

SOUTH NEIGHBOURHOOD CONSULTATIVE FORUM AGENDA



Friday 4th September 2009

at 2.00 pm

**in Owton Manor Community Centre,
Wynyard Road, Hartlepool**

SOUTH NEIGHBOURHOOD CONSULTATIVE FORUM:

Councillors C Akers-Belcher, 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 24th July 2009
 - 4.2 Matters arising
 - 4.3 To receive the minutes of the meeting of the South Police and Community Safety Consultative Forum held on 7th August 2009 (*to follow*)
- 5. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**
- 6. ITEMS FOR CONSULTATION**

No items

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

7.1 Stagecoach – Verbal Update – *Stagecoach in Hartlepool Representative*

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 on Friday 16th October at 10.00am at Owton Rossmere Resource Centre (ORCEL), Wynyard Road.

The next meeting of the South Area Police and Community Safety Consultative Forum will take place on Friday 13th November at 10.00am at Owton Rossmere Resource Centre (ORCEL), Wynyard Road

WARDS

Fens
Greatham
Owton
Rossmere
Seaton

SOUTH NEIGHBOURHOOD CONSULTATIVE FORUM

24th July 2009

MINUTES OF THE MEETING



The meeting commenced at 6.00 pm in Owton Rossmere Resource Centre (ORCEL)
Wynyard Road, Hartlepool

PRESENT:

Chair:	Councillor Ann Marshall	- Rossmere Ward
Vice Chair:	Iris Ryder (Resident Representative)	
	Councillor Christopher Akers-Belcher	- Rossmere Ward
	Councillor Bob Flintoff	- Owton Ward
	Councillor Steve Gibbon	- Fens Ward
	Councillor Cath Hill	- Seaton Ward
	Councillor Marjorie James	- Owton Ward
	Councillor Alison Lilley	- Fens Ward
	Councillor Geoff Lilley	- Greatham Ward
	Councillor Arthur Preece	- Fens Ward
	Councillor Mike Turner	- Seaton Ward
	Councillor Gerald Wistow	- Owton Ward

Also present: Councillor Jonathan Brash

Resident Representatives: Rosemarie Kennedy, Sally Vokes and Mike Ward

Public: Dorothy Clark, S Kell, Joan Unwin and Brian Walker

Officers:

- David Frame, Neighbourhood Manager (South)
- David Mitchell, Neighbourhood Co-ordinator
- Sue McBride, Neighbourhood Development Officer (South)
- Richard Harlanderson, Parks Development Officer
- Deborah Jefferson, Countryside Warden
- Jo Wilson, Democratic Services Officer

Police Representatives: Acting Sergeant Mick Johnson and PCSO Dobson

Housing Hartlepool Representative: Helen Ivison

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were submitted by Resident Representatives Mary Green and Ray Harriman.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

3. MINUTES OF THE SOUTH NEIGHBOURHOOD CONSULTATIVE FORUM MEETING HELD ON 17th APRIL 2009

These were confirmed as a true record

4. MATTERS ARISING

Playbuilder – As discussed at the previous meeting Councillor Marjorie James had written to the Mayor and the MP expressing the Forum's concerns that the funding could ultimately be a waste of money should vandalism occur. The Mayor had indicated that as the funding had been applied for under set criteria there was not much he could do. The MP, however, felt there could be scope to request a change in the criteria if there was a chance that the money could ultimately be wasted. He had written to the Minister responsible and was currently awaiting a response. Councillor James would keep the Forum apprised of any developments.

Fruit trees – Councillor Geoff Lilley commented that while he was in favour of the planting of fruit trees crab apples could be used as weapons. He requested a full consultation with residents before any action was taken. Councillor Marjorie James advised that the intent was to plant edible fruit trees and only in appropriate places.

Apologies – Resident Representative Sally Vokes' apologies had not been submitted for the previous meeting.

