

CENTRAL NEIGHBOURHOOD CONSULTATIVE FORUM AGENDA



Thursday, 28th May 2009

at 2.00 pm

**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: Ronald Breward, Liz Carroll, Bob Farrow, Ted Jackson, Jean Kennedy, Evelyn Leck, Alan Lloyd, Brenda Loynes, Brian McBean and vacancy

- 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 2nd April 2009
 - 4.2 Matters arising (maximum of 10 minutes) – Feedback sheet from last meeting attached

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

Stranton
Burn Valley
Foggy Furze
Grange
Park
Rift House

6. **ITEMS FOR CONSULTATION**

No items

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

No items

8. **ITEMS FOR DECISION**

No items

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

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

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

WARDS

Burn Valley
Elwick
Foggy Furze
Grange
Park
Rift House
Stranton

CENTRAL NEIGHBOURHOOD CONSULTATIVE FORUM

2 April 2009

MINUTES OF THE MEETING



The meeting commenced at 2.00 pm. in the Civic Centre, Hartlepool

PRESENT:

Councillor John Coward	- Park Ward
Councillor Gerard Hall	- Burn Valley Ward
Councillor Pauline Laffey	- Park Ward
Councillor John Lauderdale	- Burn Valley Ward
Councillor Carl Richardson	- Grange Ward
Councillor Jane Shaw	- Stranton Ward
Councillor Chris Simmons	- Grange Ward
Councillor Victor Tumilty	- Grange Ward
Councillor Gladys Worthy	- Rift House Ward

Resident Representatives: Christopher Akers-Belcher, Ted Jackson and Brenda Loynes

Public: Gordon and Stella Johnson, Mr Lumley, Ray McAndrew, William and Norma Morrish and Ray Waller

Council Officers: Clare Clark, Neighbourhood Manager (Central)
Jon Wright, Neighbourhood Co-ordinating Manager
Irene Cross, Neighbourhood Development Officer (Central)
Tom Britcliffe, Principal Planning Officer
Helen Williams, Planning Officer
Kate Ainger, Pride in Hartlepool Officer
Jo Wilson, Democratic Services Officer

Police Representative: Sergeant Brian Crawley

Hartlepool LINK Representative: Christopher Akers-Belcher

Play England Representative: Kirsty Thomson

42. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were submitted from Councillors Martyn Aiken, Stephen

Akers-Belcher, Pamela Hargreaves, Stan Kaiser, Frances London and Lilian Sutheran and Resident Representatives Liz Carroll and Jean Kennedy.

43. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR

In the absence of the Chair and the Vice-Chair it was agreed that Councillor Carl Richardson would chair the meeting.

44. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

45. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CENTRAL NEIGHBOURHOOD CONSULTATIVE FORUM HELD ON 5th FEBRUARY 2009

Agreed subject to the following amendments –

Public Question Time and Ward Issues

– **Park Road** – Resident Ray McAndrew had been referring to the opposite side of the road which was still blocked.

Public Question Time and Ward Issues

– **Cemetery Wall, Hart Lane** – Councillor Chris Simmons had been referring to the plinth on the corner at the Jesmond Road end which was coming away. The Neighbourhood Co-ordinating Manager advised that the structure was sound but acknowledged that cosmetic improvements could be made.

46. MATTERS ARISING

No issues

47. MINUTES OF THE POLICE AND COMMUNITY SAFETY CONSULTATIVE FORUM MEETING HELD ON 12th MARCH 2009

Received with the following amendment:

Public Question Time – High Tunstall School Pupils – Resident Representative Brenda Loynes had advised the meeting that she had already

visited the school not that she was going to.

48. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME AND WARD ISSUES**Rift House**

Macauley Road – Councillor Gladys Worthy raised a problem with police van driving on the grassed verges. Sergeant Crawley to feed this back.

Stranton

War Memorial – Councillor Jane Shaw advised that there had recently been a near miss involving a skateboarder and she was concerned that should there be an accident the Council would be liable. The Neighbourhood Manager reported that the police had been informed and asked to pay more attention to the area.

