

# **NORTH NEIGHBOURHOOD CONSULTATIVE FORUM AGENDA**



**Wednesday, 15 December 2010**

**at 10.00 am**

**in West View Community Centre, Miers Avenue, Hartlepool**

**MEMBERS: NORTH NEIGHBOURHOOD CONSULTATIVE FORUM:**

Councillors Atkinson, Barclay, Barker, Cook, Fleet, Fleming, Griffin, Jackson, J Marshall, J W Marshall, McKenna, Plant, Rogan, Thomas and Wright

Resident Representatives: Christine Blakey, John Cambridge, John Maxwell, Joan Norman, Linda Shields, Bob Steel and Joan Steel

- 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 meeting held on 20 October 2010
  - 4.2 Matters arising
  - 4.3 To receive the minutes of the North Area Police and Community Safety Consultative Forum held on 10 November 2010
- 5. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

## **6. ITEMS FOR CONSULTATION**

- 6.1 Hartlepool Core Strategy – Public Consultation On The Revised Preferred Options Report – *Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods*

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

- 7.1 Presentation on enforcement work in relation to litter and dog foul – *Waste and Environmental Services Manager*
- 7.2 Presentation on the Big Tidy Up campaign – *Pride in Hartlepool Officer*
- 7.3 Presentation on the Schools Environmental Action Initiative – *School Environmental Action Officer*

## **8. ITEMS FOR DECISION**

- 8.1 Application For Funding To Install Security Fencing At Chester Road Allotments – *Director Of Regeneration And Neighbourhoods*

## **9. WARD ISSUES FROM WARD MEMBERS AND RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVES**

## **10. DATE, TIME AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the North Police and Community Safety Consultative Forum will take place on Wednesday, 12 January 2010 at West View Community Centre, Miers Avenue, commencing at 10.00 am.

The next meeting of the North Neighbourhood Consultative Forum will take place on Wednesday, 16 February 2010 at West View Community Centre, Miers Avenue commencing at 2.00 pm.

**WARDS**

Brus  
 Dyke House  
 Hart  
 St Hilda  
 Throston

# ***NORTH NEIGHBOURHOOD CONSULTATIVE FORUM***

**20 October 2010**

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



The meeting commenced at 2.00 pm in Throston Grange Community Centre,  
 Glamorgan Grove, Hartlepool

<b>PRESENT:</b>
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Councillor Caroline Barker	- Hart Ward
Councillor Rob Cook	Hart Ward
Councillor Stephen Thomas	- Dyke House Ward
Councillor Edna Wright	- Hart Ward

Resident Representatives: John Cambridge, John Maxwell, Joan Norman and Linda Shields

Public: Liz Torley

Officers:

- Karen Oliver, Neighbourhood Manager (North)
- Garry Jones, Neighbourhood Services Officer
- Ann Callaghan, Neighbourhood Development Officer (North)
- Phil Hepburn, Parking Services Manager
- Neil Harrison, Strategic Commissioner – Working Age Adults
- Tony Dixon, Arboricultural Officer
- Laura Stones, Scrutiny Support Officer
- Jo Wilson, Democratic Services Officer

Fire Brigade Representative: Peter Bradley

<b>20. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR</b>
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In the absence of Councillor Mary Fleet Councillor Rob Cook was elected to chair the meeting. Members requested that their best wishes be passed onto Councillor Fleet for a speedy recovery.

<b>21. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</b>
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Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Reuben Atkinson, Allan Barclay, Mary Fleet and Sheila Griffin and Resident Representatives Christine Blakey and Bob & Joan Steel.

## 22. VENUES

The Chair referred to the small turnout for the meeting and formally suggested that in future all meetings of the North Forum take place in West View Community Centre. The Borough Hall was also referred to as a potential venue, however the Neighbourhood Manager advised members that when that venue had been used previously numbers had dropped off. The Chair asked that this issue be included on the agenda for the next meeting.

## 23. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

## 24. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 18 AUGUST 2010

Confirmed

## 25. MATTERS ARISING

**Public Question Time – Playbuilder** – the resident had asked that preference be given to the Central Estate rather than the North area.

**Public Question Time – Steetley Site** – The Neighbourhood Manager had nothing new to report on this issue

**Public Question Time – King Oswy Drive** – The Neighbourhood Services Officer advised that an out-of-town company were working on the repairs. The Chair highlighted the lengthy response time caused by the company in question being based outside Hartlepool and asked that something be done about this.

