

# **NORTH NEIGHBOURHOOD CONSULTATIVE FORUM AGENDA**



**Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> February 2010**

**at 10.00 am**

**at Throston Grange Community Centre,  
Glamorgan Grove, Hartlepool**

## **NORTH NEIGHBOURHOOD CONSULTATIVE FORUM:**

Councillors Allison, Atkinson, Barker, R W Cook, Fenwick, Fleet, Fleming, Griffin, Jackson, McKenna, J Marshall, Plant, Rogan, Wallace and Wright.

Resident Representatives: Christine Blakey, John Cambridge, John Lynch, Mary Power, Linda Shields, Bob Steel, Joan Steel and Maureen Waller

- 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 North Neighbourhood Consultative Forum held on 16<sup>th</sup> December 2009
  - 4.2 Matters arising
  - 4.3 To receive the minutes of the North Area Police and Community Safety Consultative Forum held on 27<sup>th</sup> January 2010 (*to follow*)
- 5. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

**6. WARD ISSUES (from Members and Resident Representatives)**

**7. ITEMS FOR CONSULTATION**

**8. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION/INFORMATION**

- 8.1 Planning Aid – *Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods*
- 8.2 National Policy Statement on Nuclear Power Generation and Identification of Site for New Power Station at Hartlepool – *Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods*
- 8.3 Hartlepool Core Strategy – Public Consultation on the Preferred Options Report – *Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods*
- 8.4 E-Participation - Presentation – *Neighbourhood Manager (North)*

**9. ITEMS FOR DECISION**

**10. ITEMS OF ANY OTHER BUSINESS AGREED BY THE CHAIR**

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

The next meeting of the North Neighbourhood Consultative Forum will take place at 2.00pm on Wednesday, 7<sup>th</sup> April 2010 at Throston Grange Community Centre, Glamorgan Grove, Hartlepool

The next meeting of the North Area Police and Community Safety Consultative Forum will take place at 10.00am on Wednesday, 21<sup>st</sup> April 2010 at Throston Grange Community Centre, Glamorgan Grove, Hartlepool.

**WARDS**

Brus  
Dyke House  
Hart  
St Hilda  
Throston

# ***NORTH NEIGHBOURHOOD CONSULTATIVE FORUM***

**16 December 2009**

## ***MINUTES OF THE MEETING***



The meeting commenced at 10.00 a.m. at West View Community Centre,  
Miers Avenue, Hartlepool

<b>PRESENT:</b>
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Chair: Councillor Mary Fleet - Dyke House Ward  
Vice Chair: Linda Shields (Resident Representative)

Councillor Steve Allison - St Hilda Ward  
Councillor Reuben Atkinson - Dyke House Ward  
Councillor Caroline Barker Hart Ward  
Councillor Edna Wright - Hart Ward

Resident Representatives: Christine Blakey, John Lynch and Mary Power.

Public: Dorothy Darke, John Maxwell, Cath Torley, Liz Torley and Alan Vale.

Officers: Denise Ogden, Head of Neighbourhood Management  
Karen Oliver, Neighbourhood Manager  
Peter McIntosh, Schools Transformation Project Manager  
Derek Reynolds, Project Technical Manager, Schools Transformation Team  
Simon Cuthbert, Operations Co-ordinator Client Services  
Peter Nixon, Senior Traffic Technician  
John Smalley, Principal Environmental Health Officer  
Garry Jones, Neighbourhood Services Officer  
Ann Callaghan, Neighbourhood Development Officer (North)  
Jo Wilson, Democratic Services Officer

Housing Hartlepool Representative: Lynn McPartlin

<b>28. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</b>
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Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Rob Cook, Sheila Griffin and Michelle Plant and Resident Representatives Bob and Joan Steel

<b>29. DECLARATION OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS</b>
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None.

### 30. MINUTES OF THE NORTH NEIGHBOURHOOD CONSULTATIVE FORUM MEETING HELD ON 14 OCTOBER 2009

These were accepted as an accurate account.

### 31. MATTERS ARISING

None

### 32. MINUTES OF THE NORTH AREA POLICE AND COMMUNITY SAFETY CONSULTATIVE FORUM MEETING HELD ON 11 NOVEMBER 2009

These were received as an accurate account, subject to the addition of Councillor Stephen Allison as being present.

### 33. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

**St Hild's media centre** – A resident raised concerns at early morning construction work on the site of the media centre on King Oswy Drive. Digging machines and cranes were regularly being used from 6.30am onwards but residents had been unable to ascertain what time the contractors were legally allowed to commence work despite requests to the Principal Environmental Health Officer for this information. The Neighbourhood Manager advised that this construction work was the responsibility of the school and these concerns would be relayed to them. A Resident Representative suggested that a representative from the Headland Development Trust be invited to a future meeting of the forum as these concerns had been raised at other meetings.

