

CENTRAL NEIGHBOURHOOD CONSULTATIVE FORUM AGENDA



**PLEASE NOTE : RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVE ELECTION TO BE HELD
AT 1.30 pm PROMPT**

Thursday, 3 September,

at 2.00 pm

**in the Council Chamber,
Civic Centre, Hartlepool**

CENTRAL NEIGHBOURHOOD CONSULTATIVE FORUM:

Councillors Aiken, S Akers-Belcher, Brash, Coward, Cranney, Hall, Hargreaves, 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 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 23rd July 2009
 - 4.2 Matters arising (maximum of 10 minutes) – Feedback sheet from last meeting attached
 - 4.3 To receive the minutes of the meeting of the Central Police and Community Safety Consultative Forum held on 6th August 2009

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

Burn Valley
Foggy Furze
Grange
Park
Rift House
Stranton
Elwick

6. **ITEMS FOR CONSULTATION**

None

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

- 7.1 Stagecoach – verbal update – *Stagecoach in Hartlepool Representative*
- 7.2 Community Cashback Initiative – verbal update – *Neighbourhood Manager (Central)*

8. **ITEMS FOR DECISION**

- 8.1 Central Area Minor Works Budget – Supplementary Guidance – *Neighbourhood Manager (Central)*

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

The next meeting of the Central Neighbourhood Consultative Forum will take place on Thursday 15th October at 10.00am in the Council Chamber, Civic Centre.

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

WARDS

Burn Valley
Elwick
Foggy Furze
Grange
Park
Rift House
Stranton

***CENTRAL NEIGHBOURHOOD
CONSULTATIVE FORUM***

23 July 2009

MINUTES OF THE MEETING



The meeting commenced at 6.00 pm. in the Civic Centre, Hartlepool

PRESENT:

Chair:	Councillor Kevin Cranney	- Foggy Furze Ward
	Councillor Jonathan Brash	- Burn Valley Ward
	Councillor John Coward	- Park Ward
	Councillor Gerard Hall	- Burn Valley Ward
	Councillor Pauline Laffey	- Park Ward
	Councillor George Morris	- Park Ward
	Councillor Carl Richardson	- Grange Ward
	Councillor Jane Shaw	- Stranton Ward
	Councillor Chris Simmons	- Grange Ward
	Councillor Gladys Worthy	- Rift House Ward

Resident Representatives: Liz Carroll, Bob Farrow, Ted Jackson, Jean Kennedy and Brian McBean

Public: M Angus, Christine Blakey, S Bryan, G Harrison, Phil Matthews, Noma Morrish, S Walker and Ray Waller

Council Officers: Clare Clark, Neighbourhood Manager (Central)
Jon Wright, Neighbourhood Co-ordinating Manager
Paul Christie, Safer, Cleaner, Greener Co-ordinator
Richard Harlanderson, Parks Development Officer
Debra Stephenson, ACORN Therapeutic Social Worker
Irene Cross, Neighbourhood Development Officer (Central)
Jo Wilson, Democratic Services Officer

Police Representatives: Tony Green, Glen Westmoreland and Michael McArdle

North East Ambulance Service Representative: Mark Cotton

Prior to the commencement of the meeting the Chair paid tribute to the work of the previous chair.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were submitted from Stephen Akers-Belcher, Pamela Hargreaves, Frances London, Lilian Sutheran and Victor Tumilty and Resident Representatives Ronald Breward, Evelyn Leck and Brenda Loynes.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

3. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CENTRAL NEIGHBOURHOOD CONSULTATIVE FORUM HELD ON 28th May 2009

The minutes were agreed as a true record.

4. MATTERS ARISING

Resident Representative vacancy –
The Neighbourhood Manager advised that nomination forms and associated paperwork would be sent out to all relevant parties at the end of the week, prior to an election at the next Central Neighbourhood Consultative Forum.

Catcote Road / Macauley Road –
Councillor Gladys Worthy reported an increase in vehicles mounting the pavement. A Police representative indicated that they did take this seriously, however the culprits tended not to commit an offence if there was a uniformed officer in the vicinity.

Middleton Grange Shopping Centre –
Councillor Jane Shaw noted plans to hold a public surgery in the shopping centre but felt the proposed time discriminated against the working population. She requested that the Managing Director be invited to a future meeting of the Forum. This was supported by the Chair.

5. MASTER PLAN FOR THE REFURBISHMENT OF THE UPPER PART BURN VALLEY GARDENS AND BEYOND, IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE DEVELOPMENT OF AN ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATIONAL AND INVOLVEMENT PROGRAM FOR THE PEOPLE OF HARTLEPOOL

Councillor Jonathan Brash, in his capacity as a Burn Valley Ward Councillor, gave a brief presentation on the proposals for the refurbishment of the upper part of Burn Valley Gardens. The plan was to improve access to, and use of, natural green spaces as well as improving their ecological value. Hartlepool currently lacked more traditional green areas and it was hoped to eventually link Burn Valley Gardens with Summerhill Park, making a 'green artery' through the town. However at the moment the upper part was not fit for purpose, with issues surrounding anti-social behaviour, light and the cleanliness of the beck.

The aim of the project was to draw people into their green spaces and facilitate opportunities for them to appreciate, improve and conserve them sustainably. It was hoped that a volunteer warden scheme could be developed and children taught more about ecological matters. The Environment Agency had already pledged £40,000 of funding to the project with a further bid due to be submitted to Access to Nature. Public support would help a great deal with this bid and Councillor Brash requested comments or suggestions from those present, both during and after the meeting.

The following issues were then raised:

Belle Vue Community Sports and Youth Centre – Resident Representative Bob Farrow referred to a patch of land behind the Centre which could possibly be used. The Parks Development Officer

indicated he was unsure as to whether this area would be suitable, however if it was not it could be considered by a future volunteer warden service.