Marina – Resident Ray Waller commented on the lack of available toilet facilities when compared with the recent refurbishments on the Ward Jackson Park toilets. The Chair agreed that this should be addressed.

Burn Valley

Blakelock Road – Resident Ray McAndrew advised that the potholes leading into Baden Street and around Park Road/Stockton Road traffic lights were getting bigger

Burn Valley – Resident Ray McAndrew indicated that a number of branches on trees in the Burn Valley had been snapped off in what appeared to be an axe attack. There was also a lot of broken glass from empty bottles strewn around the area. Councillor Gerard Hall advised that this was also a problem in Park Road and York Road.

Eamont Road – Councillor Gerard Hall reported that rubbish from brown bins and poly bags was being left following the fortnightly collections.

Foggy Furze

No items

Grange

Hart Lane – Councillor Chris Simmons referred to the new pavements which were still waiting to be top surfaced despite the new properties being occupied for a year. The Neighbourhood Co-ordinating Manager advised that the developers were waiting for the utilities boxes to be installed and they preferred to complete the job in one rather than piecemeal. He acknowledged the time lag but highlighted that similar work in Bishop Cuthbert had taken almost three years to complete. In this case it was hoped that the work would be completed in the next few weeks.

Supporters Club – Councillor Victor Tumilty reported broken paving slabs outside the Supporters Club caused by Yuills Wagons being parked on the pavement.

Dog fouling – Councillor Victor Tumilty advised that a Council enforcement officer had recently been threatened and was now unable to operate in the area. Councillor Chris Simmons indicated he was under the impression that PCSOs could issue on the spot fines. Sergeant Crawley acknowledged this but said people tended not to offend if a PCSO was in the area. Police could adopt a zero tolerance approach but members felt it was preferable not to have continuous prosecutions. However the public should be made aware that it was a possibility.

Park

Dunston Camp – Resident Representative Brenda Loynes referred to the amount of traffic using the layby which was an accident waiting to happen. She requested monies be made available from the Minor Works budget to improve matters. The Neighbourhood Manager was investigating the feasibility of such a request at the moment and hoped to bring a report to the next scheduled Forum.

Mountston Close / Springston Close – Resident Representative Brenda Loynes queried why squares had been painted around grates. The Neighbourhood Co-ordinating Manager advised it could be the Highway Inspection Unit or a utilities company. He would investigate.

Tarnston Road – Resident Representative Brenda Loynes reported an ice cream van causing a bus backlog and asked that it be moved. Councillor George Morris commented that legally it would need to move after 15 minutes.

49. REVIEW OF THE STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

The Planning Officer gave a presentation regarding the Statement of Community Involvement and highlighted that this document was currently under review and set out how the Council intended to involve the community, businesses, landowners and statutory agencies in the planning system and what to expect from the Council and developers. Any comments received between 1 April 2009 and 1 June 2009 would be reviewed and the revised document would go out for further consultation for six weeks before adoption by the Council in 2010.

Councillor Gerard Hall acknowledged the need to consult on these matters as early

as possible, citing the Orwell Walk development as an example. He queried the distribution of planning application advertisements, asking if they were distributed widely enough. Councillor Pauline Laffey referred to the current plans for the floating hotel at the Marina which water users had not been consulted on. There were also problems with application notices being removed from lampposts. She felt the Statement of Community Involvement was a big step forward in correcting such problems. Councillor George Morris, as Vice-Chair of Planning Committee, advised that members of the Committee were due to consider a new planning code of practice and any comments in this area should be forwarded to the Chair of Planning as the document was still in the draft stages. The Principal Planning Officer would liaise with the Development Control Manager on the wider considerations.

The Chair thanked the Principal Planning Officer and Planning Officer for attending the meeting and answering members' questions.