**Public Toilets in Middlegate** – The Chair advised that the following question

had been submitted by a resident in advance of the meeting:

“Regarding the overall impression of the gents’ toilet facilities at Middlegate. Why has there never been any liquid soap dispensers provided from day one? The hot and cold taps run approximately for 3 seconds, retouching them can spread germs without soap? Why was the combined hot water hand wash and hot air drying facilities not installed instead of sinks and separate hand dryers? The chrome plating on the hand dryers has started to bubble away from the surface. There is graffiti on the wall of the gents’ toilet cubicles, what an impression to visitors. The overall facilities need to be upgraded.”

The Neighbourhood Manager had asked the Client Services Manager to respond

**Internet usage in public libraries** - The Chair advised that the following question had been submitted by a resident in advance of the meeting:

“Why is Facebook blocked by Surf Control via the public libraries, when adults wish to access their social networking site? Protection for certain groups is acceptable but this censorship is not. Also Google Earth and the associated street view has also been locked, denying the public a vital learning tool.”

The Neighbourhood Manager had asked the Borough Librarian to respond.

### 34. WARD ISSUES

**Steetley** – A Resident Representative informed members of a recent accident on the site which had resulted in a man in his twenties losing his leg. She queried who was responsible for on-site safety. The Neighbourhood Manager advised that who was responsible would depend

on where the accident had occurred and suggested that the man and his family seek legal advice about the accident. However the footpath had been closed for some time and anyone entering did so at their own risk. The Resident Representative suggested that the area be cordoned off while another Resident Representative felt the accident should be used as part of a publicity campaign, indicating why such sites were blocked off otherwise people would continue to take such risks.

**West View Road** – A councillor advised that traffic was regularly reaching speeds of 60 miles per hour on single lane stretches. The Senior Traffic Technician to investigate. A resident indicated that a request had previously been made that an electronic speed sign be installed. The Officer reported that there had been insufficient funding in the previous financial year but West View Road would be added to the 2010/11 list. The resident asked that Cleveland Road also be included. Members were advised that any council speed signage was just advisory and fines could only be issued where there were cameras.

**Recycling** – A Councillor referred to problems with recycling contractors leaving his white poly bag some yards away from his home. The Chair requested officers investigate.

**Bellway** – A Resident Representative referred to the ongoing controversy over a planning application by Bellway homes to build further properties on the Bishop Cuthbert Estate, including an element of social housing. The Chair indicated that as this was an ongoing planning matter it should not be discussed in any detail at this meeting. A Councillor called for residents to be treated with more respect, saying they have been deceived by Bellway homes who had advertised Bishop Cuthbert as an executive housing

estate and had concealed their intentions up to four months ago. Another councillor indicated she was unable to give her opinions on the matter as a member of the planning committee. She called for the rules which barred members of planning committee from speaking on planning issues which affected their ward to be reconsidered given that councillors were elected to represent their constituents.

**Resident Representatives** – A Resident Representative commented that resident representatives were not recognised as they should be or given the same status as councillors during the decision-making process. This viewpoint was echoed by another resident representative who felt a review was required, saying that their responsibilities had been diluted over time. However another resident representative commented that these things could not be forced and there needed to be patience and a knowledge of who to speak to on the issues and when to do so. The Neighbourhood Manager referred to resident representatives as a complement to, not equal of, ward members. As to accusations of dilution she countered this, saying in recent years resident representatives had been given an active role in the scrutiny forums. Resident Representative were urged not to feel sidelined or underappreciated because of a few issues.

### 35. DRAFT PUBLIC CONVENIENCE STRATEGY

The Assistant Director (Neighbourhood Services) gave a brief presentation on the proposed and newly developed policy for the future provision of public conveniences in Hartlepool. Current Service provision of public toilets was outlined and details of the refurbishment of facilities across the town given. In an effort to deter vandalism on, CCTV would

be installed in existing sites when funding opportunities became available. It was unlikely that there would be funding for additional toilet facilities and it was therefore proposed to encourage businesses to open their amenities to the general public in return for a monetary incentive. Existing public conveniences in council buildings would be promoted. Another way of increasing public conveniences in the town would be via a clause when new developments were given planning permission.

