

NORTH NEIGHBOURHOOD CONSULTATIVE FORUM AGENDA



Wednesday, 7 April 2010

at 2.00 pm

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

MEMBERS: 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 meeting held on 17th February 2010
 - 4.2 Matters arising
- 5. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

6. WARD ISSUES

7. ITEMS FOR CONSULTATION

No items

8. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION/INFORMATION

8.1 50-Plus Forum – *50-Plus Development Officer, HVDA*

9. ITEMS FOR DECISION

9.1 Pride in Hartlepool Campaign Update – *Pride in Hartlepool Officer*

10. ITEMS OF ANY OTHER BUSINESS AGREED BY THE CHAIR

11. DATE, TIME AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the North Police and Community Safety Consultative Forum will take place on Wednesday 21st April 2010 at 10am at West View Community Centre, Glamorgan Grove

The date and time of the next North Neighbourhood Consultative Forum are to be confirmed

WARDS

Brus
Dyke House
Hart
St Hilda
Throston

NORTH NEIGHBOURHOOD CONSULTATIVE FORUM

17 February 2010

MINUTES OF THE MEETING



The meeting commenced at 10.00 a.m. at Throston Grange Community Centre, Glamorgan Grove, Hartlepool

PRESENT:

Chair: Councillor Mary Fleet - Dyke House Ward
Vice Chair: Linda Shields (Resident Representative)

Councillor Reuben Atkinson	- Dyke House Ward
Councillor Caroline Barker	- Hart Ward
Councillor Rob Cook	- Hart Ward
Councillor Tim Fleming	- St Hilda Ward
Councillor Edna Wright	- Hart Ward

Resident Representatives: John Cambridge, John Lynch, Mary Power, Bob and Joan Steel and Maureen Waller

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

Officers: Karen Oliver, Neighbourhood Manager
Richard Waldmeyer, Team Leader (Policy, Planning and Information)
Peter Nixon, Senior Traffic Technician
Matthew King, Principal Planning Officer
Jo Wilson, Democratic Services Officer

Police Representative: C Motson

Planning Aid North Representatives: Kevin Lillie

Skillshare Representatives: Ivan Hill and Pam Hill

39. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Sheila Griffin.

40. DECLARATION OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS

None

41. MINUTES OF THE NORTH NEIGHBOURHOOD CONSULTATIVE FORUM MEETING HELD ON 16 DECEMBER 2009

Agreed as a true record

42. MATTERS ARISING

St Hild's Media Centre – A resident advised that early morning construction work was still taking place at the site. On the previous Friday workers had been laying concrete from the late afternoon until 6am using generators and compressors and resulting in a lot of noise. Despite previous requests information on what time the contractors were legally allowed to commence work had not been forthcoming from the Council. The Neighbourhood Manager advised that that Mike Young from the Headland Development Trust had been unable to attend this meeting but was happy to meet with residents regarding this issue. However a Councillor commented that this was the responsibility of the builder not the Headland Development Trust. There were no conditions in the planning agreement regarding night working however planning officers were hoping to amend that. The Council's Principal Environmental Health Officer had been informed and would be speaking to the builders and the Headland Development Trust. A resident suggested that the site manager be invited to a future meeting however the Neighbourhood Manager felt that there would still be benefit in having Mike Young attend as he could advise members of the proposed timescale for completion. The resident requested that future planning agreements have rigid conditions on hours of work written into them and that the appropriate departments be written to advising this. This was agreed by the Forum.

43. MINUTES OF THE NORTH AREA POLICE AND COMMUNITY SAFETY CONSULTATIVE FORUM MEETING HELD ON 27 JANUARY 2010

Received by the Forum.

44. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Brancepath Walk – A resident reported increasing amounts of rubbish in the field. He asked if it could be cleared on a monthly basis.

Romaine Park – A resident advised that the copse and trees had been cleared but twigs had been left on the pathway which were catching in the wheels of pushchairs and disabled vehicles.