## 28. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

**Mayoral Chains** – A Resident queried whether the Mayoral chains which had

been stolen previously were to be replaced with something similar. The Chair advised that the intent had been to ask Hartlepool's schoolchildren to submit new designs for consideration, however he was unsure how far this had been progressed. The resident highlighted the public preference for exact replicas however the Chair advised that the insurance monies would not cover the cost. He suggested an update be provided at the next meeting.

## 29. PRESENTATION ON TREE STRATEGY

The Arboricultural Officer explained to those present that the Strategy would set out the Authority's guiding principles on tree-related issues and aims to enhance the role and status of trees in Hartlepool for the benefit of everyone who lives in, works in or visits the borough. Residents were encouraged to participate in the consultation which ended on 8 November 2010. Details were on line - [www.hartlepool.gov.uk/treesstrategy](http://www.hartlepool.gov.uk/treesstrategy). Alternatively, the documents were available at the Council's Bryan Hanson House offices.

Members highlighted problems caused by ageing trees such as their becoming overgrown, excessive shedding of leaves and roots coming up through the pavement. This was a particular problem in the King Oswy Drive area near Barnard Grove School. The Arboricultural Officer advised that these issues were included in the strategy. Funding was obviously limited however the Council were obliged to maintain the trees appropriately and therefore the monies would be found from somewhere. A Councillor also requested that the tree in Formby Grove be pruned.

The Chair asked that the Neighbourhood Manager contact the appropriate department regarding the issues raised. He thanked the Arboricultural Officer for

attending the meeting and answering questions.

### **30. PRESENTATION ON PARKING STRATEGY**

The Parking Services Manager gave a brief presentation on the current consultation into Hartlepool's Parking Strategy. The Department of Transport had recommended that all local authorities have a parking strategy which would outline general strategic aims and key objectives. It was not however designed to consider individual concerns or specific sites. Contained within the document were 7 strategy purposes and 20 policy aims. Copies were available and the Parking Services Manager asked for any responses to be forwarded to him through the post or via his email address [Philip.hepburn@hartlepool.gov.uk](mailto:Philip.hepburn@hartlepool.gov.uk).

A Councillor highlighted the problem of cars parking illegally outside schools, commenting that 12 tickets in 18 months was not sufficient. She questioned the validity of claims made by council officers that they were unable to issue tickets as they were unable to catch drivers in the act. The Chair acknowledged these problems, particularly on King Oswy Drive where people would regularly park on yellow lines when collecting their children from the various schools in the vicinity. He indicated that council officers were unable to prevent drivers from leaving, only police officers could do that. A police representative advised that they did not have the resources to attend all the time but could deter for a period. Improved markings on the road and signage might also help. The Neighbourhood Manager would forward this to the appropriate department. A Councillor asked if drivers could be filmed at the same time each day on King Oswy Drive to demonstrate the extent of the problem. The Parking Services Manager advised that this had already been done.

A Resident Representative requested action be taken on the parking conditions on Middlegate. The Parking Services Manager suggested possible parking restrictions on one side of the road. The Resident Representative also raised the problem of caravans parking in the street. This was acknowledged as a problem across Hartlepool however if the vehicle was not causing an obstruction there was little that could be done legally.

The Chair thanked the Parking Services Manager for attending the meeting and answering questions.

### **31. PUTTING PEOPLE FIRST**

The Strategic Commissioner for Working Age Adults gave a brief presentation on the transformation of adult social care over the last 4 years. The Putting People First agenda outlined the key elements of a reformed adult social care system and local authorities were expected to make significant progress by the end of March 2011 when there would be a review and refresh of Putting People First. Local Authorities were monitored against 5 key milestones:

- Effective partnerships
- Self directed support
- Prevention and early intervention
- Information and advice
- Local commissioning

The Strategic Commissioner demonstrated how each of these milestones were being met.

A Resident Representative queried what effect the Comprehensive Spending Review would have on Putting People First. The Strategic Commissioning Officer indicated that while 30% efficiencies had to be found over the next 4 years additional Resources had been

pledged for older people so there were positives and negatives.

