January-February 2009 compared to the previous year were available for those present. If anyone had any queries for Fire Brigade representatives they should contact the Neighbourhood Manager who would pass them on to the appropriate person.

24. ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR UNIT UPDATE

The Antisocial Behaviour Co-ordinator gave details of recent activity in the unit and a breakdown of where cases were occurring, what category of complains were dealt with, broken down into wards and outcomes of referrals. Owton Ward had had the most AS13 forms. She referred to successes with the good tenant scheme, work with partners on Operation Staysafe and the development of links with the Assertive Outreach team, Middleton Grange security and the hospital.

The following issues were then raised:

Fens Estate – Councillor Geoff Lilley asked if Outreach Youth Workers were still operating in this area. The Community Safety Assistant advised that they were still attending one or two nights a week, the Neighbourhood Manager to feedback the results to the Forum at a later date.

Operation Staysafe – Councillor Ann Marshall queried whether alcohol was the only trigger for young people to be removed to the place of safety or whether drugs may not also be involved. The ASB Co-ordinator responded that the trigger was whether the police officer considered the young person to be at risk of significant harm. An assessment of the needs of the child was made once they reached the place of safety and referrals to relevant services be they alcohol or drug related would be made.

AS13 school notification – Resident Donna Hotham praised Anti-Social Behaviour Officers for their good work but felt advising schools of AS13 forms distributed was a waste of time as anti-social youngsters would often not attend. The Anti-Social Behaviour Co-ordinator

indicated that this was only one of many avenues they would explore.

Youth Service – Councillor Mike Turner highlighted the large number of youth referrals and asked if a representative from the Youth Service could be invited to a future meeting to outline their work in the South area.

Car crime – The Chair highlighted a recent spate of car break-ins in Seaton Carew. A Police representative expanded on this saying 10-year-old Vauxhall Corsas and Astras were being targeted. Residents had been advised of this.

The Chair thanked the Anti-Social Behaviour Co-ordinator and Community Safety Assistant for attending the meeting and answering questions.

25. DESIGNATED PUBLIC PLACES ORDER

Sergeant Chris Dawber gave a presentation outlining the designated public places orders which were due to come into force shortly. These would assist officers in intervening with anyone suspected of having drunk alcohol and about to commit any antisocial behaviour. Hartlepool was the only district in Cleveland to utilise these orders and maps of the affected areas were displayed at the meeting. Sergeant Dawber urged residents to let officers know about any problem areas so these could be included in future orders.

The Chair thanked Sergeant Dawber for attending the meeting.

26. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no public questions

27. ANY ISSUES TO BE RAISED BY COUNCILLORS AND RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVES
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Litter at Fens Shops – Councillor Geoff Lilley asked if the Council's litter enforcement team could look at this area given the significant problems with litter. If fines were issued people would be less likely to offend. The Neighbourhood Manager acknowledged the problems but there were limited resources. Inspector Brown advised that positive action would be taken and publicised to maximise the impact. Resident Dorothy Clark referred to her previous suggestion that signage indicating the number of fines for dog fouling and letter be erected and asked if this had been progressed. The Environmental Action Manager was investigating this. Resident Donna Hotham suggested people dropping litter should be not fined but rather made to take part in organised litter-picks. Sergeant Dawber advised that the Youth Offending Team had similar initiatives involving juveniles.

Dog fouling – Councillor Geoff Lilley commented that this was particularly bad on the road leading to Greatham School. The Neighbourhood Manager said officers tried to address the problem but the issue was dog owners. The Council and Police would work together to resolve these problems. The Chair requested a dog fouling bin be situated near the Middleton Grange Shopping Centre. The Neighbourhood Manager and Chair to discuss specific locations.

Rossmere Way – Resident Representative Rosemarie Kennedy highlighted a problem with speeding cars and a lack of police presence. The Neighbourhood Manager confirmed this area had been identified as a problem however the speed survey had brought back borderline results. The Head of

Community Safety and Prevention was looking at actioning enforcement.

Pony and traps – Councillor Mike Turner indicated damage was being caused to the grass and pedestrian areas at Seaton Carew front and queried who was responsible for enforcement. Inspector Brown was unsure but felt as it was a public safety issue it was probably a police responsibility. However there was no appropriate legislation in place. Councillor Turner suggest riding clubs be approached for assistance. Councillor Alison Lilley commented on the danger of horses being ridden at high speed along the beach. Inspector Brown reported that there was a byelaw relating to this issue but it was physically difficult to enforce.

Jutland Road Police Station – Councillor Mike Turner was pleased to note that workers based in the Jutland Road station would be consulted on future plans. He hoped their comments would be given substantial weight when any decisions were being made.

The meeting concluded at 11.40 am

Report of: Director of Regeneration and Planning Services

Subject: STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT –
UPDATE REPORT

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To inform and seek feedback from the Forum on progress on the revision of the Statement of Community Involvement.

1. BACKGROUND AND INFORMATION

- 2.1 In February 2006 the Forum received a presentation and report on the Statement of Community Involvement (SCI). This document sets out how and when the Council will consult the community during the preparation of new planning policy documents and in the consideration of planning applications.
- 2.2 The Borough Council considered all comments made at the time and in October 2006 the first Hartlepool SCI was published.
- 2.3 The 2006 SCI is now being updated due to changes in Central Government guidance and general changes or updates in relation to work within Hartlepool Borough Council and its partners.