Details of the toilet provision for the Tall Ships 2010 event were also outlined involving the use of hundreds of portaloos. A Councillor felt further thought should be given to installation of permanent public toilets staffed by attendants which patrons would pay to use. This was something which could be used long after the Tall Ships event, particularly for tourists using the Marina as the current museum provision was not ideal. The Assistant Director acknowledged these concerns but advised that attendants had been dispensed with previously because of concerns about their safety. There had also been constant vandalism at these sites and HBC were unwilling to keep paying for repairs. Portaloos were not an ideal solution but every effort would be made to keep them clean through dedicated staff

A Councillor praised HBC's efforts to make improvements but did not believe privately owned shops would wish to participate given concerns over anti-social behaviour and general cleanliness. They were not legally obliged to provide toilet facilities to anyone not purchasing items. However a Resident Representative commented that businesses along Navigation Point were already taking part in a voluntary version of this scheme because of the lack of current provision. Hartlepool Marina Ltd

owned a number of blocks which were currently available to berth holders but they were not keen to open these up to the general public because of logistical issues.

A Resident Representative raised concerns at the lack of disabled toilets saying that there were sites and funding available but commitment was lacking. The Assistant Director was unable to comment on whether there was sufficient funding available but even if there was it was not up to officers to allocate this.

A Resident referred to recent issues at the Headland Library whereby several youths had been refused entry. Similar situations could put council staff in jeopardy. Concerns were also raised at the idea of children and young people using toilets in public houses.

A lack of provision on Spion Kop was highlighted.

The Chair thanked the Assistant Director for attending the meeting and answering questions.

### **36. DRAFT EMPTY HOMES STRATEGY**

The Principal Environmental Health Officer (EHO) gave a brief introduction to the draft Empty Homes Strategy. This had been formulated following concerns from the community and Members on the numbers of empty private houses and associated issues. The Strategy aimed to bring empty private houses back into use, maximise the use of existing housing and contribute towards neighbourhood sustainability and community well being. There would be a focus on prioritising houses, streets and areas for action using an assessment form and to introduce new options for the Council. Appendices to the report provided details of what action could be taken as well as areas which had already been identified, including

Belle Vue and West View Road. The consultation period would run up to 1<sup>st</sup> February 2010. An assessment form was available for completion, these could be sent to the Principal Environmental Health Officer or the Housing Strategy Officer (Karen Kelly) via email along with any comments. Full contact details were provided within the report.

A Resident Representative queried who would pay to bring empty houses up to an acceptable standard. The Principal Environmental Health Officer advised that using an Empty Dwelling Management Order improvement works could be undertaken and a claim made for the rent the owner would have received from tenants. The only drawback to this was that an Order could last seven years so any funding would need to be recouped within seven years.

A Resident Representative highlighted the reference within the report to the average costs of serving an Empty Dwelling Management Order as being estimated between £1,500 and £25,000. The Principal Environmental Health Officer commented that these figures were based on a survey of local authorities, some of which were located in the South.

A Councillor queried the inclusion of the Marina as a priority area. The Principal Environmental Health Officer reported that council tax statistics indicated a number of empty properties on the Marina. Whether this should be a priority area was another matter. A Resident Representative referred to the number of empty flats on Navigation Point, saying potential tenants were unwilling to pay current rents given the state of repair of the area.

A Councillor asked whether the strategy only applied to private housing as there were also a number of unoccupied social

houses within Hartlepool. The Principal Environmental Health Officer advised that the strategy was specifically aimed at private housing as HBC did not want to become the owner of these properties by default. A new owner needed to be in place before a compulsory purchase order was served.

A resident asked whether tenants of private properties were subject to the same rules as those covering Housing Hartlepool tenants. The Principal Environmental Health Officer indicated that the strategy would be used with other powers should as anti-social behaviour orders in order to combat such problems.

The Chair thanked the Principal Environmental Health Officer for attending the meeting and answering questions.

### **37. BUILDING SCHOOLS FOR THE FUTURE UPDATE**

The Project Technical Manager for the Schools Transformation Team gave a brief update on the proposed outline planning applications for alterations to Manor College of Technology and Catcote School. Although no detailed proposals had yet been drawn up there were certain design and planning constraints which would have to be taken into account. Sport England had also imposed significant constraints on the Manor College plans. Pre-application consultations had been held on the school sites in November 2009. The public consultation would run to the end of January 2010 with a detailed planning application scheduled for October 2010.

The Chair thanked the Project Technical Manager for attending the meeting.

**38. SCHOOLS TRANSFORMATION  
STAKEHOLDER BOARD –  
ELECTION OF COUNCILLOR  
REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE  
FORUM**

The Schools Transformation Project Manager advised the Forum that a replacement Councillor representative was needed to serve as a member of the Schools Transformation Stakeholder Board owing to the resignation of the previous representative. The Vice-Chair suggested that all councillor members of the Forum be written to by the Chair and asked if they would be interested in assuming the post. An election could then be held should this be necessary. Members deemed this an appropriate course of action.

The Chair thanked the Schools Transformation Project Manager for attending the meeting.