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:

Endangered species – Councillor Marjorie James hoped there would be sensitivity shown during the development in encouraging endangered species, such as the red squirrel, to remain. Councillor Brash advised that the idea was to encourage people in not drive nature out and the protection of species would be key.

Family Wood – Following a query from Councillor Marjorie James the Parks Development Officer indicated that this would be extended not reduced. Councillor Brash added that while some trees would necessarily be removed these would be mature trees reaching the end of their life. On no account would any trees dedicated to those who had passed on be removed.

Economics – Councillor Geoff Lilley expressed his support for the proposals in principle. However he was concerned that financial constraints might lead to a less impressive result. He noted the plans to have two full-time employees and one part-time, questioning whether this would be enough. He also queried how the area would be managed, whether there would be formal planting and how the bowling green would be incorporated. Councillor Brash referred to the amount of funding already promised which he expected to increase. The idea was to encourage more families to use the Gardens which would then discourage anti-social behaviour. The Parks Development Officer indicated that the aim was not to degrade the gardens, rather to create a progression from the formal park in the lower end to a more countryside feel in the upper part. With regards to the employees the two full time employees would be involved in practical work but volunteers would also be sought to help out.

Sustainability – Councillor Alison Lilley urged officers to ensure that plans were put in place for the long-term sustainability of the site. She made reference to the part of the Gardens visible from the main road, saying they were not very impressive. The Neighbourhood Manager advised that this might depend on the type of flowers which had been planted. Councillor Brash acknowledged sustainability concerns

Gates – Councillor Steve Gibbon asked if gates into the Gardens would be locked at night. Councillor Brash and the Parks Development Officer indicated they were not keen on gating as they felt this would encourage inappropriate use. If the area was user friendly more people would use it in a good way. Plans to clear out areas of the Garden would aid in policing it. However Councillor Gibbon felt that gating would discourage undesirables from using the Gardens after dark.

Rats – The Vice-Chair queried how the rising rat population could be curbed as poison would be inappropriate. The Parks Development Officer reported that there had been no study into the rat population however if a more natural environment was encouraged this would lead to more predators which would be a more effective form of containment. However the Vice-Chair felt an increase in human usage might discourage predators.

Councillor Cath Hill commented that people were looking for problems when they should be looking at the positive aspects of the scheme. The Chair thanked Councillor Brash and the Parks Development Officer for attending and answering questions. She urged those with any suggestions to pass these on to the officers.

6. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Off Road bikes – Councillor Marjorie James highlighted the problem of vehicles being driven on open space in the Rossmere and Owton Manor areas during the school holidays, preventing young people playing football. The Police assured her anyone doing this would be challenged.

Skateboarding – Councillor Geoff Lilley reported a recent incident when a child using a skateboard ramp in the road had almost been hit by a car. The Police advised that they would patrol the area in question and give safety advice.

Fens Crescent – Councillor Alison Lilley requested a 10mph speed limit to stop cars using it as a cut through when Truro Drive is busy.

Cyclists – A resident highlighted recent incidents involving cyclists riding through red lights and coming off cycle tracks onto main roads without checking the traffic. These concerns would be passed on to the appropriate neighbourhood policing teams.

Pickering Grove – Councillor Christopher Akers-Belcher expressed concern at the lack of street lighting at the back onto the Green. The Neighbourhood Manager to investigate.

Kildale Grove – Councillor Cath Hill expressed concern at plans to landscape grassed areas as this land had purposely been left there for play usage by the original developers. The Neighbourhood Co-ordinator advised that this had come about following complaints from a resident about football being played against the side of his fence. Councillor Hill suggested that a second fence could be erected so balls would hit that rather than his fence. The Neighbourhood Manager commented that the issue was

noise as well as damage from this activity.