Skateboarding – Resident Ray Waller asked what consultation had been undertaken with young people on this issue. What was needed was an area for youngsters to let off steam, particularly a prop skateboarding area. He suggested the area around the fairy steps would be ideal. Councillor Brash commented that these plans were about developing a natural environment and skateboarding would not fit into that. The Parks Development Officer advised that officers had talked to children and found their knowledge of natural areas was limited, hence the proposals. Councillor Pauline Laffey felt that providing a skateboarding area would encourage a more diverse mix of children and encourage an interest in ecology amongst children who would not otherwise have had one.

The Chair thanked Councillor Brash and the Parks Development Officer for attending the meeting and answering questions. He urged those with any suggestions to pass these on to the officers.

6. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME AND WARD ISSUES

Burn Valley

Bus service – Resident Ray Waller queried whether there were plans to remove the No 4 bus service.

York Road – Resident Ray Waller asked how many prosecutions there had been for wrecked paving stones as cars were now regularly parking on the pavement outside the shops. He also commented that he had recently witnessed a car parking behind a bus shelter in order that

the driver had easier access to a cash point machine.

Recycling – Resident Ray Waller advised that he had recently seen recycling staff discard a ripped white poly bag onto Park Road. It was still there and he asked who would be held responsible for this.

Baden Street – Councillor Jonathan Brash referred to ongoing serious problems. Despite its status as a main thoroughfare into Hartlepool almost half of the properties were boarded up and the lives of residents were becoming a living hell. He was pleased that the Mayor and NDC NAP had made it a high priority and hoped the Forum would too.

Foggy Furze

Recreational Ground – Resident Representative Jean Kennedy reported youths were gathering here on Friday and Saturday nights, drinking and discarding empty bottles into nearby gardens. The Chair asked the police to note this problem, paying tribute to the work they did in hot spots on weekend nights.

Police – Resident Representative Bob Farrow paid tribute to the good work being done by the police in the Belle Vue area

Garden improvements – Resident Representative Bob Farrow advised the Forum that the Belle Vue Residents Association had recently received a lottery grant to make improvements to gardens and attempts were being made to get more funding for similar issues from Endeavour and the NDC.

Belle Vue Way – Resident Representative Bob Farrow thanked the Neighbourhood Manager for the barrier baskets recently installed on Belle Vue Way.

Longhill Industrial Estate – Resident Representative Bob Farrow commented that the mountains of rubbish in this area were disgraceful, given its placement on one of the main roads into the town

‘Tin Houses’ – Resident Representative Bob Farrow asked that these be demolished as soon as possible, preferably the following month.

Potholes – Resident Representative Bob Farrow referred to ongoing problems in the Belle Vue area. The Chair asked that specific details be forwarded to the Neighbourhood Co-ordinating Manager.

Grange

Hutton Avenue – Councillor Chris Simmons advised that a Residents Association had been formed, their chief concerns being conservation and road safety. It was hoped a representative would be present at a future Forum meeting.

Green bins – Councillor Carl Richardson reported an increase in the amount of flies and maggots emanating from green bins, particularly in areas with no gardens. He was concerned that this could lead to an infestation of rats and asked that weekly collections be reinstated, if not for the town as a whole then at least for those areas without gardens. Councillor Brash supported this proposal saying that when fortnightly collections had been introduced it had been on a trial basis with the proviso that if there were any problems solutions would be found. The majority of the Forum indicated their support for weekly collections.

Park

Car Park at Ward Jackson Park – Resident Representative Ted Jackson

asked when the crossing from the new car park at Ward Jackson Park would be completed. The Neighbourhood Co-ordinating Manager advised that a scheme was being costed, however it was unlikely it would be completed in this financial year. The same applied to the crossing from the car park across Park Avenue to Ward Jackson Park.

Elwick Road – Resident Representative Ted Jackson indicated he had received complaints about the speed of traffic entering the town via Elwick Road. He asked that road signage near the Four Winds Nursing Home be increased in size. The Chair asked that officers carry out a speed survey and recommend appropriate action.

Tunstall Court Car Park – Resident Representative Liz Carroll asked when this car park opposite Ward Jackson Park would be open for use. The Neighbourhood Co-ordinating Manager advised that the perimeter fence still needed to be put in place, something which would take 4-5 weeks.

Ward Jackson Park pond – Resident Representative Liz Carroll indicated that the life buoys did not have enough rope on them and would therefore be ineffective in the event of an accident.

Cairnston Road to Worth Plain – Councillor Pauline Laffey commented that the footpath was a disgrace with high nettles, uneven paving and large amounts of rubbish. The situation was particularly bad on Friday and Saturday nights. This was an urban footpath between houses and on adopted Council land. She asked that the police patrol the area.

Bus shelter – Councillor George Morris asked if a shelter could be provided in Grange Road. The Neighbourhood Co-ordinating Manager to investigate.

Rift House**Cars parking on grass verges –**

Councillor Gladys Worthy referred to ongoing problems with vehicles churning up grass verges. Recently a water tanker had exacerbated the problem while carrying out maintenance work. The Water Board and Highways Department had both been approached about this matter but so far no action had been taken. The Chair acknowledged these problems but said tarmacing of grass verges caused drainage problems. A balance needed to be found. Resident Ray Waller queried whether a survey had been undertaken in recent years on the capacity of the drainage system. He suggested that the drains might be cut back. The Neighbourhood Co-ordinating Manager to take the specific issues raised on board.

Stranton

Navigation Point – Resident Ray Waller asked when a public convenience would be provided, given the recent adoption of this land by the Council

Smoking in Middleton Grange Shopping Centre – Resident Ray Waller advised that this was continuing in the underground car park despite signage warning against it. Smokers had told him the Council were allowing it, he suggested the Council be prosecuted for this.