3 THE NEXT STEPS

- 3.1 The draft review of the SCI has been prepared and will be consulted on for a two month period.
- 3.2 During the consultation period a permanent display will be located within the central library. The display will be manned at various stages throughout the consultation period, information relating to times when the display will be manned are provided on the information sheet, internet or directly from Planning Policy staff on (01429 284308).
- 3.3 The aim of the consultation process is to involve as many people as possible in the shaping of this document so that it is easy to use and understand and is a useful document for all who wish to be involved in shaping the future of Hartlepool.
- 3.4 All representations put forward within this two month period will be considered, and amendments to the draft will be made accordingly. Planning Policy officers will be available to attend any meetings at community groups

to explain the SCI and how to get involved in planning Hartlepool. For further information regarding the SCI please ring 01429 284308 or e mail planning.policy@hartlepool.gov.uk.

4 RECOMMENDATION

- 4.1 That the report be noted and that interested parties be encouraged to submit any representations during this two month consultation period.

HARTLEPOOL LINK

Introduction:

Hartlepool LINK is a network of local people and organisations, funded by Government and supported by Hartlepool Voluntary Development Agency (the independent host organisation) to promote and support the involvement of people in commissioning, provision and scrutiny of local health and social care services. Every LINK in the country has the same powers and responsibilities but it is the individual LINK that decides what will work best in their area.

The role of Hartlepool LINK is to:

- Give everyone the opportunity to say what they think about their local health and social care services in terms of what is working well and what is not so good.
- Give people an opportunity to monitor and review how services are both planned and delivered.
- Provide feedback on what people have said about services, so that improvements can be made.

The Way Forward:

Hartlepool LINK has a range of methods available to enable them how to say how local services could improve:

- Make reports and recommendations to commissioners and receive a reply within a set period of time.
- Ask commissioners for information and receive a reply within a set period of time.
- Enter certain Health and Social Care premises to observe the nature and quality of services.
- Refer issues to Overview and Scrutiny committees and receive a response.

Work with Commissioners:

Hartlepool LINK has been created through the introduction of legislation (Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007). It has powers to hold Health and Social Care service providers to account. The same legislation puts a greater obligation on providers and commissioners to consult with the public about services. It is envisaged that the LINK will be looked upon as one of the main ways of ensuring people are involved in making decisions about services.

Hartlepool LINK will provide commissioners with a first point of contact for involvement and engagement. The LINK will be a pool of local knowledge, service users and expertise, which will assist commissioners assess the needs of local populations. Involving the public through consultation with Hartlepool LINK will help commissioners take decisions that best reflect the public's need.

Enter and View:

To enable Hartlepool LINK to gather information they need about services, there will be times when it will be appropriate for them to see and hear, for themselves, how services are provided. The Government has introduced duties on certain commissioners and Health & Social Care services to allow authorised representatives of Hartlepool LINK to enter premises that providers own or control, to observe the nature and quality of services.

Should you require any further information, help or advice regarding HARTLEPOOL LINK please contact:

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Report of: Director of Adult and Community Services

Subject: PLAY BUILDER

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To inform and seek feedback from the Forum on the development of the Play Builder project.

2. BACKGROUND AND INFORMATION

- 2.1 Following The Fair Play Survey to support the creation of the National Play Strategy part of the Governments Children Plan it was recognised that funding was required to improve play spaces for young people aged 8-13 years old. To ensure that the improvement of play is recognised Government has introduced a new National Indicator NI 199, which comes into force April 2009 and evaluates children's satisfaction within play facilities.
- 2.2 The Government, through The Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) have committed £235 million to improve outdoor play facilities over 3 years started in 2008.
- 2.3 All top tier Authorities are or have received Pathfinder or Play Builder money, in Hartlepool's case, this is £1,129,958 million of Play Builder money.
- 2.4 Play England have been appointed by DCSF to support Local Authorities through this process.

3. THE NEXT STEPS

- 3.1 The Play Builder funding for Hartlepool starts on 1st April 2009 and finishes in April 2011.
- 3.2 There has to be 11 significantly improved or new play spaces completed by April 2010 and another 11 by 2011.
- 3.3 The allocated funding has to be spent within each financial year and DCSF will not allow for any under spend to be carried forward, spend it all or lose it.
- 3.4 A final Project Plan has to be submitted to DCSF by the end of March 2009, to ensure that HBC receives the funding.

- 3.5 We need the help and assistance of local residents, communities, children and young people to get this right so that play spaces of real value to the community and young people are put in place.
- 3.6 We need input from all to make this a dynamic and inspired project, delivering play spaces that are wanted and that will be used.
- 3.7 The Play Builder fund forces us to question what has gone before and to reevaluate it.

4. HBC's PROPOSED PLAY SPACES FOR YEAR 1 OF THE PLAY BUILDER PROGRAM

- 4.1 These are the proposed sites that have been put forward to DCSF for consideration in year 1, with year 2 developments open to further discussion and consultation.

4.2 Play Space

- (i) Jutland Road
- (ii) Oxford Road
- (iii) King George Playing Fields
- (iv) King Oswy Drive
- (v) Town Moor
- (vi) Greatham
- (vii) Lynnfield School
- (viii) Owton Manor
- (ix) Burbank
- (x) Clavering
- (xi) Burn Valley Garden - Rock Garden 1

- 4.3 The lead officer for this project is Chris Wenlock, Parks and Countryside Manager.

5. RECOMMENDATION

- 5.1 That the report is noted and that interested parties are encouraged to submit any representations in relation to years One or Two of this project.