50. PRIDE IN HARTLEPOOL

The Pride in Hartlepool Officer gave a presentation on projects that had been undertaken over the past year, particularly in the Central area. A number of groups had also benefited from funding from the Pride in Hartlepool Budget.

Resident Ray Waller commented that the biggest obstacle to people having pride in Hartlepool was the amount of rubbish outside people's homes caused by apathy on the part of residents. The Pride in Hartlepool Officer acknowledged this but said people could not be forced to act responsibly on their own private property.

Resident Gordon Johnson requested information on the ownership of a patch

of land on Tarnston Road behind Peakston Close. Residents had tended this land for 20 years but had recently been advised that it was council-owned. The Pride in Hartlepool Officer to investigate further.

Councillor Victor Tumilty commended those who tidied up other's litter but raised a problem with fast food packaging being discarded around the Marina. He felt that fast food outlets should be made to clean up their own grounds.

Councillor Gladys Worthy commented that Hartlepool was not dirty but people were making it dirty thanks to a generation that did not have pride in the appearance of their homes.

The Chair thanked the Pride in Hartlepool Officer for attending the meeting and answering members' questions.

51. HARTLEPOOL LINK

The LINK Co-ordinator informed the meeting of the aims of the Local Involvement Network which was made up of individuals and community groups who worked together to improve health and social care services. He invited the audience to join the group and stressed that each and everyone's views would be taken seriously by the Hartlepool LINK.

Councillor Gerard Hall queried how complaints were dealt with. The LINK Co-ordinator advised that their work plan was intended to co-ordinate with that of Health Scrutiny Forum in order that they complement each other. It was hoped that any complaints would be dealt with at the lowest level practicable.

The Chair thanked the LINK Co-ordinator for attending the meeting and answering members' questions.

52. PLAYBUILDER

A presentation was given by a representative from Play England (North East) which was a five year project to promote strategies for free play and to create a lasting support structure for children's play in England. There had been approximately £1 million allocated following the submission of a project plan setting out the timescales for the development and/or refurbishment of play areas.

Members welcomed the project which would make a big difference in giving children more opportunities for play while teaching them how to minimise risk. However problems with the Not In My Backyard culture were highlighted and it was felt this could prove problematic later in the planning stages. Officers were asked to consult with communities rather than residents groups as they did not always give a true reflection of what members of the community actually wanted. A wide consultation was recommended to ensure that any problems were covered before the plans were finalised. Concerns were also raised regarding the safety of the equipment and the potential for accidental injury but the Play England representative indicated that maintenance checks would need to be carried out on all equipment prior to installation in order to validate the work.

The Chair thanked the representative of Play England for attending the meeting and answering members' questions.

53. MINOR WORKS PROPOSALS APRIL 2009

The Neighbourhood Manager reported details of the Minor Works Budget allocation for 2009/2010 and the Forum's

role with regard to the proposal and approval of schemes.

It was noted that

- ❖ £52,000 was available for general Minor Works schemes
- ❖ £20,00 was available for highway related schemes
- ❖ A further £15,000 had been allocated to specifically address the issues concerning grass verge re-installment.

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

1. Park Ward – Egerton Road – lighting - £8,500
2. Grange Ward – Eltringham Road – development of a garden area - £3,500
3. Rift House Ward – Waverly Terrace – Allotment Community Garden - £2,364
4. Various Wards – Tactile crossings - £3,500
5. Various Wards – Pride in Hartlepool - £5,000

The Neighbourhood Manager highlighted that the request for funding for the Waverly Terrace allotment community garden had been amended from that originally requested. Requests made via other avenues to fund the security fencing had failed to garner enough therefore the Forum was being asked to provide £2,364 to install the fencing rather than the £2,000 originally requested for paving and planting. However members could also fund the paving and planting, a total cost of £4,364. Members subsequently approved the total funding.