Mill House crossing – Councillor Jane Shaw commented on the speed of traffic using this crossing and asked that it be converted to pelican use.

Town centre pavements – Councillor Jane Shaw advised that the unevenness of the pavements in the town centre made it difficult for people with mobility issues. She understood that there was not an abundance of money to deal with

this but something should be considered to encourage more visitors.

Cenotaph – Councillor Jane Shaw asked who was responsible for the land around the Cenotaph. It was being used as gathering ground for young people whose language and behaviour was appalling. The wall was also being damaged by skateboarders. More respect should be shown, particularly in light of current conflicts involving the armed forces. Councillor Carl Richardson endorsed these comments, saying the police needed to be more vigilant. Acting Chief Inspector Tony Green advised that there had been some prosecutions and the police did the best they could in the circumstances. Reporting of the number of arrests and prosecutions in this area could be incorporated into the Police and Community Safety Consultative Forums.

Flooding – Councillor Jane Shaw raised the issue of flooding behind Marks and Spencer and around the Asda/Burger King area.

Stagecoach – Councillor Jane Shaw advised that she had recently received the plans for improvements to the bus service in Swainston Street for comment. She felt that these plans would cause mayhem and concerns had been raised by taxi drivers. Emergency vehicles could also face difficulties. Councillor Shaw suggested that a Stagecoach representative be invited to a future meeting to discuss this. The Chair was happy to support this, possibly for inclusion at the next meeting.

Fastnet Grove – Resident Norma Morrish queried why this area had been removed from the list for resurfacing. The Neighbourhood Co-ordinating Manager advised that it was still on the five year list however budgetary pressures and reprioritisation meant it would not be completed in this financial year. Mrs

Morrish asked that it be completed as soon as possible.

Burbank underpass – Resident Representative Jean Kennedy reported that this had not been cleaned out following flooding as a result of the recent heavy rains.

Stockton Road – Resident Representative Jean Kennedy advised that repairs were needed to a small wall. She had been told that repairs would be done in time for the Tall Ships but this was too long to wait.

Drains – Resident Representative Jean Kennedy reported a smell emanating from the drains around Middleton Grange Shopping Centre, below Park Road and Waldon Street

Dogs – Resident Representative Jean Kennedy advised that her dog had recently been savaged by a large dog which had not been on a lead. The owner of the dog, who was wheelchair bound, had a number of dogs which she allowed to roam free without any restraints. When Mrs Kennedy had reported the incident to the police she had been told that nothing could be done and dogs fight. She called for something to be done to force people to put leads on dogs and regretted that she had not prosecuted the owner at the time. Acting Chief Inspector Tony Green to speak to Mrs Kennedy following the meeting.

Osborne Road – Councillor Gerard Hall indicated that the scaffolding around the Co-op building had been re-erected but there appeared to be no work ongoing.

Flaxton Street/Elwick Road florists – Councillor Gerard Hall reported that the shop displays were encroaching onto the pavement. This was perfectly allowable however action had been taken recently when the owners had used a nearby litter

bin as part of a display. Councillor Hall thanked officers for their swift response to this issue.

Hospital Bus Service – Resident Ray Waller asked why a bus service to all the hospitals in the area could not be provided by Hartlepool Borough Council, as Durham County Council were able to do so.

7. FOUNDATION STATUS CONSULTATION

Mark Cotton of the North East Ambulance Service gave a brief presentation on the proposal to give the North East Ambulance Service foundation trust status later in the year. A 12-week consultation period was underway and was due to end on 28th August 2009. Details were given of the proposed governance arrangements, including the number of representatives per area that would be eligible to sit on the Council of Governors. Consultation feedback forms and Membership expression of interest application forms were provided for those present.

Councillor Gladys Worthy queried how the number of governors per area had been determined. Mr Cotton advised that numbers had been based upon the proportion of the population they would serve. Resident Ray Waller queried whether there was any point in consultation as the plans would go ahead regardless of public feedback. He referred to Conservative policy to abolish quangoes, however Mr Cotton said his understanding was that their policy was to continue with foundation trusts. Councillor Jane Shaw referred to the cost of employing governors, particularly in the current economic climate, Mr Cotton indicated that pay rates would be discussed with Council representatives prior to implementation.

The Chair thanked Mr Cotton for attending and answering questions. He urged anyone wishing to make comment to return the consultation form.

8. MINOR WORKS PROPOSALS

The Neighbourhood Manager advised the Forum that £87,000 had been available for the Forum to spend on minor works in 2009/10. Of these monies £24,864 had been spent leaving a balance of £62,136

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

Burn Valley Ward

Ellison Street shrub bed removal - £3,200
Colwyn Road shrub bed removal - £3,600

Grange Ward

Topcliffe Street - £435

Stranton Ward

Staindrop Street Alleyway Closure - £3,500
Burbank Street Zebra Crossing - £8,000

Rift House Ward

Galsworthy Road Grass Verge Removal - £1,450
Masfield Road Grassed Verge Removal - £5,000
Macauley Road Grassed Verge Removal (Nos 129-137) - £2,500
Shelley Grove Grassed Verge Removal - £10,500
Macauley Road Grassed Verge Removal (Nos 169-179) - £2,500
Arnold Grove / Walpole Road - £1,200
Garrick Grove Car Parking Improvements - £7,300 - £40,890 (depending upon preferred option)

Park Ward

Keilder Road - £1,000
Springston Road - £2,030

The Neighbourhood Manager advised that if all the schemes were recommended for approval the maximum amount remaining in the fund would be £9,921, with a possible deficit of over £23,000 depending on which of the options for the Garrick Grove improvements was chosen. The Chair felt that in light of this he would like a steering group to look at how the minor works fund could be used in the future and effective budgeting measures. This was supported by the Forum.

Councillor George Morris moved deferment of the proposed schemes until the steering group had met. This was supported for the majority of schemes however members felt that the proposals relating to Garrick Grove and Burbank Street were of an urgent nature and could not wait.