Steetley – A resident highlighted the amount of flytipping taking place. The Neighbourhood Manager acknowledged this was a problem but could not be resolved until details of the redevelopment were finalised. This was not expected to happen until late March/early April pending a decision from the Secretary of State. The Environmental Action Manager had discussed the possibility of a covert camera on site with the landowners but they were waiting for the judgement from the Secretary of State before they would take any action.

45. WARD ISSUES

20mph schools speed limit – A Councillor requested an update on progress on the introduction of a 20mph speed limit outside all schools so residents could be informed. The Senior Traffic Technician advised that funding was available for two schools per year and these were prioritised based on accident and speed statistics. He would bring the current information to the next

meeting of the Forum. Another Councillor highlighted that he had previously proposed that the North Forum set aside minor works funding to ensure that work was completed on a school in the North area every year and queried why this had not been actioned. The Neighbourhood Manager advised that accounts of minor works spending had been forwarded to the forum on a regular basis and there had been no monies available for this work. However the Councillor had requested that money be set aside for this and it had not happened. He felt that officers should have investigated what work needed to be done and what the costs would be regardless of budget availability and accident statistics. It was requested that the minutes of the meeting when this was discussed be sent out to all Councillors for information. A Resident Representative suggested that anything proposed by the Forum should have a completion date attached to it so members could be certain that all work had been actioned in reasonable time.

Bottom of Powlett Road – A Councillor indicated that the grassed area leading onto the Central Estate was a mess due to vehicles driving over it. The Neighbourhood Manager advised that officers were already aware of this problem and were considering installation of a mix of trees and bollards.

Junction of Northgate and Durham Street – A Councillor reported that the builders had asked for suggestions as to what could be placed in front of a new shop on the junction. The Councillor suggested a sculpture of a stag and monkey be placed there. A photo of the proposed sculpture was passed around members for their consideration. Comments supporting and objecting to this proposal were made by Resident Representatives present. The Councillor requested that officers speak to the

architect and Parish Councillors with a view to pushing this idea forward.

Headland War Memorial – A Councillor advised that the ongoing restoration work was resulting in mud on the path and grass being cut up by lorries. The Neighbourhood Manager to action.

164 King Oswy Drive – The trees outside the property by the cycle rack were uprooting and causing a danger

36 Fulthorpe Avenue – The adjacent drain was not being emptied.

Bournemouth Drive – A Councillor highlighted the large number of potholes and queried whether tar was still used to seal them.

Durham Street – There were problems with parking.

Borough Hall – The gully outside needed cleaning.

Traffic on Merlin Way/Falcon Road – A Resident Representative highlighted ongoing problems with speeding traffic on Merlin Way and Falcon Road. The Senior Traffic Technician advised that a speed survey had been conducted a year ago showing 50% of vehicles travelled over 35mph. However there had been difficulties in traffic calming Merlin Way. An up-to-date survey could be carried out and electronic speed signs considered.

Hartfields – A Councillor indicated that a resident had contacted him querying the differing amounts of Council Tax being paid by residents living in identical properties. He asked that the Valuation Officer provide clarification on this matter. He also asked that more dog bins be provided round the complex for non-resident dog walkers.

Grit bins – A Councillor noted that much of the Hart Ward was built on a slope which had caused problems for vehicles during the inclement weather. He asked that more grit bins be supplied in the area to counter this. A Resident Representative referred to a recent report in the Hartlepool Mail regarding a grit bin strategy and suggested details be brought to a future forum meeting.

Bruce Crescent – Ongoing work on the carriageway was causing disruption to vehicles and could lead to an accident. There had also been a recent problem with the drains and this would only get worse as the weather improved.

46. PLANNING AID

Kevin Lillie from Planning Aid North East gave a brief presentation on Planning Aid which offered free and independent professional planning advice to community groups and individuals who could not afford to pay professional fees. Neither part of Central Government nor the Local Planning Authority, Planning Aid could be contacted on ntco@planningaid.rtpi.org.uk and Mr Lillie was available to answer any questions after the meeting. The Vice-Chair suggested a training session be held for Councillors and Resident Representatives on the benefits Planning Aid could offer.