The meeting concluded at 11.45am

CHAIR



**North Neighbourhood Consultative Forum****16 December 2009****Issues Raised/Action Sheet**

ISSUE DETAILS	ACTION TAKEN	OFFICER
<p><b><u>Public Question Time</u></b></p> <p><b><u>St Hild's Media Centre</u></b> – A resident raised concerns at early morning construction work on the site of the media centre on King Oswy Drive. Digging machines and cranes were regularly being used from 6.30am onwards but residents had been unable to ascertain what time the contractors were legally allowed to commence work despite requests to the Principal Environmental Health Officer for this information. The Neighbourhood Manager advised that this construction work was the responsibility of the school and these concerns would be relayed to them. A Resident Representative suggested that a representative from the Headland Development Trust be invited to a future meeting of the forum as these concerns had been raised at other meetings.</p>	<p>Mike Young from the Headland Development Trust is unable to attend the next North Consultative Forum meeting, but has taken on board the comments raised at the last consultative meeting and will meet with the Neighbourhood Manager to discuss attending a future meeting.</p>	<p>K Oliver</p>

ISSUE DETAILS	ACTION TAKEN	OFFICER
<p><b><u>Public Toilets in Middlegate</u></b> – The Chair advised that the following question had been submitted by a resident in advance of the meeting:</p> <p>“Regarding the overall impression of the gents’ toilet facilities at Middlegate. Why has there never been any liquid soap dispensers provided from day one? The hot and cold taps run approximately for 3 seconds, retouching them can spread germs without soap? Why was the combined hot water hand wash and hot air drying facilities not installed instead of sinks and separate hand dryers? The chrome plating on the hand dryers has started to bubble away from the surface. There is graffiti on the wall of the gents’ toilet cubicles, what an impression to visitors. The overall facilities need to be upgraded.”</p> <p>The Neighbourhood Manager had asked the Client Services Manager to respond.</p>	<p>Liquid soap dispensers have been fitted and the taps are in the process of being checked to see if they can run longer than 3 seconds. Graffiti has been removed.</p>	<p>John Brownhill/ Simon Cuthbert</p>
<p><b><u>Internet Usage in Public Libraries</u></b> - The Chair advised that the following question had been submitted by a resident in advance of the meeting:</p> <p>“Why is Facebook blocked by Surf Control via the public libraries, when adults wish to access their social networking site? Protection for certain groups is acceptable but this censorship is not. Also Google Earth and the associated street view has also been locked, denying the public a vital learning tool.”</p>	<p>There are twenty PC’s available for adult use upstairs in Central Library. Of these you can access social networking sites including facebook on six of the pc’s. On the remaining fourteen this access is blocked. The reason for this is that when in the past all PC’s were open for social networking, demand for this was overwhelming and it was difficult for people to access other sites e.g. study, information searches, research etc. Whilst enabling people to access social networking sites we have to protect access to core library services such as study and research. This is not censorship,</p>	<p>Graham Jarritt</p>

ISSUE DETAILS	ACTION TAKEN	OFFICER
<p>The Neighbourhood Manager had asked the Borough Librarian to respond.</p>	<p>we are not preventing access we are managing scarce resources for the benefit of all. If the public are not certain which PC's have access to social networking then please ask a member of staff.</p> <p>A similar system operates in branches, where one PC can access social networking sites.</p> <p>With regard to Google Earth. This has not been blocked. It cannot be accessed because in the first instance software has to be downloaded onto the PC from Google. Within the Council network, only people with administrator rights are allowed to download software. These are people employed by the council's ICT partner, Northgate, no library staff or member of the public has this access. This is for obvious reasons to avoid viruses being downloaded onto the network, but unfortunately it does mean that certain very useful free downloads are not so easily available on a computer operating from the Council's network as would be the case on a private connection.</p>	

ISSUE DETAILS	ACTION TAKEN	OFFICER
<p><b><u>Ward Issues</u></b></p> <p><b><u>West View Road</u></b> – A councillor advised that traffic was regularly reaching speeds of 60 miles per hour on single lane stretches. The Senior Traffic Technician to investigate. A resident indicated that a request had previously been made that an electronic speed sign be installed. The Officer reported that there had been insufficient funding in the previous financial year but West View Road would be added to the 2010/11 list. The resident asked that Cleveland Road also be included. Members were advised that any council speed signage was just advisory and fines could only be issued where there were cameras.</p> <p><b><u>Recycling</u></b> – A Councillor referred to problems with recycling contractors leaving his white poly bag some yards away from his home. The Chair requested officers investigate.</p>	<p>The speeding problem on West View Road and Cleveland Road has been reported to the Safety Camera partnership.</p> <p>There is no specific budget available for electronic signage, the majority of these signs were funded as part of a one off road safety grant. Funding for such signs would now have to come from the Local Transport Plan, LTP schemes are prioritised depending upon the level of accidents. These streets will be added to the accident investigation list.</p> <p>Collection operatives reminded that all containers should be left at kerbside or collection point nearest to properties after servicing. Supervisor to monitor area over next few weeks.</p>	<p>Peter Nixon</p> <p>Colin Ogden</p>