Decision

That the following minor works schemes be recommended to the Portfolio Holder for approval:

- Burbank Street Zebra Crossing - £8,000
- Garrick Grove Car Parking Improvements – Option 2 - £13,024

That decisions on the following minor works schemes be deferred to a future meeting:

- Ellison Street shrub bed removal - £3,200
- Colwyn Road shrub bed removal - £3,600
- Topcliffe Street - £435

- Staindrop Street Alleyway Closure - £3,500
- Galsworthy Road Grass Verge Removal - £1,450
- Masefield Road Grassed Verge Removal - £5,000
- Macauley Road Grassed Verge Removal (Nos 129-137) - £2,500
- Shelley Grove Grassed Verge Removal - £10,500
- Macauley Road Grassed Verge Removal (Nos 169-179) - £2,500
- Arnold Grove / Walpole Road - £1,200
- Keilder Road - £1,000
- Springston Road - £2,030

9. DATE, TIME AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING
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The next meeting was scheduled for Thursday 3rd September at 2.00pm in the Council Chamber.

Members were also advised that a meeting of the Central Area Police and Community Safety Consultative Forum would take place on Thursday 6th August at 2.00pm in Committee Room B of the Civic Centre.

The meeting concluded at 8.00pm.

CHAIR

ISSUES RAISED AT CENTRAL FORUM

Thursday 23 July 2009

Matters Arising

Middleton Grange Shopping Centre – possibly invite MD to future Forum meeting (Jane Shaw)

The Manager of the Middleton Grange Shopping Centre has agreed to attend the October Central Neighbourhood Forum meeting.

Public Question Time and Ward Issues

Burn Valley

Navigation Point now adopted by Council – when will public toilet be provided? (Ray Waller)

The council's legal team are working very closely with Mandale Development regarding the adoption of Navigation Point. Once adopted we will look to work with local businesses and the Yacht Club regarding the provision of public conveniences. It is difficult at this stage to give an exact date, however the council is scheduled to consult on a draft public convenience strategy and the views of the central forum will be sought.

Is the No 4 bus service being taken off? (Ray Waller)

The No 4 service is not being removed. However there may be some slight changes to the route. New time tables are available both on the Stagecoach and HBC website. A representative from Stagecoach will be attending the September meeting of the Central Neighbourhood Forum.

Cars parking on pavements on York Road – how many prosecutions have there been for wrecked paving stones? (Ray Waller)

20 Penalty Charge Notices have been issued from April 2009 to date. Last year a total of 44 PCNs were issued.

Ripped recycling bag thrown away onto Park Road by recycling workers, who is responsible? (Ray Waller)

Issues such as this can be reported directly to the Contact Centre on 523333. However the Waste Management Manager has been informed and will forward his concerns onto the contractor.

People smoking in MGSC underground car park – Council should be prosecuted for allowing it (Ray Waller)

Responsibility for ensuring smoking is prohibited in the car parks falls under HBC. Car parking officer will and do point out to the public that the area is controlled by a smoking ban and this is responded to in most instances positively. However car parking officers cannot issue a PCN for the offence. This is the responsibility of HBC's Public Protection Team who can issue fixed penalty notices to offenders. This team have visited the site and although it was well and clearly signed they felt the citing of the bins was misleading and gave the impression that smoking is permitted. We are therefore looking at relocating bins and will make every effort to ensure that patrolling officers advise the public of the no smoking ban.

Car driven behind bus shelter for ease of access to cash point (Ray Waller)

The car in question was able to do this due to a missing bollard. An order has been raised for its replacement

Foggy Furze

Longhill Industrial Estate tip – disgraceful mountains of rubbish (Bob Farrow)

The Council is doing everything within its powers to improve the situation. More specifically Easy Skips have been prosecuted in relation to this site and fined £245,000 in relation to the illegal disposal of waste. If this fine is not paid by August 2010 the directors of Easy Skips will face a 3 year prison term. The owner of the land has said he will be clearing it up prior to selling it on.

Tin Houses in Burn Valley need to be demolished (Bob Farrow)

Housing Hartlepool inform that demolition is due to take place in September 2009.

Potholes (Bob Farrow)

The Belle Vue area is split into two highway inspection zones, one was carried out in July, and another in August. This is repeated in January and February. Any actionable defects identified for repair during these inspections will be actioned.

Grange Ward

Flies/maggots coming from green bins – request weekly collections reinstated in areas with no gardens (Carl Richardson)

The kerbside recycling service was introduced in July 2006 as a pilot study on one waste collection round for one year, which was subsequently rolled out across the town working towards October 2007, when full implementation was achieved. The Household Waste Recycling Act 2003 and the National Waste Strategy provides a statutory duty on local authorities to collect recyclable wastes from the household by 2010 and has a greater focus on recycling, reuse and composting of household waste, which are 40% by 2010, 45% by 2015 and 50% by 2020. It is anticipated these targets will increase substantially in the near future.

With respect to the proposal to reinstate weekly collection the Forum will recall the Scrutiny Coordinating Committee undertook a thorough investigation into the kerbside recycling scheme following a referral from the North Forum. The findings of the investigation supported the current kerbside collection service and supported the continuation of alternate weekly collections, recommending the introduction of more recyclable waste streams, e.g. plastic yoghurt pots and tetrapaks, be added to the collection service. During the course of the investigation members expressed some concern regarding the lack of lid for blue boxes and the inappropriateness of the blue bags, suggestion a hessian bag as a more robust replacement along with the provision for removable soft lids for the blue box.