The Chair thanked Mr Lillie for attending the meeting.

47. NATIONAL POLICY STATEMENT ON NUCLEAR POWER GENERATION AND IDENTIFICATION OF SITE FOR NEW POWER STATION AT HARTLEPOOL

The Team Leader for Policy, Planning and Information advised the Forum that the Government was undertaking public

consultation on a draft National Policy Statement on nuclear power generation and the siting of a new nuclear power station in Hartlepool. The statement explains the assessment of each power station site, why nuclear power is needed and outlines Government policy on managing radioactive waste.

In May 2009 the Government had asked for views on the case for Hartlepool as a possible site for a new power station. In response HBC had said that the nomination of Hartlepool was worth consideration. Following the issue of the draft statement the Department of Energy and Climate Change had held a public consultation event at the Maritime Experience. Further consultation had been undertaken by HBC and a Question Time session held in January 2010. In February 2010 Cabinet had considered the consultation responses however the Government consultation was still due to run until 22 February 2010. Responses could be made via www.energynpsconsultation.decc.co.uk as well as by letter, fax or email. Contact details were provided within the report.

A Resident Representative referred to concerns previously raised about coastal erosion, asking what consideration this had been given. Also what would happen to the waste resulting from the decommissioning of the existing site? He felt that the consultation was concentrating on the proposed new build at the detriment of resultant problems. The Team Leader commented that Cabinet were making representations to Government on the waste issue but there was encouragement to store on site. With reference to coastal erosion there were details in the planning policy statement of ways to overcome this.

A Resident Representative referred to previous assertions that the site was geologically unsound and asked what had

been done to improve this. The Team Leader indicated that this had been referred to during consultation on sites for new power stations the previous year and had been considered by the Government. He was unable to give any further details.

A Resident Representative commented that the decision to build a new power station had already been made and residents were not being given all the information they needed to make an informed choice. He felt that disposing of 80% of the country's toxic waste on the 20% most deprived areas was environmental injustice. Another Resident Representative echoed these comments saying the consultation was just a process and decisions had already been made.

The Chair thanked the Team Leader for attending the meeting and answering questions.

48. HARTLEPOOL CORE STRATEGY – PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON THE PREFERRED OPTIONS REPORT

The Team Leader for Policy, Planning and Information informed the Forum of the public consultation arrangements for the Preferred Options Report of the Hartlepool Core Strategy. The Core strategy is the main planning document covering the next 15 years and the Preferred Options report forms part of the second stage in its production. It sets out the broad principles for the development of the town up to 2026 including expansions within the town and a potential new Nuclear Power Station. The report was available for consultation until 26th March 2010 and during the consultation period there would be public displays in libraries, the shopping centre and town centre supermarkets. Details were given of how to submit comments.

A Resident Representative referred to the lack of affordable housing in the strategy saying the Council should be concentrating on this rather than on the provision of executive housing on the outskirts. The recent Planning Committee decision whereby developers had been refused permission to build affordable housing on the Middle Warren development had set an unwelcome precedent. If those in privately owned housing were unwilling to co-exist with social housing tenants where would the proposed 10% affordable housing per new development be located? A Councillor highlighted that this 10% agreement had not yet been ratified by Council however officers were now including it in all new housing applications. The Team Leader advised that this was part of the Affordable Housing Development Plan Document which was currently in the draft stages. The amount of social housing could increase or decrease depending on the economic circumstances and on the consultation results which were currently being considered.

A Councillor referred to a Housing Hartlepool development in Seaton Carew which consisted solely of affordable housing. He questioned why they were not made to have a proportion of private housing in the same way that private housing developers had to include social housing. A Resident Representative commented that the greatest problem in Hartlepool in housing terms was social housing and a policy of positive discrimination was needed to address it. Another Resident Representative commented that creating sites of purely affordable housing would result in ghettos however the Principal Planning Officer felt that the small number of affordable houses involved would not lead to this.