Swine flu – Councillor Gerald Wistow queried whether people diagnosed with swine flu were forbidden from collecting Tamiflu themselves and had to ask a friend to do so. Following discussion members clarified that a delivery system was available if those infected were unable to arrange collection but this had not been widely publicised. It was suggested that the Neighbourhood Manager contact local media outlets to ensure this information was disseminated as widely as possible. However others felt the onus should be on the PCT and NHS to do this. The Neighbourhood Manager agreed and said it seemed at times that conflicting information was being put out.

Saltire Terrace – Councillor Geoff Lilley highlighted recent problems with a drain which had not coped well with recent heavy rainfall. He was under the impression it was not connected to the main system. The Neighbourhood Manager was unaware of any problems but would investigate.

Strimming – Following a query from Councillor Alison Lilley the Neighbourhood Manager confirmed that this had begun but was unable to give any dates for individual wards, However work should be completed within three weeks. Councillor Lilley highlighted the need for weed killer at the phone boxes near the Fens Shops and round the school. This was noted.

Coronation Drive – The Vice-Chair reported a row of street lights which had not been working for a week. The Neighbourhood Manager to action. She also asked that the drains be checked on the landward side. The Neighbourhood Manager would do so however there had been flooding in many areas where the

drains were fully operational as a result of the extreme levels of rainfall.

The Green – The Vice-Chair indicated that the Council had put parking lines on the road at the end of the footpath and this was leading to cars blocking the path. A partially-sighted resident was regularly getting trapped by this. The Neighbourhood Co-ordinator to highlight these concerns to the Traffic Team Leader and progress the works necessary.

7. FOUNDATION STATUS CONSULTATION

The Chair advised that there were no representatives present from the North East Ambulance Trust. Concern was expressed by members that they had not been given an opportunity to express their views in this consultation, with the suggestion that any decisions made as a result of the consultation should be appealed by the Forum on that basis. Councillor Geoff Lilley asked if officers could forward his questions to the Ambulance Trust however the Neighbourhood Manager felt it would be preferable that their representative be invited to a future meeting. This would happen as soon as possible in order that the consultation deadline of 28th August were met. Councillor Gerald Wistow raised concerns at the possibility of a meeting solely related to this issue being held in August, peak holiday time. The Neighbourhood Manager suggested that a copy of the consultation booklet could be circulated to all those present today who were unable to attend any future meeting on this issue.

8. MINOR WORKS PROPOSALS

The Neighbourhood Manager advised the Forum that £87,000 was available for the Forum to spend on minor works in 2009/10. The Forum was then asked to

agree to recommend the following minor works schemes to the Portfolio Holder for approval:-

Fens

Innes Road – Verge re-instatement with bitmac – £2,230
Coningsby Close – removal and replanting of trees - £600

Owton

Duncan Road – Verge re-instatement with bitmac - £4,000
Lovat Grove – Verge re-instatement with bitmac - £3,830
Greenock Road – Verge re-instatement with bitmac - £2,400
Hamilton Road – Verge re-instatement with bitmac - £4,300

Rossmere

Pickering Grove – Verge re-instatement with bitmac - £6,400
Callender Road – Verge re-instatement with bitmac - £7,930

Seaton

Farndale Road – Verge re-instatement with bitmac - £8,400
Bransdale Grove – horticultural scheme - £900
Elizabeth Way Service Road – Bollard Scheme - £2,000

Various Wards

Dropped Crossing Allocation - £3,500
Pride in Hartlepool Contribution - £5,000

Decision

That the above minor works schemes be recommended for approval by the Portfolio Holder for Transport and Neighbourhoods.

9. GREATHAM SAFETY SCHEME

The Neighbourhood Manager advised that following requests for traffic calming measures a scheme had been designed to address the issues. Details of the proposals were outlined within the report. Should funding for the scheme be approved these proposals would be subject to full consultation with residents and ward councillors. The estimated cost was £30,000, with half coming from the Local Transport Plan (LTP) and half from the South Neighbourhood Consultative Forum. The LTP would provide £5,000 2009/10 and £10,000 2010/11 and it was therefore proposed that the Forum contribute £10,000 in 2009/10 and £5,000 in 2010/11.