A Councillor asked how many people had taken up independent living in Hartlepool. The Strategic Commissioner reported that approximately 1400 people of the 3500 who were offered a personal budget had taken it up. The Councillor queried what the pitfalls were for those with a personal budget and was advised that while the system had initially been difficult to manage improvements had been made and there was now much more flexibility for individuals. It had been recognised however that being in charge of a budget could be daunting and for that reason 2 direct payments support services had been commissioned. Stranton Business Centre also offered help and advice.

The Chair detailed a personal query regarding a 91-year-old with pneumonia due to be discharged from hospital into a specialist care home for 6 weeks of rehabilitation where a package of care needs would be put in place before they could return to their home. This had subsequently been rescinded and the person was now due to go to a more general care home for 6 weeks before automatically being returned to their home. No rehabilitation or physiotherapy would be offered and they would have to pay toward this whereas the original offer would have been fully funded. The Strategic Commissioner advised that the usual practice following hospital discharge was a 6 week period of rehabilitation or intermediate care. He would query this with the Acting Assistant Director for Operations.

The Chair thanked the Strategic Commissioner for Working Age Adults for attending the meeting and answering questions.

### **32. NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES SCRUTINY FORUM – INVESTIGATION INTO 20S PLENTY – TRAFFIC CALMING MEASURES**

Councillor Thomas, in his role as Chair of the Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Forum, and the Scrutiny Support Officer advised members that the Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Forum were investigating '20s plenty – traffic calming measures' as part of their work programme for the current municipal year. A brief presentation was given explaining the aims and terms of reference of the investigation and asking for the views and comments of those present on this issue. Details were given of future investigation meetings, members were asked to contact Councillor Thomas or the Scrutiny Support Officer for further information or to lodge their comments. A questionnaire was also provided at the meeting.

Members expressed their support for a 20mph speed limit in residential streets, particularly outside schools. Councillor Thomas highlighted that this was about a change in mindset rather than enforcement. The most successful traffic calming measures tended to be those which had the support of the local community when they were being formulated.

The Chair thanked Councillor Thomas and the Scrutiny Support Officer for attending the meeting and answering questions.

### **33. VERBAL UPDATE ON NORTH CLEANSING / GROUND MAINTENANCE ROUND**

The Neighbourhood Manager gave a presentation on the work carried out by the North Neighbourhood Environmental Services Team. She explained that the area team consisted of 3 people and a

supervisor who between them were responsible for maintenance of all the shrub and flower beds in the North area, as well as daily litter picks in the 'hot spots' of Hart Station, Hart Lane and the coast road. In order to do this work they were provided with one large mechanical sweeper which would sweep the main roads of the North area daily and 3 small mechanical sweepers which would sweep key routes and designated areas weekly. All of the 7 shopping precincts in the North area were litter-picked twice daily and all litter bins emptied. Mechanical sweepers would also clean the precincts weekly.

The Neighbourhood Manager went on to highlight the work of the Working Neighbourhoods Fund Team. They were a 3-person team responsible for carrying out environmental improvements within the Dyke House/Stranton/Grange Neighbourhood Action Plan area. Their duties included removing flytipping, cleansing backstreet areas, litter picking pedestrian areas and maintenance of flower or shrub beds. Funding for this service was due to run out in April 2011, Housing Hartlepool had been approached with a view to covering the costs. An additional agency worker was responsible for additional litter on the Headland during May to October and Probation/Pay Back Teams and Future Jobs Fund teams would also help in various North areas. However the funding for the Future Jobs Fund was also in jeopardy.

The Chair paid tribute to the work undertaken by the teams, commenting that they did an excellent job in a large area with limited manpower and budgetary resources. A Councillor requested that King Oswy Drive be mechanically swept twice daily, particularly outside Barnard Grove School where leaf fall was a problem. The Neighbourhood Manager clarified that the twice daily litter picks carried out at King

Oswy shopping precincts were done manually not mechanically. However the large mechanical sweeper would sweep designated parts of the North area on a daily basis with focus on areas with large tree coverage.

A Councillor queried the number of agency staff used. The Neighbourhood Manager advised that 1 agency worker was used at the Headland seasonally and another was currently filling in for someone on long term sick but that was all. She confirmed that the Probation Service received a letter of thanks for their efforts.

A Councillor highlighted the need to return across town to unload at the depot and suggested it might be possible to unload at an area in the North. Lorries could then collect what had been deposited there and take it to the central depot thereby saving time and fuel. The Neighbourhood Manager indicated she would query the feasibility of this.