A Councillor queried whether the loss of Victoria Harbour as a housing location and the lack of brownfield available would necessitate the building of new housing on Greenfield sites. The Team Leader confirmed that this was the case. The Councillor went on to ask if this would lead to a loss of countryside surrounding villages. The Team Leader advised that the strategy was required to provide a gap of countryside to protect villages.

The Chair thanked the Team Leader for attending the meeting and answering questions.

49. E-PARTICIPATION

Ivan and Pam Hill from Skillshare gave a presentation on the various ways in which members of the public could access governmental websites, including www.hartlepool.gov.uk, www.parliament.uk and www.fixmystreet.com. Skillshare were available to provide further training to anyone who wanted it. A Councillor commented that many older people did not have access to the internet and were unable or unwilling to take part in training. The need to consult the blind and partially sighted was also highlighted. The Neighbourhood Manager indicated that this was intended to be the first step to raising awareness of the internet among those who might not otherwise have it. Increased online usage would allow people to contribute in the democratic process without attending public meetings. Computers with internet access were available at libraries and other public buildings.

The Chair thanked the Skillshare representatives for attending the meeting and answering questions.

50. ITEMS OF ANY OTHER BUSINESS AGREED BY THE CHAIR

A Councillor referred to the support previously given by the forum for the provision of a park in the North area. He noted that the Core Strategy confirmed that the North area still had no park and asked what had been done to improve this situation. The Neighbourhood Manager advised that a green strategy which would link in with the current Tees Valley Green Infrastructure Strategy had recently been given Cabinet approval. Following this a working group consisting of the Portfolio Holder, councillors and officers had been assembled to discuss the strategy. A meeting would be scheduled for the following month to look at what provision there already was in Hartlepool and what improvements could be made. Suggested areas for development in the North were highlighted. The Councillor requested that the land chosen be designated so that it could not be redeveloped in the future.

Members expressed support for the proposal but were concerned as to where such a facility could be situated given the lack of open undeveloped spaces available in the North. A Resident Representative referred to a linear park feasibility study which had been conducted 5 years previously which could possibly be used as a jumping off point. The Neighbourhood Manager advised that copies of the original feasibility study were available.

The Councillor also referred to previous discussions on full inclusion of residents in the process, expressing concern that by creating a town wide working group priorities were shifting away from the North into the centre of Hartlepool. The Chair suggested that the first meeting of the working group be held in a large venue to enable as many people as

possible to attend. However the Neighbourhood Manager felt that the process would more productive with smaller numbers of people involved in the initial stages. A councillor asked that when residents were eventually consulted that a variety of options be offered. The need for disabled access inclusion in the process was also highlighted.

The meeting concluded at 12:30 pm

CHAIR

North Neighbourhood Consultative Forum**17 February 2010****Issues Raised/Action Sheet**

ISSUE DETAILS	ACTION TAKEN	OFFICER
<u>Matters Arising</u> <u>St Hild's Media Centre</u> – Alan Vale still waiting to hear from Adrian Hurst re: start times etc. Worked right through the night last Friday. The Neighbourhood Manager advised that Mike Young from Headland Development Trust is happy to meet with residents and Ward Councillors on this issue. Feeling that it was fault of builders a request that a letter be sent to appropriate departments demanding rigid conditions on future planning applications.	<p>Company contacted and alternative arrangements put in place to minimise impact from floating of concrete. Company agreed to look at modifying the concrete mix to avoid having to work concrete during the night.</p>	<p>Adrian Hurst</p>
<u>Public Question Time</u> <u>Brancepath Walk</u> – A resident reported increasing amounts of rubbish in the field. He asked if it could be cleared on a monthly basis. <u>Romaine Park</u> – A resident advised that the copse and trees had been cleared but twigs had been left on the pathway which were catching in the wheels of pushchairs and disabled vehicles. <u>Steetley</u> – A resident highlighted the amount of flytipping taking place. The Neighbourhood Manager acknowledged this was a problem but could not be resolved until details of the redevelopment were finalised. This was not expected to happen until late	<p>Litter removed and will continue to monitor.</p> <p>Removed job complete</p> <p>No action to be taken at this time.</p> <p>The Environment Agency is planning enforcement activities in light of the recent increase in fly tipping. Specific details of the Environment Agency's activities</p>	<p>Karen Oliver</p> <p>Karen Oliver</p> <p>Craig Thelwell</p>