Maggots occur particularly in summer months in bins due to flies laying eggs in food and this then being deposited into the bin, and. We recommend householders should:

- keep containers outdoors and, if possible, out of direct sunlight
- ensure waste is properly contained and there is no access for flies or rodents
- wrap food waste
- wash hands and work surfaces after contact with waste
- maintain hygiene of containers by washing and/or disinfecting regularly, both inside and out
- ensure a container with a tight-fitting lid is used for organic/food waste
- where food waste is temporarily stored in the home for home composting or separate collection, empty the container regularly and use a liner or place paper within the bin to soak up wet residues

The maggots, should they appear, are of course inside the bin and giving them a quick splash with bleach will kill them off.

Park Ward

Speed of traffic entering town on Elwick Road – request road signs be increased in size, especially round Four Winds (Ted Jackson)

Paul Watson the Road Safety Team Leader has agreed to organise larger more visible signage, and will investigate increasing the depth of the rumble strips.

When will car park at Tunstall Court opposite WJP be open? (Liz Carroll)

These works are almost complete with just the perimeter railings to finish. The Traffic and Transportation Manager will liaise with the designers to ensure signage goes in indicating this facility, CCTV, and publicity.

WJP pond – life buoys don't have enough rope (Liz Carroll)

Parks and Countryside will inspect the buoys and ensure that the area is fit for purpose and meets all the standards and requirements.

Footpath Cairnston Road to Worsett Lane – high nettles, rubbish, uneven pavement (Pauline Laffey)

Works to improve the accesses to this footway by way of reducing the shrubbery will commence in September/October 2009 after the nesting season. We will also ensure all the nettles and litter within is cleared at the same time.

Request for bus shelter in The Parade (George Morris)

The Traffic and Transportation Manager Mike Blair has agreed to liaise with Cllr Morris to meet on site mid August.

Rift House Ward

Problems with cars parking on grass verges – water board vehicle ploughed up grass, highways and water board approached but no response (Gladys Worthy)

This area has been inspected and there are no actionable defects at this location. Budgets do not allow repair to address aesthetical damage, and without evidence of times, dates and a registration number for the vehicle concerned it is unfortunately not possible to recharge the costs.

Stranton Ward

Mill House crossing – request for pelican crossing due to speed of traffic (Jane Shaw)

HBC Traffic Manager has agreed to undertake a speed survey at this location to identify any speeding problems and level of traffic using the road.

Uneven pavements in centre of town (Jane Shaw)

All town centre footways are inspected each calendar month, and all actionable defects noted for repair. Over the last few weeks there has been some investment in York Road to address footway issues in the areas between Yorkshire Bank and Lamb's jewellers also Lloyds Bank and outside Pagan and Mcquade opticians. These areas upon inspection were the most in need of a more permanent repair.

Cenotaph – who is responsible? Young people gathering, appalling behavior (Jane Shaw)

The actual cenotaph area itself falls within Council ownership and is the responsibility of HBC. Responsibility for the area surrounding the cenotaph is mixed due to the fact that the land is leased out to, for example Middleton Grange Shopping Centre.

Flooding – back of M&S, Asda and Burger King (Jane Shaw)

Marks and Spencer - work is scheduled to begin to correct drainage failure and should be completed August/September.

The area at the entrance to Asda and Burger King is private and belongs to a company called DTZ, a Newcastle company and they have been contacted with a view to addressing this issue.

Swainson Street bus service improvements – drivers v concerned, problem with emergency vehicles – suggest Stagecoach attend next meeting (Jane Shaw)

A representative from Stagecoach has agreed to attend the next meeting of the Forum in September.

Seaton – slag heaps back (Norma Morrish)

As highlighted recently in the Hartlepool Mail the Mayor has set up a task force to respond to such issues and this has been successful on the Longhill site (see above) Residents should be reassured the Council are working alongside the Environment Agency, Police, and other partners to strictly monitor and determine the situation.

Underpass between Burbank and Centre – flooded, filthy, needs cleaning (Jean Kennedy)

Works have now been undertaken by the Central area Environmental Team to clean the subway. We have now programmed this area into our weekly schedule and it will be swept twice a week.

Stockton Road – small wall down (Jean Kennedy)

This had already been identified as an issue. The wall will be re-built and the shrubbed area will be block paved as nothing seems to grow well at this location.

MGSC – drains below Park Road, Waldon Street – smell (Jean Kennedy)

All the gullies in this area have now been cleansed

Co-op on Osborne Road, scaffolding back (Ged Hall)

Works have now recommenced at this site and therefore the scaffolding will remain in place until the works area is complete. Should the works come to a halt – we will need to revisit this issue.

Can we look at providing a bus service to all the local hospitals? Durham County Council do it (Ray Waller)

A representative from Stagecoach will attend the next Central Consultative Forum in September.

Minor Works Schemes

To organize special meeting to discuss future allocation of Minor Works funding

This meeting took place on Monday 10 August and a report to the Forum relating to the future allocation of the Minor Works Budget is included in the next meeting of the Forum in September.

WARDS

Burn Valley
Elwick
Foggy Furze
Grange
Park
Rift House
Stranton

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

6th August 2009

MINUTES OF THE MEETING



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

PRESENT:

Chair:	Councillor Kevin Cranney	- Foggy Furze Ward
	Councillor Stephen Akers-Belcher	- Rift House Ward
	Councillor Jonathan Brash	- Burn Valley Ward
	Councillor John Coward	- Park Ward
	Councillor Gerard Hall	- Burn Valley Ward
	Councillor Frances London	- Foggy Furze Ward
	Councillor Dr George Morris	- Park Ward
	Councillor Carl Richardson	- Grange Ward
	Councillor Jane Shaw	- Stranton Ward
	Councillor Victor Tumilty	- Grange Ward
	Councillor Gladys Worth	- Rift House Ward

Resident Representatives:

Bob Farrow, Jean Kennedy and Brenda Loynes.

