

CENTRAL NEIGHBOURHOOD CONSULTATIVE FORUM AGENDA



Thursday, 17 February 2011

at 2.00 pm

in the Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Hartlepool

MEMBERS: CENTRAL NEIGHBOURHOOD CONSULTATIVE FORUM:

Councillors Aiken, S Akers-Belcher, Brash, Cranney, Hall, Ingham, Laffey, Lauderdale, London, Maness, Morris, Payne, Richardson, Shaw, Simmons, Sutheran, H Thompson, Wells and Worthy

Resident Representatives: Robert Farrow, Peter Goodier, Ted Jackson, Evelyn Leck, Brenda Loynes, Steven Mailen, Brian McBean, Norma Morrish, Julie Rudge and Hilda Wales

- 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 Central Neighbourhood Consultative Forum meeting held on 16 December 2010
 - 4.2 Matters arising
 - 4.3 To receive the minutes of the Central Area Police and Community Safety Consultative Forum held on 13 January 2011

5. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME / WARD ISSUES FROM WARD MEMBERS AND RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVES

6. ITEMS FOR CONSULTATION

- 6.1 Hartlepool Borough Council Draft Local Transport Plan 3 – *Assistant Director (Transportation and Engineering)*

7. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION and/or INFORMATION

No items

8. ITEMS FOR DECISION

- 8.1 Central Neighbourhood Forum Minor Works Proposals February 2011 - *Neighbourhood Manager (Central)*

9. DATE, TIME AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Central Police and Community Safety Consultative Forum will take place on Thursday 17 March 2011 in the Council Chamber commencing at 2.00 pm.

The next meeting of the Central Neighbourhood Consultative Forum will take place on Thursday 7 April 2011 in the Council Chamber commencing at 10.00 am

WARDS

Burn Valley
Elwick
Foggy Furze
Grange
Park
Rift House
Stranton

***CENTRAL NEIGHBOURHOOD
CONSULTATIVE FORUM***

16 December 2010

MINUTES OF THE MEETING



The meeting commenced at 10.00 a.m. in the Civic Centre, Hartlepool

PRESENT:

Chair: Councillor Kevin Cranney - Foggy Furze Ward

Vice-Chair: Evelyn Leck (Resident Representative)

Councillor Jonathan Brash	- Burn Valley Ward
Councillor Gerald Hall	- Burn Valley Ward
Councillor John Lauderdale	- Burn Valley Ward
Councillor Frances London	- Foggy Furze Ward
Councillor Sarah Maness	- Grange Ward
Councillor Carl Richardson	- Grange Ward
Councillor Jane Shaw	- Stranton Ward
Councillor Chris Simmons	- Grange Ward
Councillor Hilary Thompson	- Elwick Ward
Councillor Ray Wells	- Park Ward

Resident Representatives: Bob Farrow, Brenda Loynes, Steven Mailen, Norma Morrish, and Julie Rudge

Public: Fred Corbett, Mary Diver, Gordon Johnson, Gordon Johnson, Jean Kennedy, J Patrick, M Spensly, D Spensly, Ray Waller

Council Officers:

- Clare Clark, Neighbourhood Manager
- Jon Wright, Neighbourhood Co-ordinating Manager
- Irene Cross, Neighbourhood Development Officer
- Kate Ainger, Pride in Hartlepool Officer
- Jo Taylor, School Environment Action Officer
- Nomusa Martindale, Planning Information Officer
- Matthew King, Principal Planning Officer

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- Sarah Bird, Democratic Services Officer

Police Representatives: Supt Glenn Gudgeon, Inspector Carl Broughton, Sgt Dave Halliday

Fire Brigade Representative: Peter Bradley

Housing Hartlepool Representative: Lynn McPartlin

31. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Laffey, Morris and Worthy and resident representative Hilda Wales. Mark Rycroft of the Middleton Grange Shopping Centre also submitted apologies.

32. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

33. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 21 OCTOBER 2010

These were confirmed as an accurate account with the addition of resident representatives Julie Rudge being in attendance and Evelyn Leck submitting her apologies. Item 24 – Elwick – Resurfacing – This should relate from the Windmill Public house to Dalton Piercy and not to Falcon Road.