A Resident Representative asked that fallen leaves on West View slip road were picked up before they became a hazard to the elderly. The Neighbourhood Manager acknowledged this but highlighted the small number of staff and limited resources available to them. She hoped the public would recognise these constraints and understand.

A Resident noted the lack of dog bins. The Chair highlighted the excessive amounts charged for dog bins as a reason for this lack while the Neighbourhood Manager noted that 1 worker was responsible for emptying them and more bins would mean more pressure on him. Also people wanted dog bins but not next to them therefore situating them was a balancing act.

The Chair thanked the Neighbourhood Manager for the presentation. He asked

that there be a presentation on the specific area of enforcement at the next meeting of the Forum.

### **34. MINOR WORKS PROPOSAL**

#### **Telford Close Footpath Scheme**

A scheme to provide a footpath across an open grassed area towards Brunel Close was tabled for members' consideration. This scheme had previously been considered by the Forum in July 2009 since when a full consultation exercise had taken place with residents regarding the potential use of the footpath. Of 35 letters 15 responses had been received, 11 in favour and 4 against. One of the reasons given in favour of the scheme was the difficulty in accessing the general dealers store in West View Road, however this had since closed. The planning one stop shop had advised that planning permission would be needed and the installation of appropriate lighting was recommended. The extra cost for this lighting (£2,200) would bring the total cost of the scheme to £14,700.

A Resident acknowledged the closure of the general dealers but advised that there were other shops which would be easier to access using the proposed footpath. People would also use the footpath to access the bus stop. A Councillor noted that more than this amount had been spent on previous schemes and a lot of people might use the footpath.

#### **Decision**

That the Telford Close Footpath Scheme be recommended to the Portfolio Holder for approval.

### **35. WARD ISSUES FROM WARD MEMBERS AND RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVES**

**Brus Tunnel Barrier** – The Neighbourhood Services Officer advised that a meeting had been set up with Network Rail and activity in the tunnel was being monitored. Access to the tunnel was restricted.

**Mini-Motorbike** – A Resident Representative highlighted a recent instance when he had almost been knocked off his feet by a mini-motorbike speeding on King Oswy Drive pavement. A Resident commented that the vehicle she was travelling in had recently followed a mini-motorbike on King Oswy Drive. A Police Representative reported that an area search had been carried out following a report on this however this had been unsuccessful. A description of the vehicle and rider had been put forward to police officers and the public were urged to report anything of this nature to the police, giving as much information as possible.

**King Oswy Drive trees** – A Councillor re-iterated the request she had previously made during the tree strategy presentation for action to be taken against the overgrown trees near Barnard Grove School.

**Dog fouling** – A Councillor highlighted this as a problem in Jesmond Gardens, Challoner Road and Chester Road. The Neighbourhood Manager urged the public to report any instances of this so that it could be firstly cleansed and then possible enforcement action taken.

The meeting concluded at 4.10 pm

CHAIR



## North Neighbourhood Consultative Forum

20 October 2010

### Issues Raised/Action Sheet

ISSUE DETAILS	ACTION TAKEN	OFFICER
<b><u>Welcome And Introductions</u></b>  Venues for future meetings to go on agenda for the next meeting (suggestion that West View be used exclusively with the possible use of the Borough Hall once yearly).  <b><u>Matters Arising</u></b>  King Oswy Drive speed warning sign – is it working?  <b><u>Public Question Time</u></b>  Liz Torley asked for an update on replacement of stolen mayoral chains – possible update at next meeting.  <b><u>Presentation On Tree Strategy</u></b>  Need to find ways to prevent problems caused by older trees	  Venues are fixed for this municipal calendar year. Further discussion required to identify appropriate venues in which to hold NCF in the North.         Contractors have carried out repairs.         Letters were sent to schools to ask if school children would like to produce a design, the Council had received no response so will be reviewed in the new year.         Any tree problems that are reported are currently inspected and works carried out if required.(Limited Budgets )	  K Oliver         P Nixon         K Oliver         G Jones