Decision

That the above scheme be recommended for approval by the Portfolio Holder for Neighbourhoods and Transport subject to full consultation.

10. DATE, TIME AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting was scheduled for Friday 4th September at 2.00pm at Owton Manor Community Centre, Wynyard Road.

Members were also advised that a meeting of the South Area Police and Community Safety Consultative Forum would take place on Friday 7th August at 2.00pm at Owton Rossmere Resource Centre, Wynyard Road

The meeting concluded at 7.05pm

WARDS

Fens
Greatham
Owton
Rossmere
Seaton

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

7th August 2009

MINUTES OF THE MEETING



The meeting commenced at 2.00 pm in the Owton Rossmere Resource Centre, Hartlepool

PRESENT:

Chair:	Councillor Ann Marshall	- Rossmere Ward
Vice-Chair	Iris Ryder (Resident Representative)	
	Councillor Christopher Akers-Belcher	
		- Rossmere Ward
	Councillor Steve Gibbon	- Fens Ward
	Councillor Marjorie James	- Owton Ward
	Councillor Alison Lilley	- Fens Ward
	Councillor Geoff Lilley	- Greatham Ward
	Councillor David Young	- Seaton Ward

Resident Representative: Mike Ward

Residents: Donna Hotham, Sybil Hotham, H Oxley and J Smith

Council Officers:

David Frame, Neighbourhood Manager (South)
Sally Forth, Anti-Social Behaviour Co-ordinator
Sue Grey, Anti Social Behaviour Officer
Sue McBride, Neighbourhood Development Officer (South)
Julie Hetherington, Community Safety Assistant
Jo Wilson, Democratic Services Officer

Police Representatives: Acting Chief Inspector Mick Brown, PCSO Marston

Fire Brigade Representatives: Peter Bradley and Tony Goodings

Housing Hartlepool Representative: Andy Elvidge

North East Ambulance Service Representatives: Colin Cessford and Sahdia Hassen

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors Bob Flintoff, Cath Hill, Arthur Preece and Mike Turner.

2. TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 13th MARCH 2009

The minutes were agreed as a true record.

3. MATTERS ARISING

The Chair requested an update on the possible closure of Jutland Road Police Station. Acting Chief Inspector Brown confirmed that the police station would not be closing, with plans afoot to expand into the building next door currently occupied by the Anti-Social Behaviour Unit. The Chair indicated she was pleased to hear the station would not be closing.

4. UPDATE FROM THE POLICE

Acting Chief Inspector Mick Brown 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 he 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 South area over the last 3 months. Details were also given of operations which had been carried out in the Central area including Operations Tornado and Sunshine, the relaunching of ward surgeries and the increase in cycle patrols. Feedback was also given on issues raised at previous Forum meetings. The Acting Chief

Inspector urged those present to contact him with any issues via his email address (Michael.brown@cleveland.pnn.police.uk) He also highlighted the police website where details of crimes in specific areas were available.

The following issues were then raised:

Sharwood site – Councillor Geoff Lilley paid tribute to the work carried out by all the agencies on this site however he was concerned that the school holidays would lead to more anti-social behaviour. Acting Chief Inspector Brown advised that he was in charge of the response team and would ensure such issues were being dealt with. He referred to other anti-social hot spots currently being targeted by police including Seaton Coach Park and Greatham.

Visual audits – Councillor Marjorie James requested a change in the times for visual audits as current times did not allow those with jobs to attend. Acting Chief Inspector Brown indicated that anyone unable to attend a visual audit could walk the route with an officer who would then feedback their comments. However Councillor James felt this was entirely different from a visual audit and she was being denied the opportunity to properly represent her constituents. The Community Safety Assistant indicated that visual audits were always held on an afternoon and she would be happy to liaise with Councillor James to find a time more suitable for her when preparing next year's work schedule.