## WARDS

Brus  
Dyke House  
Hart  
St Hilda  
Throston

# ***NORTH POLICE & COMMUNITY SAFETY CONSULTATIVE FORUM***

**27<sup>TH</sup> January 2010**

## ***MINUTES OF THE MEETING***



The meeting commenced at 10.00 am at  
West View Community Centre, Miers Avenue, Hartlepool

### **PRESENT:**

Chair: Councillor Mary Fleet – Dyke House Ward

Vice Chair: Resident Representative Linda Shields

Councillor Stephen Allison	- St Hilda Ward
Councillor Reuben Atkinson	- Dyke House Ward
Councillor Caroline Barker	- Hart Ward
Councillor Tim Fleming	- St Hilda Ward
Councillor Sheila Griffin	- Brus Ward
Councillor Edna Wright	- Hart Ward

Resident Representatives:

Christine Blakey, John Cambridge, John Lynch and Mary Power.

Residents: Dorothy Darke, Cath and Liz Torley, Alan Vale and Dennis Wilson

Officers:

- Karen Oliver, Neighbourhood Manager
- Gemma Mulpetre, CJIT Operations Manager
- Nicholas Stone, Senior Anti-Social Behaviour Officer
- Katie Sheehan, Anti-Social Behaviour Officer
- Jo Wilson, Democratic Services Officer

Cleveland Police: Inspector Mick Brown and Acting Inspector Peter Howarth

Cleveland Fire Brigade: Peter Bradley

Housing Hartlepool: N Gooding

Safe in Tees Valley: Christine Davidson, Paul McGowan and Genevieve Crawford

## **19. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Rob Cook, Peter Jackson and Michelle Plant and Resident Representatives Bob and Joan Steel.

## **20. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 11 NOVEMBER 2009**

The minutes were confirmed as a true record.

## **21. MATTERS ARISING**

One item to be raised during the update from the police.

## **22. UPDATE FROM THE FIRE BRIGADE**

The Fire Brigade representative, Peter Bradley, gave details of the number of incidents in the North Area of the town between November 2009 and January 2010. There had been a slight increase in accidental F1 fires but this was not felt to be of major concern. Deliberate F1 fires, deliberate vehicle fires, all F3 fires and road traffic collisions had decreased. It was acknowledged however that the inclement weather may have contributed to these figures. The work of the arson task force was highlighted as were some of the diversionary activities carried out by the fire service for young people on Friday and Saturday nights.

A Resident Representative highlighted a recent spate of fires at prime sites including Tunstall Court. Mr Bradley advised that the fire brigade did try to secure derelict properties against such activity but if people wanted to gain access they would do so. Prosecution was a matter for the police. A Councillor praised the fire service for their work in encouraging young people to become involved.

The Chair thanked the Fire Brigade representative for attending the meeting.

## **23. ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR UNIT UPDATE**

The Senior Anti-Social Behaviour Officer gave details of recent activity in the unit, including information on which categories complaints had fallen into, whether cases had been closed satisfactorily and what action had been taken to close the case. This information was provided for the Anti-Social Behaviour Unit and Housing Hartlepool, as was information on customer satisfaction rates.

Members were advised that a number of categories relating to anti-social behaviour and good citizenship had been introduced to the annual Pride in Hartlepool awards. Details were given of the recipients. Information on various awards to staff from the Anti-Social Behaviour Unit and Housing Hartlepool was outlined and members were advised that an Anti-Social Behaviour awareness day would be taking place in 2 weeks time at the Borough Hall. Residents were asked to inform the Senior Anti-Social Behaviour Officer if they wished to attend. The Senior Anti-Social Behaviour Officer indicated that the Anti-Social Behaviour Unit website had recently been updated with details of anti-social behaviour by ward and category.

Details were also given of take-up of the Good Tenant Scheme. In response to queries the Senior Anti-Social Behaviour Officer was unable to advise on future funding streams when the current HBC funding ceased. A Councillor asked what happened to those tenants who were rejected from the scheme. The Senior Anti-Social Behaviour Officer indicated that the reasons for their rejection would be explained to them and they would be referred to the Vulnerable Persons Panel.

where they would be given advice and help as necessary. They could reapply to the Good Tenant Scheme after six months. Most people applying for housing were aware of the scheme and landlords were increasingly using it as a guide, something which was apparent from the number of telephone calls from unsuccessful applicants. A Resident Representative praised the Unit for their work in this field. She suggested a publicity drive be undertaken, particularly in view of the recent controversy surrounding the Bellway application for housing in Middle Warren. The Senior Anti-Social Behaviour Officer confirmed that this would take place after the forthcoming review of the scheme had been considered by Cabinet. It was acknowledged that it was not only people in social housing that were responsible for anti-social behaviour.