ISSUE DETAILS	ACTION TAKEN	OFFICER
Trees in King Oswy Drive causing problems – people falling over the roots coming up through the pavement.	There are no reported incidents of people falling over, Highways inspector to carry out inspection of area. Some tree roots are disturbing the footpath areas, but the there are no actionable defect, continue to monitor.	G Jones
Trees in King Oswy Drive area need pruning – complaints from Formby Grove residents – danger at Barnard Grove School	All trees in the area mentioned will be inspected and any dangerous trees will have remedial works carried out.	G Jones
<b><u>Presentation On Parking Strategy</u></b>		
Query regarding low number of tickets issued outside schools – suggest CCTV recording at the same time each day showing traffic flow.	New camera enforcement would increase the contravention rate.	P Hepburn
Middlegate parking horrendous.	Officers would visit the site and monitor the parking.	P Hepburn
<b><u>Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Forum Investigation into 20s Plenty – Traffic Calming Measures</u></b>		
Suggestion made regarding all residential streets being 20mph – particularly outside schools	Going through the Scrutiny process, further update to be given after Scrutiny meeting in January 2011.	P Frost
<b><u>Verbal Update On North Cleansing / Ground Maintenance Round</u></b>		
Suggest one local area be used as an unloading point and then lorries from the central point pick them up – would save them having to make continuous long journeys	If facilities were to be provided and an area designated to enable the sweepers to tip of it would be classed as a transfer station and would require licensing.	G Jones
Request for a presentation on enforcement at the next meeting.		C Thelwell

ISSUE DETAILS	ACTION TAKEN	OFFICER
West View Slip Road – Trees shedding leaves causing a danger on the pavements.	The Large mechanical will visit the area when time allows.	G Jones
Need more dog bins.	The dog bin service is currently been reviewed, there are approximately 270 dog bins town wide, which is a massive increase from just 70 bins 5 years ago. Which is a pressure to continue to maintain this level of service	G Jones
<b><u>Ward Issues From Ward Members And Resident Representatives</u></b>		
Almost knocked down by min-moto speeding on King Oswy Drive pavement.	This is the responsibility of the Police to take action.	P Frost
Problem with dog fouling on Jesmond Gardens, Challoner Road and Chester Road.	More detailed times would help our enforcement officers tackle this issue more effectively.  Enforcement Officers continue to work in area. There has been 53 fixed penalty notices issued in the Dyke house ward since April 2010, 21 for litter; 26 in Grayfields for dog foul abd 6 in Jesmond Road area.	G Jones

**WARDS**

Brus  
Dyke House  
Hart  
St Hilda  
Throston

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

**10 November 2010**

***MINUTES OF THE MEETING***



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

**PRESENT:**

Chair: Councillor Mary Fleet – Dyke House Ward

Vice Chair: Resident Representative Bob Steel

Councillor Caroline Barker	- Hart Ward
Councillor Rob Cook	Hart Ward
Councillor Sheila Griffin	- Brus Ward
Councillor Trevor Rogan	- Brus Ward
Councillor Edna Wright	- Hart Ward

Resident Representatives: John Cambridge, John Maxwell, and Joan Steel

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

Officers: Karen Oliver, North Neighbourhood Manager  
Andrew Hughes, Community Safety Project Officer  
Nicholas Stone, Senior Anti-Social Behaviour Officer  
Katie Donoghue, Anti-Social Behaviour Officer  
Claire Wilson, Community Safety Officer  
Sarah Bird, Democratic Services Officer

Housing Hartlepool: Libby Griffiths, Alison Ramage

Fire and Rescue: Peter Bradley

Police : Inspector Mick Brown

**1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION**

The Chair welcomed those present to the meeting.

**2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Barclay and Resident

Representative Linda Shields and Resident John Lynch.

### **3. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 28 JULY 2010**

The minutes were confirmed as an accurate account.

### **4. MATTERS ARISING**

No items.

### **5. UPDATE FROM THE POLICE**

Inspector Mick Brown updated the Forum with details of District and North area performance over the last three months as well as Forcewide and Hartlepool performance for August and September 2010.

Violent crime was down by 56 crimes and this had been attributed to initiatives undertaken in relation to the night time economy.

Inspector Brown gave details of partnership working with local scrap merchants in order to combat metal theft. Drug dealers had also been targeted in the Dyke House, Grainger Street, Perth Street and Hurworth Street areas and private landlords had provided support with this. Other priorities were combating Antisocial Behaviour in the North Cemetery and the use of plain clothed officers to patrol the Dyke House and Stranton areas to deter theft and burglaries. Also mentioned was patrolling of allotments and domestic violence interventions.