ISSUE DETAILS	ACTION TAKEN	OFFICER
<p>March/early April pending a decision from the Secretary of State. The Environmental Action Manager had discussed the possibility of a covert camera on site with the landowners but they were waiting for the judgement from the Secretary of State before they would take any action.</p>	<p>cannot be disclosed at this stage.</p>	
<p><u>Ward Issues</u></p> <p><u>20mph speed limit outside schools</u> – request for info on which schools haven't been done and approximate timescales. Query as to why previous request to set money aside for this had not been actioned. Request that minutes relating to this be sent to all councillors.</p> <p><u>Bottom of Powlett Road</u> - A Councillor indicated that the grassed area leading onto the Central Estate was a mess due to vehicles driving over it. The Neighbourhood Manager advised that officers were already aware of this problem and were considering installation of a mix of trees and bollards.</p> <p><u>Junction of Northgate and Durham Street</u> – A Councillor reported that the builders had asked for suggestions as to what could be placed in front of a new shop on the junction. The Councillor suggested a sculpture of a stag and monkey be placed there. A photo of the proposed sculpture was passed around members for their consideration. Comments supporting and objecting to this proposal were made by Resident Representatives present. The Councillor requested that officers speak to the architect and Parish Councillors with a view to pushing this idea forward.</p>	<p>Minutes of 17 February stated that 20mph was suggested however nothing proposed and agreed by full forum.</p> <p>A report is to be submitted to the Forum detailing the 20mph school schemes already implemented and those that are remaining.</p> <p>Trees have now been put in place to avoid traffic crossing the grass verge.</p> <p>Meeting with relevant councillors and officers plus parish council to be arranged.</p>	<p>Peter Nixon</p> <p>Karen Oliver</p> <p>Karen Oliver</p>

ISSUE DETAILS	ACTION TAKEN	OFFICER
<p><u>Headland War Memorial</u> – A Councillor advised that the ongoing restoration work was resulting in mud on the path and grass being cut up by lorries. The Neighbourhood Manager to action.</p> <p><u>164 King Oswy Drive</u> – The trees outside the property by the cycle rack were uprooting and causing a danger.</p> <p><u>36 Fulthorpe Avenue</u> – The adjacent drain was not being emptied.</p> <p><u>Bournemouth Drive</u> – A Councillor highlighted the large number of potholes and queried whether tar was still used to seal them.</p> <p><u>Durham Street</u> – There were problems with parking outside of Activ8 Centre.</p> <p><u>Borough Hall</u> – The gully outside needed cleaning</p> <p><u>Traffic on Merlin Way/Falcon Road</u> – A Resident Representative highlighted ongoing problems with speeding traffic on Merlin Way and Falcon Road. The Senior Traffic Technician advised that a speed survey had been conducted a year ago showing 50% of vehicles travelled over 35mph. However there had been difficulties in traffic calming Merlin Way. An up-to-date survey could be carried out electronic speed signs considered.</p>	<p>Resolved.</p> <p>The area has been inspected, and will be monitored by our Highways Inspector. Any actionable defect will be repaired.</p> <p>Passed to the Gulley Team to action.</p> <p>Bournemouth Drive is on the resurfacing programme for this year.</p> <p>Parking complaint to be Investigated and monitored.</p> <p>Passed to Gully Team to action.</p> <p>Speed surveys have been carried out in 2006 and Oct 2008, in both cases 100 vehicle speeds were surveyed and the 85th percentile speed recorded was 34mph. This type of result indicates moderate levels of speeding traffic.</p> <p>Merlin Way will be added to the Local Safety Scheme investigation list, and potential funding prioritised dependent on injury accident levels and the 85th percentile speeds.</p>	<p>Karen Oliver</p> <p>Garry Jones</p> <p>Garry Jones</p> <p>Garry Jones</p> <p>Peter Nixon</p> <p>Garry Jones</p> <p>Peter Frost/ Peter Nixon</p>
<p><u>Hartfields</u> – A Councillor indicated that a resident</p>	<p>Complete. Information has been sent to residents.</p>	<p>Carol</p>