A resident queried what was being done to tackle anti-social landlords. The Senior Anti-Social Behaviour Officer indicated that a list of those landlords causing problems of this nature was given to the private sector housing team running the landlord licensing scheme and this was taken into account should they apply. If anti-social behaviour was occurring from a private tenancy for a significant period of time and the landlord was refusing to take any action regarding their tenant's behaviour the private sector housing team could where appropriate apply for a special interim management order to run the property for up to 5 years in extreme situations.

The Chair thanked the Senior Anti-Social Behaviour Officer for attending the meeting and answering questions.

## **24. UPDATE FROM THE POLICE**

Inspector Mick Brown provided an overview of crime in the Cleveland Force and also the North area of Hartlepool. Force-wide figures were down for House

Burglaries, Violent Crime, Criminal Damage, Vehicle Crime and other theft while Drugs activity had risen. This positive trend had continued in Hartlepool, with the exception of violent crime which had risen by 8.6%. The numbers of arrests, cautions, charges, warrants, AS13s and Street encounters in the North area of the town were also given.

Inspector Brown also highlighted a number of items of interest including activity to combat anti-social behaviour and drug activity in the Dyke House area. Members were also advised that following comments about cars being left for sale at the roadside at the previous forum regular patrols had been implemented but no cars had been found so far.

A Resident Representative applauded the police and their partners for encouraging people to follow the right channels and not take the law into their own hands

A Resident Representative queried why CCTV had recently been installed outside a single property when she had requested CCTV outside a row of bungalows 2 years ago. The Inspector commented that note was always taken of any requests for CCTV. However apart from overt cameras there were also secret cameras installed in street lights which could be utilised. All was done that could be to manage the situation.

A Resident Representative referred to a situation whereby officers were continually raiding a property with a warrant for a person that was not there. The Inspector advised that every set of circumstances was different however it demonstrated how relentless officers were in their pursuit of suspects. Nevertheless they did not want innocent members of the public to suffer unnecessarily. He would deal with this particular problem personally.

A Resident highlighted constant anti-social behaviour in the area around Tempest Road, Joyce Road and King Oswy Drive during the recent heavy snowfalls. The Inspector acknowledged that this had been more than high-jinks but the extreme weather had been impossible to predict. Officers tried to respond to all calls but had limited resources. A dispersal order could be considered for the area meaning officers would have the power to move on any troublemakers. The Resident commented that the problems would only increase when the new media centre and playground were completed. The Inspector advised that PCSOs would conduct a survey among residents into problems they were experiencing, possibly utilising covert cameras.

A Resident Representative requested information on the recent spate of fires at prime building sites such as Tunstall Court and the college. The Inspector indicated that attempts were being made to force owners to take responsibility for securing these properties before any trouble could occur. The Tunstall Court had been asked to do this but had failed to. Police worked closely with the fire brigade to combat these problems and would soon be looking at the top 5 problem streets in each area in liaison with Neighbourhood Managers. However despite appearances there had not been a significant increase in arsons.

A Councillor queried what action had been taken against motorists parking outside schools on King Oswy Drive, an issue raised at the previous meeting. The Neighbourhood Manager reported that this issue had also been raised at the main forum and traffic calming measures would be included as part of a minor works project. If there were any further issues residents were asked to inform the neighbourhood manager.

A Councillor highlighted problems with lorries leaving building sites on King Oswy Drive spreading mud on the road. The Neighbourhood Manager would raise this with the company concerned.

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

## **25. REDUCING REOFFENDING TEAM**

The CJIT Operations Manager gave details of the work carried out by the Reducing Reoffending Team. Based on a scheme originally set up in Holland to target burglars the Dordrecht Scheme was aimed at disrupting burglars, shoplifters and those engaging in anti-social behaviour and criminal damage. Following conviction officers would offer a whole package of interventions to the offender with a view to dissuading them for committing more crime. Appointments were set up with the probation office, police and in some cases drugs outreach workers. If they refused to engage they were warned that they would probably end up in prison. Should this happen the scheme would restart immediately they were released. Government targets were a reduction in reoffending of 17%, Hartlepool had achieved 26% equating to 44 less crimes being committed.

The Chair thanked the CJIT Operations Manager for attending the meeting and answering questions.