He also highlighted the Art of Safety competition run in schools which was championed by the Chief Constable.

PC Terry Swales who was an experienced licensing officer had joined the Throston neighbourhood team.

A resident asked why some Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) had been moved from the neighbourhood teams into the town centre and was informed that this was in order to keep an eye on known criminals to prevent them shoplifting in the town centre, selling on the goods to buy drugs and then committing further crime elsewhere in the town. Members agreed that they felt safer in the town centre because of this.

A Members suggested that when police were responding to calls in relation to antisocial behaviour, it may be beneficial to use unmarked cars in response to prevent youths dispersing prior to arrival of officers.

A Member queried whether the recently announced government spending review would affect neighbourhood policing and was informed that Police support staff positions had recently been privatised and desk jobs undertaken by police would be undertaken by support staff, therefore freeing more officers to undertake front line duties. Concern was also expressed by a Member over the future of PCSOs and he was informed that because the Working Neighbourhoods Funding was to be scrapped, there was doubt over funding of those on temporary contracts. However, there would be at least one PCSO on each Ward. A member commented that he felt that PCSOs should be given more powers.

A Resident Representative referred to the current licensing hours and stated she felt that the Local Authority should restrict opening hours.

A Resident Representative praised initiatives at St John Vianney and

Clavering which engaged with young people.

A Resident Representative asked whether there was support for males who were experiencing domestic violence and was informed that similar support to that offered to female victims was in place.

#### **6. UPDATE FROM FIRE BRIGADE**

Peter Bradley updated the meeting with figures in relation to the number of fires which had occurred in the past 6 months.

There were more F1 dwelling fires than in the previous year all cooking related, and so work was ongoing to educate people in relation to the dangers. Numbers of other types of fires had fallen and there were more home safety checks being carried out.

Fires on the Steetley site had decreased because of the security on the site. There had been a number of grass fires on West View Road but following increased vigilance by Police and Fire Officers, it had now decreased.

The meeting was advised of a problem with cable burning but following collaboration with scrap metal dealers who agreed not to buy small amounts of metal from vendors on foot or bikes, this problem had been resolved.

Mr Bradley also advised the meeting of diversionary initiatives for young people in the north of the town.

Mr Bradley outlined the measures for dealing with the recent Bonfire night.

#### **7. UPDATE FROM ANTI SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR UNIT**

The Senior Anti-Social Behaviour Officer provide statistics in relation to cases dealt with by the Unit and Housing Hartlepool in between July and September 2010. He advised the meeting of the forthcoming Pride in Hartlepool awards and invited nominations for community awards. He gave details of the consultation on the Social Behaviour Strategy and the Anti-social Behaviour Awareness Day planned for February. Should people wish to visit this event they need to inform the Unit in advance.

He outlined that current hotspots were Dyke House and Gray Street and the Unit was working with the Neighbourhood Police to tackle anti-social behaviour from private properties in the area with the assistance with landlords.

#### **8. UPDATE FROM CRIME AND DISORDER CO-ORDINATOR**

The Community Safety Project Officer outlined initiatives which were ongoing in relation to Operation Cleansweep which had taken place in King Oswy, Miers Avenue and Dyke House. Organised crime groups in the town were being targeted. A further priority was 'Prevent' agenda in relation to protection from violent extremism. The meeting was assured that CCTV provision in the town was a priority. The annual review of crime and disorder known as the Strategic Assessment was currently taking place. Hartlepool's Specialist Domestic Violence court had been launched by the Mayor in May. The Team had won the Excellent Partnership Working Award 2010 at the Celebrating success awards.

## 8. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

**West View Cemetery** – A resident highlighted problems with young people drinking in the cemetery. The Inspector agreed to be extra vigilant in that area.

**Headland Cemetery/Spion Kop** – A resident highlighted that although the Authority had successfully blocked access to the Steetley site, drivers of four wheel vehicles were accessing the beach via other areas. He was informed that the Neighbourhood Services Officer was aware of this problem and was therefore extremely vigilant in that area.

**Dog Banning Orders** – A resident highlighted a petition which was ongoing against the banning of dogs on the beach. He was informed that the Order had been put in place as a result of protection of the Site of Special Scientific Interest.