ISSUE DETAILS	ACTION TAKEN	OFFICER
<p>had contacted him querying the differing amounts of Council Tax being paid by residents living in identical properties. He asked that the Valuation Officer provide clarification on this matter.</p> <p>He also asked that more dog bins be provided round the complex for non-resident dog walkers.</p> <p>Grit bins – A Councillor noted that much of the Hart Ward was built on a slope which had caused problems for vehicles during the indement weather. He asked that more grit bins be supplied in the area to counter this. A Resident Representative referred to a recent report in the Hartlepool Mail regarding a grit bin strategy and suggested details be brought to a future forum meeting.</p> <p>Bruce Crescent – Ongoing work on the carriageway was causing disruption to vehicles and could lead to an accident. There had also been a recent problem with the drains and this would only get worse as the weather improved.</p>	<p>Dog bins can be provided but must be paid for by Hartfileds as it is classed as private land/property.</p> <p>The Councillor has been contacted and the criteria for provision of grit bins has been explained, that Hart ward is an old ward and would have been assessed many times over the years and any streets that met the criteria would have had a grit bin installed each winter. The Councillor asked if Thornbury Close, Templeton Close and Oakwood Close could be reviewed as there are parts that are on an incline.</p> <p>A survey is to be carried out to identify if any additional bins are to be installed and to keep a record for next winter.</p> <p>Passed to Gully Team to clean all gullies in Bruce Crescent. The carriageway works are the responsibility of the Utility companies, work should be nearing completion.</p>	<p>Edwards</p> <p>Garry Jones</p> <p>Garry Jones</p> <p>Garry Jones</p>
<p><u>Any Other Business</u></p> <p>North Area Park - A Councillor referred to the support previously given by the forum for the provision of a park in the North area. He noted that the Core Strategy confirmed that the North area still had no park and asked what had been done to improve this situation. The Neighbourhood Manager advised that a green strategy which would link in with the current Tees Valley Green Infrastructure Strategy had recently been given Cabinet approval. Following</p>		

ISSUE DETAILS	ACTION TAKEN	OFFICER
<p>this a working group consisting of the Portfolio Holder, councillors and officers had been assembled to discuss the strategy. A meeting would be scheduled for the following month to look at what provision there already was in Hartlepool and what improvements could be made. Suggested areas for development in the North were highlighted. The Councillor requested that the land chosen be designated so that it could not be redeveloped in the future.</p> <p>Members expressed support for the proposal but were concerned as to where such a facility could be situated given the lack of open undeveloped spaces available in the North. A Resident Representative referred to a linear park strategy which had been conducted 5 years previously which could possibly be used as a jumping off point.</p> <p>The Councillor also referred to previous discussion on full inclusion of residents in the process, expressing concern that by creating a town wide working group priorities were shifting away from the North into the centre of Hartlepool. The Chair suggested that the first meeting of the working group be held in a large venue to enable as many people as possible to attend. However the Neighbourhood Manager felt that the process would be more productive with smaller numbers of people involved in the initial stages. A councillor asked that when residents were eventually consulted that a variety of options be offered. The need for disabled access inclusion in the process was also highlighted.</p>	<p>Officers to note suggestions.</p>	<p>Karen Oliver</p>

Report of: PRIDE IN HARTLEPOOL OFFICER

Subject: PRIDE IN HARTLEPOOL CAMPAIGN UPDATE

Date: 7 April 2010

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To update the North Area Neighbourhood Forum on the progress of the Pride in Hartlepool Campaign and to request further funding for the coming year.