## **26. SAFE IN TEES VALLEY ASSERTIVE OUTREACH SERVICE**

Christine Davidson, Cleveland Police Youth Manager, gave a brief presentation on the work of the Safe in Tees Valley Assertive Outreach Service. This was a service for children and young people which identified vulnerable children and young people to try to reduce and prevent



anti-social behaviour by challenging inappropriate behaviour and signposting them to local activities and services. Details of the service core elements, introductory key performance indicators and introductory delivery were outlined and contact information given. Since the service started in November 2009 work had been undertaken in King Oswy Drive, Clavering, Fens Shops and Dyke House Ward.

A Resident Representative criticised officers for telling children and young people what to do and not taking their views into account. The Youth Manager indicated that on the contrary the service was very much young person led, however there had to be some boundaries in order to prevent crime and disorder. Assertive outreach was based on engagement, advocacy and non-negotiable support. It was necessary to emphasise that tough sanctions would be enforced if young people engaged in crime or anti-social behaviour and refused to engage with support services.

The Neighbourhood Manager commented on the need for partnership working on issues of this kind. The Youth Manager advised that they worked closely with Cleveland Police and would be happy to meet with Council officers to discuss closer working relationships between HBC and Safe in Tees Valley.

The Chair thanked the Cleveland Police Youth Manager for attending the meeting and answering questions.

#### **27. CRIME AND DISORDER CO-ORDINATION UPDATE**

Owing to the unavailability of the Crime and Disorder Co-ordinator this item was withdrawn from the agenda.

#### **28. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

No issues

#### **29. ISSUES RAISED BY COUNCILLORS AND RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVES**

A Resident Representative asked if the low attendance at the police and community safety meetings could be looked at, with a view to possible restructure. The Neighbourhood Manager advised that the findings of the neighbourhood consultative forum review would also be applied to the police for a. An action plan to tackle agenda content and promotion of meetings had been formulated and would be linked into both meetings.

The meeting concluded at 12 noon.

Chair

**Report of:** Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods

**Subject:** Planning Aid

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**1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To inform the Forum of the services of Planning Aid. A presentation will be made by Kevin Lillie, the Regional Manager of Planning Aid North.

**2. BACKGROUND AND INFORMATION**

- 2.1 Kevin Lillie, the Regional Manager, of Planning Aid North, will give a presentation on Planning Aid.
- 2.2 Planning Aid is part of the Royal Town Planning Institute. It offers free and independent professional planning advice to community groups and individuals who cannot afford to pay professional fees. It works with communities to help them play a role in the planning process. Planning Aid is completely independent being neither part of Central Government nor the Local Planning Authority.
- 2.3 Planning Aid helps communities to understand the planning system and to comment on planning applications. It also helps people to comment on national policy statements and nationally significant infrastructure projects
- 2.4 Planning Aid can be contacted [ntco@planningaid.rtpi.org.uk](mailto:ntco@planningaid.rtpi.org.uk)

**5. RECOMMENDATION**

- 5.1 That the service offered by Planning Aid be noted.

**Report of:** Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods

**Subject:** NATIONAL POLICY STATEMENT ON NUCLEAR POWER GENERATION & IDENTIFICATION OF SITE FOR NEW POWER STATION AT HARTLEPOOL.

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## **1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To inform the Forum that the Government has issued for public consultation until 22 February 2010 a draft National Policy Statement on nuclear power generation and the siting of a new nuclear power station in Hartlepool.

## **2. BACKGROUND AND INFORMATION**

- 2.1 On 9 November 2009 the Government issued a number of draft planning policy Statements on energy issues. One of the draft National Policy Statements relates to nuclear energy and identified Hartlepool as one of 10 potential sites for a new nuclear power station in England & Wales. The others sites are Bradwell, Braystones, Heysham, Hinkley Point, Kirkstanton, Oldbury, Sellafield, Sizewell and Wylfa.
- 2.2 The Government is encouraging residents of the town and others to have their say on the Government's draft Nuclear National Policy Statement (NPS) and a list of Power Station sites, which includes Hartlepool.
- 2.3 The draft National Policy Statement explains the assessment of each power station site, why nuclear power is needed and also outlines Government policy on managing radioactive waste.
- 2.4 The new plant would be built by EDF Energy, which now incorporates British Energy, and could be up and running by 2025. The lifespan of the existing Hartlepool plant takes it to 2014, but there is the option of applying for an extension in three years time.
- 2.5 In an initial phase of public consultation in May 2009, the Government asked views on the information supplied by EDF Energy relating to its case for proposing Hartlepool as a possible site for a power station in Hartlepool. In response to that consultation, Hartlepool Council said that the nomination of the town as the site for a new power station merits consideration by the Government.
- 2.6 Following the issue of the draft National Policy Statement the Government's Department of Energy & Climate Change undertook a short public consultation event at the Hartlepool Maritime Experience.