33. MATTERS ARISING

Trees In Waldon Street – Jean Kennedy again expressed concern with landscaping around the One Life Centre, the siting of a security camera in the area and windows overlooking neighbouring properties. Ray Waller pointed out that health mature trees had been replaced with saplings and expressed the view that mature trees should be retained in urban areas.

Value of Neighbourhood Forums – The Chair commented that although there had been a review of the value of the Forums he considered that the continued excellent attendance at the Central Forum proved the worth of the meetings and that residents took a pride in the communities.

Elliott Street – Resident Representative Julie Rudge reported that the issue of leaking from the flat was still unresolved. The Neighbourhood Co-ordinating Manager said that this issue was being dealt with.

Co-operative Building – Ray McAndrew had asked the issue of the unsatisfactory pointing of this building to be raised. It was felt by a number of people in attendance that this should be followed up by Officers as it is a listed building. The Chair agreed to respond to Mr McAndrew

Middleton Grange Shopping Centre – Due to the Manager being unable to attend because of pressure of work, this item was not discussed. The Chair agreed to write to Mr Rycroft to express disappointment at his non attendance.

34. NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING

Superintendent Glen Gudgeon attended the meeting to answer concerns raised about Officers being removed from neighbourhood policing to police the Middleton Grange Shopping Centre in the run up to the Christmas period.

He explained that there were to be cuts in the Police budget of 22%. Police Staff had been outsourced but additional savings had to be made. These included a ban on overtime. At present, neighbourhood police dealt with 7% of arrests, each taking 2 – 3 days of an officer's time to deal with. The main issues facing Hartlepool are the night time economy and retail crime. Measures had been put in place to deal with the night time economy including the formation of a specialised team, taxi marshalling and action plans for licensed premises. Plans to reduce retail crime included assisting stores in how to police themselves. Neighbourhood Policing

Officers were devoting 3% of their time to assisting retail stores. The ultimate aim was to get retail crime down to no more than 1 crime a day which would significantly reduce the time officers were currently spending on processing offenders. Superintendent Gudgeon highlighted that much of crime in the shopping centre was not committed by residents of the Central Area but these individuals were now banned from the shopping centre. Seven prolific criminals had been identified and were subject to 'Operation Shadow'. Superintendent Gudgeon said that the last three months had shown the lowest crime figures in Hartlepool.

Meetings with Officers – Resident Representative Bob Farrow thanked Supt Gudgeon on enlightening him on the thinking behind removing officers from neighbourhoods, adding that he appreciated the work done by Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) in his neighbourhood. He however expressed concern that he had a pre-arranged meeting with officers in York Road but no one had been available to speak to him. Supt Gudgeon apologised and said that this would be followed up.

Security in Middleton Grange Shopping Centre – Resident Representative Evelyn Leck said it appeared that the police were paying for the Shopping Centre security. She identified an area in Villiers Street where criminals were discarding items stolen in the shopping centre. Supt Gudgeon responded saying that work had been carried out with a number of stores, not just in the shopping centre, to give staff guidance on the prevention of retail crime. Councillor Brash commented that it still appeared that the public sector were subsidising the private sector and Councillor Richardson suggested that the shopping centre should be charged for the extra security it was receiving.

Resident Representative Norma Morrish suggested that neighbourhoods would suffer higher rates of burglaries because officers were deployed elsewhere. She confirmed that many offences were committed by people not resident in that area. Supt Gudgeon maintained that the number of neighbourhood officers would be maintained despite cuts in the budget.

Early Retirement – Resident Representative Evelyn Leck asked whether this was an option for officers and was informed that Cleveland had some of the lowest figures in relation to ill health retirement.

Security Alert – Resident Fred Corbett commented that a recent security alert had not been handled well.

Licensing - Resident Fred Corbett said that he felt that stricter council control of licensing premises should be enforced. Members confirmed that measures were being discussed to cut back on licensing opening hours. Supt Gudgeon re-iterated the increased number of officers on the licensing team.

The Chair thanked Supt Gudgeon for attending the meeting and opening the lines of communication with residents.

<p>35. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE POLICE AND COMMUNITY SAFETY CONSULTATIVE FORUM</p>
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The minutes were received by the forum. The Chair commented that he was disgusted with the situation whereby the Fire Service had received budget cuts of 28.9%.

36. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME AND WARD ISSUES

Grange

Eltringham Road – Mr Spensley said that he supported the planting of trees to enhance the Conservation Area. The Neighbourhood Development Officer was working with residents on this issue.