Residents: G and S Johnson and Ray Waller

Council Officers:

Clare Clark, Neighbourhood Manager (Central)
Sally Forth, Anti-Social Behaviour Co-ordinator
Adrian Hurst, Principal Environmental Health Officer
Irene Cross, Neighbourhood Development Officer (Central)
Julie Hetherington, Community Safety Assistant
Jo Wilson, Democratic Services Officer

Police Representatives: PC McArdle and Inspector Peter Knights

Fire Brigade Representative: Peter Bradley

Housing Hartlepool Representative: Natalie Gooding

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors Martyn Aiken, Pamela Hargreaves, Robbie Payne and Chris Simmons.

2. TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 12th MARCH 2009

The minutes were agreed as a true record.

3. MATTERS ARISING

None

4. UPDATE FROM THE POLICE

Inspector Peter Knights updated the Forum with regard to crime and performance figures for the District for June 2009. All categories of crime had shown a decrease. The only exception was drugs which had increased by 92.9%. However Inspector Knights clarified this by explaining that this meant the number of drug arrests had increased, a positive occurrence. He went to give information on the number of arrests, cautions and street encounters in the Central area over the last 3 months. Details were also given of operations which had been carried out in the Central area including Operation Tornado, action against drug dealing, the cutting back of licensing hours at the 24 hour shop on Raby Road and various youth-based initiatives.

The following issues were then raised:

Number of arrests – Councillor Carl Richardson commented on the relatively low number of arrests for the three-month period, asking if the statistics for the previous three-month period were available. Inspector Knights advised that they were not, however he did recall a lot

of activity in Church Street at that time. Councillor Frances London praised officers for the work they were doing, querying the actual definition of street encounters. Inspector Knights thanked her for her comments, indicating that street encounters covered any degree of contact with the public such as taking witness statements or speaking to loitering youths.

Plain clothes – Councillor Gladys Worthy queried whether plain clothes officers were still deployed. Inspector Knights reported that while Neighbourhood Policing was designed to be a more visible presence plain clothes officers were still used successfully when appropriate.

Park Road – Resident Ray Waller complemented officers for their regular presence there, which had led to a noticeable decrease in the amount of criminal damage. Inspector Knights to relay these comments back to the neighbourhood policing team. However he referred to the forthcoming alterations to bus services in the area, saying residents had concerns about walking back to their homes late at night. The Chair acknowledged this and other concerns, advising that officers were hoping to have a representative of Stagecoach at the next Neighbourhood Consultative Forum meeting.

Waldon Street – Resident Representative Jean Kennedy highlighted ongoing problems with CCTV provision in this area. Despite a camera being in place it permanently faced Lister Street so that any night-time activity in Waldon Street and Morpeth Street was not being recorded and therefore not properly addressed. Inspector Knights indicated that the physical operation of cameras was the responsibility of the Council. He would feedback Mrs Kennedy's comments to the appropriate department.

Neighbourhood Policing – Councillor Victor Tumilty asked what impact the advent of Neighbourhood Policing had had on the downturn in crime figures. Inspector Knights felt this was hard to judge however crime rates had consistently reduced each month since neighbourhood policing was introduced. The teams were becoming more embedded and part of the community, attending public meetings etc.

Baden Street – Councillor Jonathan Brash highlighted ongoing problems in this area, raising concerns that officers' time was being unduly spent there, to the detriment of other areas. He asked that the neighbourhood policing teams be given more support, Inspector Knights confirmed that this was already happening.

Elwick Road Licensing application – Councillor Jonathan Brash referred to a recent application for an increase in licensing hours at a shop in Elwick Road. Councillor Brash had objected on behalf of the residents and had received informal representation from neighbourhood police of their concerns. However no formal police representation had been made at the meeting and as a result, on legal advice, the application had been allowed by the sub-committee. Inspector Knights was familiar with the application but was unsure as to why no official representations had been received. He would investigate this.

Youth initiatives – Councillor Stephen Akers-Belcher reported a Rift House project taking place on Friday nights whereby young people were able to drop in. There had been no police officers present for the last three weeks, however he hoped that they would be available for future meetings. Inspector Knights described such initiatives as massively beneficial with the backing of

Superintendent Andy Summerbell. PC McCardle reported that his colleagues fully supported the initiative and would be there anytime they could be.

The Chair thanked Inspector Knights and PC McCardle for attending the meeting and answering questions.

5. UPDATE FROM THE FIRE BRIGADE

Cleveland Fire and Rescue representative Peter Bradley gave a brief update on recent fires in the Central Forum. There had been 108 fires, 24 accidental and 84 deliberate. A large number of the accidental fires had been the result of chip pan fires, therefore the ongoing campaign to persuade people to swap their chip pans for deep fat fryers was being increased. In terms of deliberate fires police patrols would be increasing at Summerhill, Kipling Road, Browning Grove and Tunstall Court, all noted hotspots.

The following issues were then raised:

Seaton Meadows – Resident Representative Jean Kennedy referred to alleged malpractice being carried out by Seaton Meadows management and employees. The Chair advised that this area was covered by the South Forum and asked Mrs Kennedy to raise her concerns with the appropriate officers in that area.

Masefield Road – Councillor Stephen Akers-Belcher thanked fire officers for their hard work during the Rift House clean up. He requested more resources in Masefield Road.

McDonalds – Resident Representative Bob Farrow indicated he had witnessed a large amount of black smoke coming out of the chimney behind the fire station near McDonalds. The Fire representative

was sure this would have been actioned at the time.

Recycling – Resident Ray Waller referred to the recycling instructions whereby wheelie bins had to be put in place between 10.30pm and 7.30am. He felt that this could lead to an increase in deliberate fires.

The Chair thanked the Fire Brigade representative for attending the meeting and answering questions.

6. ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR UNIT UPDATE

The Antisocial Behaviour Unit Co-ordinator gave details of recent activity in the unit including Partnership working, Assertive Outreach and Prevention schemes. Figures for 2007/8 showed a 20.9% perception that Hartlepool was an anti-social area to live in, compared with 22.5 % in Stockton and 26.9% in Middlesbrough. The perception that the majority of anti-social behaviour was carried out by young people was also demonstrated to be false as 76% of anti-social behaviour orders given in 2008/9 were for adults. Nevertheless various prevention measures were being taken to decrease the amount of juvenile anti-social behaviour including the placing of a member of the Youth Offending Team in every school in Hartlepool. Details were also given of take-up of the Good Tenant Scheme and future challenges facing the Unit.

The following issues were then raised:

Selective Licensing – Councillor Jonathan Brash queried why tenant referencing had not been made mandatory. The Anti-Social Behaviour Unit advised that referencing was mandatory but being a member of the Good Tenant scheme was not as this could be legally challenged. However it

had been agreed informally that where there were specific issues with tenants they would be required to become members of the scheme.

Football – Councillor Victor Tumilty referred to recent complaints from residents regarding small children playing football. He felt this lack of leeway was appalling and thanked the Neighbourhood Development Officer for providing a sponge ball for the children.

Probation – Resident Ray Waller requested information on the probation service specifically the rates of reoffending. The Chair suggested a representative from the Probation Service be invited to the next meeting.

Designated Public Places Order – Councillor Gerard Hall referred to a recent meeting of the Licensing Committee during which the idea of a town-wide DPPO had been voted upon. He had been in favour of this however the majority of Committee members had voted against it. He hoped that this was something which could be considered again in the future. Councillor Stephen Aker-Belcher commented that any ban had to be based on evidence in order to make it enforceable.

Belle Vue Community Sports and Youth Centre – Resident Representative Bob Farrow referred to some of the good work being done here. The Anti-Social Behaviour Co-ordinator indicated that she was aware of this.

Witness awards – Resident Representative Jean Kennedy referred to a future initiative whereby witnesses would be given a community award. She urged officers to err on the side of caution and take into account a witnesses request for anonymity. The Anti-Social Behaviour Co-ordinator advised that any potential recipients would be contacted in

advance to ensure they were happy to receive an award and attend a public ceremony.

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

7. CRIME AND DISORDER CO-ORDINATION UPDATE

There were no items raised.

8. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no items raised.

9. ANY ISSUES TO BE RAISED BY COUNCILLORS AND RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVES

Crime reduction – Councillor Gerard Hall urged the public to contact the police or Anti-Social Behaviour Unit with any problems as this was the only way crime and anti-social behaviour could be stamped out effectively. Anonymity could be protected if necessary.

Hart Lane – Councillor Victor Tumilty highlighted ongoing problems at the Duke Street junction due to vehicles driving through red lights.

Nudist beach – Councillor Victor Tumilty referred to a recent request he had received for the provision of a nudist beach in Hartlepool.

Bikes in Rift House – Councillor Stephen Akers-Belcher confirmed that this continued to be a problem. He had recently passed on specific details to the police but when he had requested an update he had found that the information had been lost. At the time of reporting he had been told he did not need to as it had already been reported. Inspector Knights advised that this was incorrect advice and

apologised for the lack of feedback. Councillor Victor Tumilty referred to future changes in police procedures whereby all incident reports would be logged on CD or DVD and feedback automatically provided.

CCTV in Rift House – Councillor Stephen Akers-Belcher expressed his disappointment at the installation of CCTV. This had been meant to cover a wider area however during the planning process objections had been raised and therefore the plans had been reduced. He hoped the camera could be reinstalled as it was not currently serving its intended purpose

Dog attack – Resident Representative Jean Kennedy referred to the previous meeting when she had reported an attack on her dog. Since that meeting the police had been in touch and advised her that the situation was being dealt with. She thanked them for their prompt action.

Ward Jackson Park – Resident Representative Brenda Loynes reported a recent issue with youths drinking in the Park after hours. She had reported this to the police but was told it was low priority because of activity within the town centre and that officers did not have a key to the Park. She queried if there was any point in reporting incidents of this kind when no action was taken. Inspector Knights acknowledged that action should have been taken. He would feedback these concerns to the control room.

Oxford Road – Councillor Frances London reiterated a previous request for a pedestrian crossing. The Neighbourhood Manager advised that this was still being considered.

K CRANNEY
CHAIR

Report of: Neighbourhood Manager (Central)

Subject: Central Area Minor Works Budget – Supplementary Guidance

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1** To consider additional guidance that will supplement existing criteria in the allocation of the Central Neighbourhood Forum Minor Works Budget.

2.0 BACKGROUND

At the last meeting of the Central Neighbourhood Consultative Forum there was a discussion around how the Central Neighbourhood Area Minor Works Budget could be allocated more effectively in the future.

A workshop was subsequently held on 10th August 2009 to discuss this issue to which all Central Forum Ward Councillors and Resident Representatives were invited. In an attempt to get as many views as possible a questionnaire was also sent out to Central Area Ward Councillors and Resident Representatives.

This report sets out the current position in relation to the allocation of the Central Area Minor Works Budget, together with suggested additional guidance to aid decision making in the future based on discussions held at the meeting on the 10th August and responses to the questionnaire.

3.0 CURRENT POSITION

- 3.1** The Minor Works Budget was introduced in 2000 when the Neighbourhood Consultative Forums were established.

The purpose of the budget is to enable the implementation of local schemes that would not otherwise be prioritised through Council mainstream provision.

Each Forum has a delegated budget of £87,000. This budget is allocated from the Councils central mainstream budget and includes an allocation of £20,000 from the highways budget to address specific highways issues raised by the Forum, and a further £15,000 to address the common issue of conversion of grass verges to hard standing.