Decision

That the following schemes be recommended to the Portfolio Holder for approval

- I. Park Ward – Egerton Road – lighting
- £8,500
- II. Grange Ward – Eltringham Road –
development of a garden area -
£3,500
- III. Rift House Ward – Waverly Terrace
– Allotment Community Garden -
£4,364
- IV. Various Wards – Tactile crossings -
£3,500
- V. Various Wards – Pride in Hartlepool
- £5,000

Resident Ray Waller suggested that Minor Works funding be used to install a pedestrian crossing at the Park Road / Osborne Road junction. Councillor Gerard Hall asked that the possibility of traffic lights being erected at the site be investigated. The Neighbourhood Manager advised that a meeting on this matter was due to be held the following week.

A resident proposed Minor Works money be used to help tidy the site of the former Bridge Youth Centre which had recently been demolished.

54. DATE, TIME AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

The Chair advised that these details were yet to be confirmed. Members noted the time delay between this Forum and the next and requested that an additional meeting be held in May 2009, with the stipulation that there be no officer presentations at this meeting. This was agreed by the Forum.

The meeting concluded at 3.50pm.

ACTION SHEET FROM CENTRAL NEIGHBOURHOOD CONSULTATIVE FORUM APRIL 2009

Stranton

Marina – Resident Ray Waller commented on the lack of available toilet facilities when compared with the recent refurbishments on the Ward Jackson Park toilets.

The point is valid, however the Marina is not adopted by the local authority, as such we have no powers to ask the developer to install public conveniences nor install them. We are looking at introducing a scheme which will engage with businesses in tourist areas where they make their facilities available to the public which is incentive based. A public convenience policy is currently being drafted and will be presented to the Portfolio and Neighbourhood forums during this coming year, hopefully no later than the autumn.

Burn Valley

Blakelock Road – Resident Ray McAndrew advised that the potholes leading into Baden Street and around Park Road/Stockton Road traffic lights were getting bigger

The pot holes identified close to Baden Street have been made safe, and orders for their permanent repair have been raised. An order has also been raised for the Junction of Park Road and Stockton Road

Burn Valley Gardens– Resident Ray McAndrew indicated that a number of branches on trees in the Burn Valley had been snapped off, and there was also a lot of broken glass from empty bottles strewn around the area. Councillor Gerard Hall advised that this was also a problem in Park Road and York Road.

Burn Valley Gardens has its own dedicated cleansing/horticultural team and benefits from daily cleansing. The Environmental Supervisor has been asked to monitor the areas identified. The issue has also been reported through the Central Area Joint Action Group and the Police are currently putting together an action plan to address ongoing issues in the gardens.

Eamont Road – Councillor Gerard Hall reported that rubbish from brown bins and poly bags were being left following the fortnightly collections.

These concerns have been passed onto the Waste Management Manger to address with the appointed contractor. We are also currently reviewing our cleansing rounds in the Central Neighbourhood Area to ensure that our cleansing teams follow refuse collections across the Central Neighbourhood Area.

Park Road – Resident Ray McAndrew had been referring to the opposite side of the road which was still blocked.

This gulley cleansing issue has been passed onto the Highways Operational Manager to action.

Grange

Hart Lane – Councillor Chris Simmons referred to the new pavements which were still waiting to be top surfaced despite the new properties being occupied for a year.

These works are now completed

Supporters Club – Councillor Victor Tumilty reported broken paving slabs outside the Supporters Club.

The footways in Duke Street form part of this year Scheduled Highways Maintenance program and works will begin in June to coincide with Operation Cleansweep in this area of Grange Ward.

Park

Dunston Road – Resident Representative Brenda Loynes requested monies be made available from the Minor Works budget to fund a lay by.

See action table.

Mountston Close / Springston Close – Resident Representative Brenda Loynes queried why squares had been painted around grates.

These marks were not painted by HBC Highways Inspectors, therefore this must be the work of an external utility, company and will only be for maintenance purposes.

Tarnston Road – Resident Representative Brenda Loynes reported an ice cream van causing a bus backlog and asked that it be moved.

This has been passed to the Traffic and Transportation section to monitor.