St Paul's Road – Councillor Richardson highlighted issues with flooding because of leaves blocking drains. He also suggested that this area be a designated 20 mph zone as it was used as a rat run.

Park

Dunston Road – Mr Waller asked whether there was a date highlighted for work planned in Dunston Road and was informed that this would be done before the end of the financial year.

The Grove – Mr Waller highlighted that this road was used as a rat turn by those attempting to dodge queues in Wooler Road. The Chair agreed to pass this comment on to the Highways, Traffic and Transportation Manager and this would be fed into the Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Forum 20s Plenty Investigation.

Ward Jackson Park – Mr Waller highlighted that a number of trees were being felled and rose bushes had been removed. The Chair agreed to find out why this was taking place.

Rift House

Authority Sickness – Mr Corbett suggested tighter control of staff sickness in order to save cash and was informed that the Authority already had in place a Health and Wellbeing Officer and mental health support was available for staff. He also queried whether the Authority had an

independent drug and alcohol monitoring policy. Councillor Richardson highlighted that the Authority employed 4000 people and that yearly figures were decreasing.

Boswell Grove – Mr Corbett expressed concern that grass collection boxes were not used on grass-cutters in close proximity to his home as the residual cuttings ended up in people's homes. The Neighbourhood Co-ordinating Manager agreed to look into the cost of tarmacing the area.

Oxford Road Junction – Mr Corbett complained that this was a dangerous junction. His concerns would be passed to the Highways, Traffic and Transportation Manager.

Burn Valley

A number of issues were raised on behalf of Ray McAndrew:-

- Why have pot holes in the west end of Park Road been repaired and not those at the east end?
- There is a problem with dog fouling in Eltringham Road
- A number of windows have been replaced in the Grange Conservation area not in line with the conservation policy.

Middleton Grange Shopping Centre – Mrs Kennedy expressed concern that a brick was missing from the wall leading to the shopping centre. This would be passed to the Shopping Centre Manager to deal with.

Drainage issues – Councillor Shaw highlighted that drainage problems in bad weather could occur if verges were tarmaced rather than grassed.

Underground Car Park - Councillor Shaw highlighted poor lighting in the underground car park in the shopping

centre. This concern was currently being addressed by the Town Centre Manager and the Authority's Public Lighting Manager.

Pavements – Councillor Shaw advised people to be careful as many pavements were damaged and could not be repaired until the weather was better.

Community Spirit – Councillor Shaw said that as well as receiving on assistance from the Local Authority and Housing Hartlepool, members of the community should help each other out in periods of inclement weather.

York Road – Julie Rudge highlighted a pavement flooding near to the bus stop and asked that this be repaired weather permitting.

Hucklehoven Way – Norma Morrish asked about the possibility of traffic calming as there was nothing to protect pedestrians from traffic.

Electoral Review – Norma Morrish asked why the Headland was to be merged with Stranton and was informed that no decision had yet been made and the Boundary Commission were still open to suggestions.

Burn Valley

Gritting – Evelyn Leck highlighted that the area around the Burn Valley roundabout had not been gritted sufficiently and was icy. Councillor Hall also expressed concern about lack of gritting around elderly peoples' complex.

York Road – Mrs Leck highlighted flooding in the St George's Church area.

York Road – Mrs Leck highlighted loose paving stones outside Lloyds Bank and asked that these be repaired.

Burn Valley Sewerage – Mrs Leck stated that any sewerage was the responsibility of the Authority and should be removed within 24 hours.

Bin Collections – Mrs Leck highlighted problems with residents being unable to put their refuse out for collection as areas had not been gritted.

Dog Fouling – Councillor Hall stated that there were problems in the rear streets in Colenso Street and Rydal Street and asked whether CCTV cameras were working in those locations.

Blakelock Road Crossing – Councillor Hall expressed concern at the location of this crossing as it caused drivers to perform unsafe manoeuvres.

Baden Street – Lights on the crossing were obscured by trees.

Elwick

Batts, Dalton Piercy – Steve Mailen asked that consideration be given to the planting of trees in this area.

Resurfacing on Dalton Road – Councillor Thompson expressed concern that despite funding being allocated this still had not been undertaken.

Road Clearance – Councillor Thompson thanked officers for their assistance in clearing the area around the old people's complex.