2. PRIDE IN HARTLEPOOL UPDATE

- 2.1 **Pride in Hartlepool has supported the following campaigns and events in the North Area during 2009/10:**

2.2 Creatures of the Night Walk 8th May 2009

The second Creatures of the Night Walk was held in the North Cemetery on the 8th May. The event was organised by the Pride in Hartlepool Officer and the Council's Ecologist. Around 25 participants attended the event and used bat detectors to follow the bats around the cemetery. There was also a talk about the cemetery's owls from a local bird of prey club who brought a barn owl along to the event.

2.3 Big Tidy Up Campaign – North Area Tidy Ups

The Big Tidy Up campaign continues to run across Hartlepool. Although the campaign runs all year round there are two big promotions to get people involved. The first of these is Spring Clean Hartlepool, which usually runs during April and May, but in 2009 had to be extended until the end of June due to demand from groups wanting to organise community clean ups.

- 2.3.1 The second promotion falls in September and October. In September 2009 Hartlepool Borough Council were selected as one of 11 "Local Authority Champions" of the Big Tidy Up campaign. As part of this we have pledged to run a number of Big Tidy Ups across the town helped by a high profile advertising campaign funded by Tidy Britain. The advertising campaign, under the heading "Lets Tidy Hartlepool Together", used bill boards and posters across the town to spread the Big Tidy Up message.

- 2.3.2 Pride in Hartlepool is also planning to link the Big Tidy Up campaign to the Tall Ships event in August by asking groups and businesses to join the "Tall Ships Green Team". This initiative aims to help community groups, residents and businesses to clean up the town ready for the big event. Groups and organisations that sign up to join the Green Team will receive practical help to clean up their neighbourhoods, including free loan of equipment, skip hire and funding towards additional costs.

- 2.3.3 During 2009/10 5 Big Tidy Ups have been carried out in the North Area and 27 bags of rubbish have been collected.

2.4 Clean Streets Campaign

The Clean Streets Campaign was launched on the 22nd April 2009. The campaign has been developed by the Pride in Hartlepool Officer in partnership with the Dogs Trust and aims to promote responsible pet ownership. The campaign targets schools through a fun, interactive assembly which teaches children how to worm their pets and how to clean up after them safely. The children then design posters to be displayed on around the school perimeter fencing asking people to keep their school routes free of dog fouling.

- 2.4.1 During 2009/10 4 Clean Streets Assemblies have been held in North Area schools.

2.5 Smarter Living Roadshows

The Smarter Living Roadshows were developed as a partnership project between the Pride in Hartlepool, Climate Change and Recycling Officers, the Sustainable Travel Team and the Countryside Wardens. We also have three external partners: Hartlepool Water, Rossmere Allotments Association and Dogs Trust. The aim of the Smarter Living Roadshow is to take the environmental improvement message directly to the people of Hartlepool.

- 2.5.1 The Roadshow combines a traditional information stall offering leaflets and information for families on how they can make small changes to become greener and which can also save money off their household bills; with displays, demonstrations and fun practical activities. Some of these include “vegetable gardening on a shoestring” demonstrations, a design-a-bag-for-life activity and making natural Christmas decorations.

- 2.5.2 The Roadshow was launched in time for World Environment Day in June 2009 and has featured at various events across the town including Dockfest, the Recycle Now Week event in Middleton Grange Shopping Centre and the Horticulture Show in the Borough Hall. The Smarter Living Roadshow will continue to run at venues across the town throughout 2010 and the Pride in Hartlepool Officer is currently working with the partners to bring the Roadshow to the Tall Ships event in August.