**CCTV cameras** - A Resident Representative expressed concern that CCTV cameras were not utilised as much as they could be and cited examples of graffiti which could have been stopped had liaison taken place with CCTV operators. Inspector Brown stated that PCSOs were present in the CCTV operating station to assist in directing cameras to appropriate sites. A Member commented that all cemeteries should have CCTV cameras and Inspector Brown confirmed that mobile cameras could also be used if necessary.

**Coast Road playing field** – A Member highlighted that youths were leaving litter after drinking from cans and bottles on the field. The Neighbourhood Manager agreed to have a bin placed in this location and Inspector Brown said that officers would attend the area to encourage the young people to use the bin.

**Congestion outside St Hild's School** – Several Members expressed concern about the congestion at school pick up and dropping off times. Various suggestions were made as to how to alleviate this including an idea used in Perth. Members agreed to raise this solution at the Neighbourhood Action Plan meeting. It was clarified that the plan for the new Jesmond Road school included a road to drop off children.

The meeting concluded at 11.54 am.

CHAIR

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

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

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## **1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To inform the Forum that the Core Strategy Preferred Options consultation will take place between the 29<sup>th</sup> November 2010 and the 11<sup>th</sup> February 2011.

## **2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 The Core Strategy is the strategic planning document which sets out how the town will be developed over the next 15 years. The process for developing the Core Strategy involves a number of stages starting with the identification of a range of Issues and Options following which the Council identifies its Preferred Options policies. Once these are agreed a 'final' Publication document is sent to the Government for consideration, and a Public Inquiry is held before the document is finally adopted by the Council. Each stage of the process involves extensive public consultation lasting for a period of 8 weeks.
- 2.2 Earlier this year, consultation took place on the Core Strategy Preferred Options document, and a report was presented to this Forum outlining the consultation process, highlighting the key issues affecting the area and inviting groups and individuals to submit comments. The consultation exercise generated over 450 responses and over the past few months these have been reviewed by Officers. A detailed summary of all responses received, and the Council's response to them, is set out in a Consultation Statement which is on the Council's website.
- 2.3 In addition there has been a change in Government at national level and the new Government has announced a number of planning policy changes. The most significant change is the intention to abolish the regional tier of planning, the Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS), which included certain policies which local Core Strategies had to comply with such as annual housing targets and employment land allocations. As a result of these changes and the consultation feedback, the Council's Cabinet has decided to revise certain aspects of the Core Strategy Preferred Options and to re-consult on this document.



### 3. PROPOSALS

3.1 Most of the Preferred Options included in the previous document are included in the revised document although there have been modifications to some of the policies. A major change has been the reduction in the planned number of new houses by 1,225 over the Plan period, reflecting peoples concerns in Hartlepool that too many are being planned for, and following further analysis of housing growth projections.

3.2 The Preferred Options include:

- A south western extension and western expansion to the town with a new road access off the A689. The scale of this has been reduced by 350 dwellings to take account of the scaling back in overall numbers.
- Small expansions at Wynyard Woods and Tunstall Farm for executive housing plus additional small sites on part of Wynyard Business Park.
- A scaling back of the site at Quarry Farm from 300 to approximately 30 – 50 executive homes.
- The inclusion in the Core Strategy of policies relating to Affordable Housing which were previously intended to be included in a separate policy document.
- A Housing Market Renewal policy to help ensure that housing in the central areas of the town which are in most need of investment are targeted.
- A small extension to the town centre boundary to include the Mill House leisure centre.
- Wynyard Business Park (apart from the small housing sites mentioned above and the potential new hospital) is retained as a Prestige Employment site; Queens Meadow and North Bum are Higher Quality Employment Sites, and; Oakesway is retained as General Employment Land, whilst the Southern Business Zone includes General Employment Land, some specialist industries eg chemicals and a proposed Eco-Industries Zone including environmental waste management.
- Victoria Harbour is allocated for port-related uses.
- A site is earmarked for a potential replacement nuclear power station adjacent to the existing one.
- New policies are included in relation to the historic environment including protection of Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas.
- New green wedges are proposed within the south west extension and Golden Flatts, and the Middle Warren green wedge is proposed for future extension through the hospital site and around Oakesway.

### 4 NEXT STEPS

4.1 This amended Preferred Options Document is available for public consultation between Monday 29<sup>th</sup> November 2010 and Friday 11<sup>th</sup> February

2011. It can be viewed at the Civic Centre, local libraries and on the Council's website <http://planningpolicy.hartlepool.gov.uk>. Letters are also being sent to all households in the Borough informing them of the consultation process and how to get involved. A number of public consultation events and meetings will be held throughout this period where Planning Officers will be in attendance, to receive views on the direction and content of the revised Preferred Options Document.