Ward surgeries – Councillors raised concerns that the police ward surgeries could be confused with Councillor Ward surgeries. Acting Chief Inspector Brown suggested that the police could change the name if this was a problem however Councillor Alison Lilley advised that she would prefer it to retain the name ward

surgery as the Fens Ward Councillors regularly shared their surgeries with the police and vice versa. Nevertheless Councillor Marjorie James felt that ward surgery implied an electoral relationship and the police should consider changing it as the name was unimportant. She was in full support of the concept.

Police response – The Vice-Chair queried what action one officer could take when called to attend a multi-person fight. Acting Chief Inspector Brown indicated that lone officers could usually ascertain if they needed back-up and in any case more officers would generally be on their own. There was also increased use of head cams and access to the police helicopter.

The Chair thanked the Acting Chief Inspector 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 South Forum. There had been 66 fires, a favourable comparison with the other areas of the town. A large number 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. Police patrols would be increasing at Owton Manor M Block, Seaton Carew and Parkview Industrial Estate, all noted hot spots.

Seaton Meadows – The Vice-Chair advised that she had been contacted regarding a pall of black smoke over the site the previous evening. As the site was not supposed to be operational at night she questioned what had been happening. The Fire Brigade representative reported no calls of this nature the previous evening. In terms of

the nature of what was being tipped this was a matter for the Environment Agency. The Neighbourhood Manager would pass this information onto Public Protection. Acting Chief Inspector Brown also to note.

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

6. 'WHATEVER IT TAKES' INITIATIVE

Cleveland Fire and Rescue Representative Tony Goodings advised those present of the forthcoming 'Whatever it takes' initiative, set to target Owton Ward. Four years previously a similar initiative had been undertaken in Merseyside. Over six weeks police had worked in partnership with agencies including the Anti-Social behaviour unit and Environment Agency on a housing estate with known anti-social problems. Cleveland Police had noted the success of this initiative and were keen to improve upon it. A pilot had taken place in Middlesbrough previously but owing to the size of the area it had taken over two years for the objectives to be achieved. By targeting Owton Ward only it was hoped this would be avoided.

Among the work to be undertaken by the fire brigade would be home safety and deep fat fryer initiatives and use of advocates for the elderly, young and disabled. There would also be an arson task force focusing on the area and youth engagement would be given priority. Officer details would be passed on to Forum members.

The Chair thanked the Fire and Rescue representative for attending the meeting.

7. 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 an officer from the Youth Offending Team in every school in Hartlepool for part of the week. This person would serve as a link to the Anti-Social Behaviour Unit. Details were also given of take-up of the Good Tenant Scheme and future challenges facing the Unit.

The following issues were then raised:

Tenancy – Councillor Geoff Lilley made reference to tenants in Greatham village who were causing problems with alcohol and loud music, querying what could be done about this. The Anti-Social Behaviour Co-ordinator advised that the first step would be to contact the landlord on this matter. Councillor Lilley felt the landlord had no interest beyond securing tenants for his property.

Hartlepool Mail – Resident Donna Hotham urged reporters to publicise the positive things about the area instead of constantly focusing on the negatives. The Neighbourhood Manager advised that this was a problem they were trying to address however crime and anti-social behaviour tended to be more newsworthy. Also if the public were not

prepared to talk to the press then good news stories would never be widely circulated.

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

8. CRIME AND DISORDER CO-ORDINATION UPDATE

There were no items raised.

9. FOUNDATION CONSULTATION STATUS

Colin Cessford, Director of Strategy and Clinical Standards at 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.

The following comments and suggestions were then raised by members, all would be fed back into the consultation by Mr Cessford:

Membership age limit – Councillor Marjorie James felt the proposed lower age limit of 12 was too young as being in a meeting with older people would intimidate a child of that age. She suggested that an under 18s group be set up which would have a couple of members on the main Board. Members of the Forum supported this suggestion saying that although they commended the

efforts at inclusion a separate young persons group would be more productive.