2.6 National Tree Week

National Tree Week ran from the 26th November to the 6th December 2009. To support this initiative Pride in Hartlepool teamed up with the Countryside Wardens, the Ecologist and the Arboricultural Officer to hold 2 tree planting activities. The first of these was held on the 29th November 2009 in West View Cemetery. Around 20 participants attended the event (despite heavy rain) and planted a mixed native species hedge along one of the perimeter fences of the cemetery. When the trees begin to mature they will provide food and shelter for local wildlife as well as improving the appearance of the perimeter fence.

2.7 Tree O’Clock Event

The second event was held on the 5th December in the North Cemetery and involved pupils, parents and staff from Jesmond Road Primary School. The event formed part of a national world record attempt to plant the most trees in one hour organised by the BBC Breathing Places Campaign. Pride in Hartlepool funded the cost of the 345 native trees planted by the group which were added to the national total.

- 2.7.1 The event also formed part of a long term strategy to increase the range of species of trees present in the North Cemetery to help increase bio-diversity at the site. Jesmond Road Primary School were invited to take part as they have been working with the Council’s Environment Team on a project entitled “Our Fragile Earth” looking at issues such as climate change.

2.8 Great Big Autumn Tree Giveaway

In November 2009 Pride in Hartlepool hosted its second annual Great Big Autumn Giveaway. To tie in with the National Tree Week events this year trees were given away free to schools and community groups across Hartlepool. In all, 31 sets of 10 mixed native “whips” and 12 pairs of fruit trees were given away. The aim of the Giveaway was to increase tree cover in the town to enhance local neighbourhoods, improve air quality and provide food and shelter for wildlife.

2.9 Pride in Hartlepool Awards

The Pride in Hartlepool Awards were held on the 9th December 2009 at Hartlepool’s Maritime Experience. The North Area was well represented at the Awards with nominations from:

- FAST Sculpture Group
- Friends of North Cemetery
- Zarron Barnes from St John Vianney’s School
- Jesmond Road Primary School
- Throston Primary School Parents Forum
- St Helen’s Primary School

- 2.9.1 Of these, the FAST Sculpture Group won the Best Environmental Project of 2009. The group is made up of young people from the Middleton Road area and they have been working with an artist to design and build quality seating for the North Cemetery. Zarron Barnes was awarded the Young Eco Champion Award for his enthusiasm for looking after his local environment and Throston School Parents Forum won the Green School Award for their school uniform re-use scheme.

2.10 Small Grant Scheme Projects

The following projects all received an award from the Pride in Hartlepool Small Grant Scheme during 2009/10:

- The Friends of Regent Square received £750 towards the cost of their community garden project
- Sacred Heart School received £1,020 towards the cost of their school garden project
- St Helen’s School received £292 towards the cost of a memorial garden at the school

- Throston School received £4,580 towards the cost of a school garden as part of ongoing improvements to the school
- Brougham School received £2,500 towards the cost of their school garden project
- Central Estate Management Organisation received £961 for a hanging basket project
- The Friends of North Cemetery received £2,500 towards the cost of a project providing quality seating for the cemetery
- The Heugh Gun Battery Museum received £1,000 towards the cost of their “Dig for Victory” allotment project
- Barnard Grove received £1,000 towards the cost of their school garden project
- **Total spend in the North Area - £14,603**

3. PREDICTED FUTURE SPEND IN THE NORTH AREA 2010/11

- 3.1 As the contribution from the Forum is used to award grants via the Small Grant Scheme it is difficult to predict how it will be spent over 2010/11 as this will be dependant on what projects apply to the Scheme. However, the 2009/10 projects outlined above serve as an example for the 2010/11 spend where spending in the North area substantially exceeded the amount donated from the Forum.
- 3.2 Therefore, Pride in Hartlepool request funding of £5,000 from the North Area Forum for 2010/11.

4. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 That the North Area Forum note the report and consider the request for funding for the Pride in Hartlepool Small Grant Scheme.