- 3.2** The existing framework when considering proposed schemes agreed at the beginning of each financial year is as follows:

- (a) Outline schemes are proposed by Members, Residents, Resident Representatives, or Officers.
- (b) The Chair and Vice Chair of the Neighbourhood Consultative Forum assess the proposal, and where appropriate instruct officers to cost the works and report to the Forum.
- (c) Reports to the Forum will include estimated costs, alternative options where appropriate, residents views, and any other related information.
- (d) Final approval currently rests with the Portfolio Holder for Neighbourhoods and Communities, assuming the Forum are willing to recommend schemes for approval.

3.4 Forum members with voting rights currently include elected Ward Members (19), and elected resident representatives (10).

Wards falling within the Central Neighbourhood Area include: Park; Grange; Stranton; Burn Valley; Rift House; Foggy Furze; and Elwick.

4.0 PROPOSED ADDITIONAL GUIDANCE IN DETERMINING THE ANNUAL ALLOCATION OF THE CENTRAL FORUMS MINOR WORKS BUDGET

4.1 Following discussions at the special meeting held on 10th August, and responses to the questionnaire subsequently sent out to Ward Councillors and Resident Representatives, the following additional guidance is suggested when determining the allocation of the Central Forum Minor Works Budget in the future:

- (a) Where possible the Minor Works Budget should be allocated equally across all seven wards within the Central Neighbourhood Area.
- (b) The Forum should aim to limit the level of funding to individual schemes to enable the benefit of the budget to be spread more widely across each Ward in the Central Neighbourhood Area. (Figures of £5,000, £10,000, and £20,000 all being suggested as possible limits)
- (c) Flexibility should be retained to allow the Forum to pool their budget when it would benefit the whole of the Central Neighbourhood area such as the current annual contribution to 'Pride in Hartlepool' of £5,000 and an allocation of £3,500 to dropped crossings.
- (d) The Minor Works budget should where possible be matched with contributions from other funding sources eg Local Transport Plan Monies, Community Safety Grant Monies, although the absence of such funding would not be a barrier to approval.
- (e) More information where possible should be provided to aid decision making in relation to particular schemes. This to include:

- Evidence of need
 - How the community has been involved in developing the scheme
 - The partners involved in putting schemes together and the responsible officer for taking the scheme forward
 - Why the funding is needed ie why it will not be forthcoming from other sources.
 - How the scheme links with other schemes/initiatives in the area
 - When the scheme is expected to be completed
 - Options for particular schemes that include a value for money assessment, including for example how many residents will benefit from the scheme.
 - Any risks to the project being delivered
 - Whether the schemes will result in an ongoing cost to the authority.
- (f) Continuous monitoring of the budget should be provided. This to include a running total of how much funding has been allocated to each Ward, and contributions from other sources that add value to the Minor Works Budget. (**Appendix 1** is an example of the type of information that could be provided based on the last financial years allocation - 2008/09).
- (g) A dedicated meeting at the beginning of each financial year to take place to enable full consideration to be given to priorities, and to determine how the Minor Works Budget can be used to best effect across the Central Neighbourhood Area.

5.0 CONCLUSION

- 5.1** The above guidance will ensure a more equitable approach that retains flexibility in allocating the Central Area Minor Works Budget in the future, and the additional information provided will assist members of the Forum in ensuring more effective decision making in relation to resident priorities across the Central Neighbourhood Area.

6.0 RECOMMENDATION

- 6.1** That the Central Area Neighbourhood Forum adopts the additional guidance outlined in this report to supplement existing criteria in the allocation of the Central Area Minor Works Budget in the future.

CENTRAL FORUM MINOR WORKS SCHEMES BUDGET REPORT 2008/09

TOTAL BUDGET: £87,000 - INCLUDES ALLOCATION FROM HIGHWAYS TO ADDRESS SPECIFIC HIGHWAYS ISSUES (£20,000), AND SPECIFIC PROBLEM OF CONVERSION OF GRASS VERGES TO TARMAC HARDSTANING (£15,000)

WARD	SCHEME	MATCH FUNDING £	CENTRAL FORUM APPROVAL £	TOTAL FUNDING APPROVED £
Central Forum Wide	Tactile crossings Pride in Hartlepool	10,000 16,541	3,500 5,000	13,500 21,541
Central Forum Wide Schemes Total		26,541	8,500	35,041
Grange	None	0,000	0,000	0,000
Grange Total		0,000	0,000	0,000
Rift House	Macaulay Road	0,000	5,460	5,460
	Bennet Road	0,000	6,086	6,086
	Browning Avenue	(HH) 10,000	10,000	20,000
	Dryden Road	0,000	3,520	3,520
	Spencer Grove	(LTP) 19,655	3,345	23,000
Rift House Total		29,655	28,411	58,066

Park	Elwick Road Crossing	(LTP) 30,000	15,000	45,000
	Ward Jackson Park Lighting and CCTV	(S17) 12,850	5,000	20,850
	Cresswell Road Lighting	(C&L) 3,000		
		0,000	5,000	5,000
Park Ward Total		45,850	25,000	70,850
Stranton	Burbank Alleygate Scheme	0,000	5,400	5,400
	Newhaven Court Road Entrance	0,000	1,425	1,425
Stranton Total		0,000	6,825	6,825
Foggy Furze	Cumbria Walk	0,000	5,636	5,636
	Oakland Avenue	0,000	1,000	1,000
Foggy Furze Total		0,000	6,636	6,636
Burn Valley	Alston Street	0,000	4,000	4,000
	Colwyn Road	0,000	8,800	8,800
Burn Valley Total		0,000	12,800	12,800
Elwick	Elwick Church Steps	(EPC) 400	400	800
Elwick Total		400	400	800
Hart Village	Hart Village Car Park	(HPC) 2,424	1,086	3,510
Hart Village Total		2,424	1,086	3,510
Dalton	None	0,000	0,000	0,000
Dalton Total		0,000	0,000	0,000
TOTAL TO DATE		104,870	89,658	194,528