Unsuitable Members – Councillor Marjorie James sought assurances that people who had previously raised legitimate reasonable grievances would not be blacklisted.

Trust membership – Councillor Christopher Akers-Belcher queried how the number of 4,200 trust members had been arrived at. He was advised that the regulatory body had proposed this number.

Loss of services – Councillor Marjorie James sought assurances that the ambulance service based in Hartlepool would remain. Mr Cessford indicated that there were no plans to cut any services in the North-East. Staff numbers had been steadily increasing for the last seven years. Councillor Christopher Akers-Belcher highlighted concerns regarding the quality of the service versus financial considerations. Mr Cessford acknowledged these concerns, advising that the Board were working hard to ensure there were no gaps by learning from previous mistakes by other Trusts in the UK.

Wages – Resident Representative Mike Ward queried whether staff at a senior level wanted these changes as a way of earning more money for themselves. Meanwhile money would be taken away from the grass roots workers such as drivers and paramedics. Mr Cessford denied this was the case, saying there would be increased investment in front line staff.

Monitoring – The Vice-Chair queried who would keep a check on the monitoring process.

Board meetings – Councillor Marjorie James recommended these be rotated

around the region rather than be held in Newcastle. Not everyone in Hartlepool had access to a car and public transport would not be accessible for late meetings.

Staff and trade unions – Councillor Marjorie James asked whether the Trade Unions had been fully consulted. Mr Cessford advised that they had. Councillor Christopher Akers-Belcher commented that by automatically including all staff, unless they chose to opt out, the balance would be unfairly weighted in favour of the staff. Mr Cessford advised that staff would have representatives on the Board and this would be fairly balanced. Members proposed that separate presentations be given at Board meetings for staff recommendations and public recommendations. It was also suggested that as the proposed ratio would be 3/1 in favour of the public that the number of staff members increase in line with the public.

Area – The Vice-Chair highlighted the vastness of the area to be covered, commenting that she would have expected to see it split into North and South.

Scrutiny conflict of interest – Councillor Marjorie James, in her role as Chair of Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee, disputed this claim saying that scrutinising health was only one part of scrutiny in Hartlepool. She felt that by disallowing these members the rights of members of public were being denied, some of whom has experience in this field. However Mr Cessford still had concerns that they could be later asked to investigate decisions which they had previously been involved. Resident Representative Mike Ward felt that in those cases members should take no part in the decision.

District nursing – A Resident brought up a recent situation when she had requested a district nurse come out at night to her husband only to be told that nightly visits had been stopped. She asked if this was common knowledge and what actions had been taken to remedy the situation. Mr Cessford advised that this resource should still be available, even if it was not their regular nurse in attendance.

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

10. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Owton housing – A Resident referred to rumours regarding plans to rehouse ‘undesirables’ on Maxwell Road corner, despite being told these properties were to be demolished. Andy Elvidge from Housing Hartlepool to investigate.

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

Lighting on Seaton Carew seafront – The Vice-Chair advised that the lights along the seafront (by the Chicane) were still not working despite having raised it at previous meetings. The Neighbourhood Manager to chase that up.

Brierton Lane – The Chair reported the smashing of coping stones at the top of Brierton Lane. The Neighbourhood Manager to liaise with Neighbourhood Police.

Youth Centre on Rossmere Way – Councillor Marjorie James referred to the recent success of their bid to provide new services for young people. As Rossmere Primary School had been scheduled for refurbishment in the first tranche of the Primary Capital Programme she urged the two to come together prior to any

construction to ensure that the plans would complement each other. This would also mean funding could be utilised to produce the best possible outcome for young people in the area. The Neighbourhood Manager confirmed this partnership was already underway. Councillor James further asked that Owton Ward Councillors be invited to meetings to discuss changes to the Youth Centre. The Neighbourhood Manager suggested all South area Councillors be invited. Details were given of the next meeting which all were welcome to attend.

The meeting concluded at 4:05 pm

CHAIR