## **5. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 5.1 That the report is 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 11th February 2011.

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

**Subject:** APPLICATION FOR FUNDING TO INSTALL  
SECURITY FENCING AT CHESTER ROAD  
ALLOTMENTS.

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## **1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To inform the Forum of a grant application for security fencing for Chester Road Allotments and to request match funding to support this application.

## **2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 Hartlepool Borough Council has decided that its annual capital budget will include an allocation to implement community safety projects, which are associated with and contribute to Safer Hartlepool Partnership's strategy covering crime, disorder and drugs.

The Safer Hartlepool strategy covers a 3 year period, with annual priorities agreed. Those annual priorities for the year 2010/11 are:

1. Drug dealing and supply.
  2. Violent crime, including domestic abuse.
  3. Acquisitive crime.
  4. Criminal damage and anti-social behaviour, including deliberate fire setting.
  5. Preventing and reducing offending, re-offending and the risk of offending.
  6. Alcohol treatment
  7. Reassurance and Community engagement
- 2.2 Chester Road Allotments are based within the North Neighbourhood area. These allotments have experienced long-term, on-going issues including a high occurrence of break-ins, regular flytipping and cable burning, cruelty to animals (which includes an arson attack) vandalism and the use of disused buildings for anti-social behaviour. As a result of this activity, not only have many plots become abandoned and only usable following extensive clearance of flytipped waste and contaminates, but plot holders have expressed that they feel increasingly vulnerable and at risk.
- 2.3 In response to the concerns of the allotment holders, the police instigated the setting up of a North Area Allotment meeting, which meets monthly and where the allotment holders can express their concerns to the police, local authority and community safety representatives. Feedback is given in terms of crime figures and actions to tackle this. As a result, a number of initiatives have been delivered in this area, including the use of SMART water, alarmed locks

and engaging the trust of plot holders in the identification of flytippers and the reporting of crime.

- 2.4 A security audit of the site was carried out in October 2010 by representatives from the police, community safety and HBC and a number of priorities established. The replacement of the damaged fencing to the rear of the site was established as the highest priority, as this was felt to be the prime area of weakness with regards to security, as it runs along a secluded pathway next to Grayfields. This seclusion is being exploited, with unauthorised access being gained through broken fencing, leading to anti-social behaviour and crime in the allotments.
- 2.5 The project is key to improving the site security at Chester Road and to preventing further abuse of the allotment plots. This will also impact on the long term viability of this allotment site. By securing the site, not only will more plots be able to be returned to use, but plot holders will gain a much enhanced feeling of well being and safety, and are more likely to remain to cultivate the site as is intended. A plot on this site has already been set aside to be used in the near future, by the newly built Jesmond Road school. It is hoped that through the delivery of the aims of the Allotment Strategy, by attracting new allotment holders, and by undertaking much needed improvements, that this site may be 're-energised' and that the benefits maximised, not only for the allotment community, but also for the wider community.

### 3. PROPOSALS

- 3.1 It is proposed that funding is sought to undertake the replacement of the rear fencing at Chester Road Allotments
- 3.2 The proposed fencing will be matched to that being used at the new Jesmond Road School, not only will this improve the appearance but also extends and improves the overall security of both the school and the allotments.
- 3.3 A funding application has been made for Section 17 capital funding to replace the fencing in order to improve the security of the site. A requirement of the funding is that a minimum of 35% of the costs must be matched from other sources.

The total cost of the fencing is £37,000, therefore £13,000 in match funding is needed to support this project application. Hartlepool Borough Council Waste and Environmental Management Section, who manage the allotment service have agreed to provide £7k of the funding, therefore a further £6k is required.

- 3.4 It is requested that the North Neighbourhood Consultative forum consider supporting this application and agree to the allocation of £5k from the Minor Works Budget as part of the required match funding.

**4. NEXT STEPS**

- 4.1 The application has been submitted to the Section 17 grants panel and will be assessed, a decision is expected on the success of this application in early January 2011.

**5. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 5.1.1 That the report is noted and that the forum agree to support the application and the allocation of £5k from the north area Minor Works Budget.