- 2.7 In addition the Borough Council undertook its own consultation exercise to give more information to residents and elected members so they can form their views on the issues.
- 2.8 On 26 January 2010 the Council held a Question Time session at the Hartlepool Maritime experience attended by over 72 people.
- 2.9 The Borough Council also undertook an online consultation during January 2010 when 158 people responded.
- 2.10 Cabinet on 15 February 2010 is considering the responses from the Council's consultation on the National Policy Statement and will form the Borough Council's own response to the consultation.

### **3. NEXT STEPS**

- 3.1 It is still possible to make comments on the draft National Policy Statement direct to the Department of Energy & Climate Change.  
To do this and to view the Government's Consultation documents visit [www.energynpsconsultation.decc.gov.uk](http://www.energynpsconsultation.decc.gov.uk) and respond on the electronic form.
- 3.2 Whilst DECC has encouraged responses to be made via the website they can also be made on hard copy paper forms or by letter, fax or email to Robin Clarke, OPM, 252b Gray's Inn Rd, London, WC1X 8XG Fax: 0845 055 1700 (FAO Robin Clarke)  
Email: [energynpsconsultation@opm.co.uk](mailto:energynpsconsultation@opm.co.uk)

**The Government's consultation closes on 22 February 2010.**

### **4. RECOMMENDATION**

- 4.1 That interested parties be encouraged to submit any comments on the draft National Policy statement and the siting of a new nuclear power station in Hartlepool direct to the Department of Energy & Climate Change by 22 February 2010.

**Report of:** Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods

**Subject:** HARTLEPOOL CORE STRATEGY – PUBLIC  
CONSULTATION ON THE PREFERRED OPTIONS  
REPORT

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## **1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To inform the Forum of the public consultation arrangements for the Preferred Options Report for the Hartlepool Core Strategy.

## **2. BACKGROUND AND INFORMATION**

- 2.1 The Preferred Options Report forms part of the second stage in the production of the Hartlepool Core Strategy. The Core strategy is the main planning document covering the next 15 years.
- 2.2 In 2007 & 2008 the first stage had involved the publication of an Issues and Options Report which highlighted the various issues which are relevant in setting out a strategy for the Borough. It set out a number of possible options on where new development might be. Feedback from the consultation on that report has been assessed and where appropriate used in the selection of the Preferred Options.

The Preferred Options Report sets out the spatial vision for Hartlepool for 2026 and explains why certain options have been selected.

The consultation will be wide ranging and in accordance with the adopted Statement of Community Involvement and will last for eight weeks until the 26 March 2010.

## **3. The Preferred Options Report**

In brief the Preferred Options report sets out the following broad principles for the development of the town up to 2026:-

- a south western and western expansion of the town for new housing with a new road access northwards off the A689.
- small expansions at Wynyard Woods and Tunstall Farm for Executive Housing
- Wynyard Park remains as Key Employment Site in line with Regional Spatial Strategy
- Victoria Harbour now allocated as port related uses
- the Town Centre boundary extended to include the Mill House Area and the football ground

- Improvements and extensions to green wedges around the town, notably an extension towards the town of the Middle Warren green wedge and new green wedges in the Claxton area to minimise the impact of new housing development
- Part of the Southern Business Zone including Graythorp is identified as an area for a centre of excellence for environmental waste management / eco industries
- Potential new Nuclear Power Station identified

#### **4. THE NEXT STEPS**

- 4.1 The Preferred Options Report has been published so that the community has an opportunity to make comments on the proposed strategy. The report is available for consultation until **Friday 26 March 2010**.
- 4.2 During the consultation period there will be displays in the Libraries, in the shopping centre and at other locations including the main town centre supermarkets, with the aim of getting as many people as possible involved in guiding the future direction of development in Hartlepool through the Core Strategy
- 4.3 There are various ways to submit comments. Either complete a questionnaire and return it to Bryan Hanson House, Hanson Square, Hartlepool TS24 7BT – questionnaires are available at Bryan Hanson House, the Civic Centre and the Central Library or can be requested by phoning 01429 523280 or emailing [planningpolicy@hartlepool.gov.uk](mailto:planningpolicy@hartlepool.gov.uk). Alternatively the questionnaire can be completed on the Borough Council's online consultation website at <http://planningpolicy.hartlepool.gov.uk>. Comments by letter can also be sent to the Planning Policy team at Bryan Hanson House or may be email to [planningpolicy@hartlepool.gov.uk](mailto:planningpolicy@hartlepool.gov.uk).
- 4.4 All representations put forward within the eight week period will be considered, and will be used in the preparation of the next stage which is the publication of a full draft of the Core Strategy. For further information regarding the Core Strategy please ring 01429 523280.

#### **5. RECOMMENDATION**

- 5.1 That the report be noted and that interested parties be encouraged to submit any representations on the Core Strategy Preferred Options Report during the consultation period which ends on 26 March 2010.