Traffic Calming Signs – Councillor Thompson thanked officers for the installation of these signs in Newton Bewley.

Foggy Furze

Flooding – Bob Farrow highlighted problems with flooding in Borrowdale Street and Kathleen Street.

Studley Road – Bob Farrow asked that trees around the lights be trimmed.

Grit Bins – Brenda Loynes asked that consideration be given to ordering more grit bins for the Authority. She said that one was needed in Mountston Close.

Oxford Road Bus Shelter – Councillor London asked that the timetable be replaced here. She was informed that this was already in hand and there were two new shelters on order.

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

The Planning Information Officer informed the meeting that this was the second consultation in relation to the Preferred Options document. The consultation runs between 29 November and 11 February and the document could be viewed at the Civic Centre, local libraries and on the Hartlepool Borough Council website <http://planningpolicy.hartlepool.gov.uk>.

Letters had also been sent to all households in the Borough informing them of the consultation process and how to get involved as well as a number of public events and meetings being held.

Mr Waller asked that the future policy took heed of the views of residents and referred to objections from residents on the Tunstall Farm development.

38. PRESENTATION ON THE BIG TIDY UP CAMPAIGN

The Pride in Hartlepool Officer informed the meeting of a number of initiatives which the Authority had undertaken in

support of the Big Tidy Up campaign. Resources for this had been provided free of charge by Keep Britain Tidy.

Many of those present expressed support for this campaign.

38. PRESENTATION ENVIRONMENTAL INITIATIVE SCHOOLS ACTION

The School Environmental Action Officer presented a DVD video to the forum showing the work that had been undertaken with schools in the town. The DVD had formed part of a showcase of environmental action work that had been part of a presentation at the Tall Ships event. The DVD had also sent to schools around the town.

The meeting concluded at 12.38 pm.

CHAIR

ISSUES RAISED AT CENTRAL NEIGHBOURHOOD CONSULTATIVE FORUM DECEMBER 2010

GRANGE WARD

Eltringham Road – (Mr and Mrs Spensley, Clifton Avenue) tree planting to enhance conservation area –

A meeting has been arranged with residents of the Clifton Avenue area – this will provide the opportunity for this request and other issues to be discussed.

Pot holes –why filled in those at top of Park Road and not bottom

All actionable defects have been made safe. Highways will endeavour to carry out full patching repairs in the next financial year. In the meantime routine inspections will be carried out and any actionable defects made safe.

Dog fouling in Eltringham Road

This issue has been passed onto the Environmental Enforcement Officers to patrol.

Windows in Grange Conservation Area – not conforming to conservation policy

Where the Conservation Officers are aware of windows being installed that do not conform to the agreed conservation policies for windows they would look to take enforcement action. If any individual is aware of properties where they have concerns that they do not conform to standards this can be raised directly with the conservation officer Sarah Scarr or with the Neighbourhood Manager who will pass on details to the planning enforcement team.

BURN VALLEY WARD

Co-op Building – Ray McAndrew still concerned about unsatisfactory pointing. Chair to respond to him.

As reported to the Forum in the past there is a lack of highly skilled people in the building trade. There has been a long term decline in training in the building trade so there are now shortages of stonemasons, blacksmiths, joiners and bricklayers who are capable of working to the very high standards demanded by heritage buildings. The reasons for this are complex from a reduction in the number of building firms and their size (down to sole traders in some cases) all of which discourage firms to spend their resources on training. Some firms simply do not have the resources. There is also not the demand for standard of workmanship, arising from the general extremely low standard of building design and detailing demanded by clients, architects and the general expectation of what a building should do and how it appears. On joinery for example, with the wide spread adoption of pvc windows and doors (questionable on environmental grounds) there has been no training of replacement joiners so those that are still left are of a certain age. There are very few young joiners. There are attempts to address this recently in the Heritage Skills Initiative (as there was a recognition that in a short time the skills would be gone as the last practitioners retired) which has been running for 5 years or so to increase training available and up skill some of those in the building industry. HBC Conservation Officer has been involved in this recognising for a long time that the role of a Conservation Officer is impossible without the skilled individuals out there. The Conversation Officer recognises that whilst the Forum might be reluctant to accept this it is nonetheless regrettably the current position.

On the enforcement side this is an issue for Planning Committee to consider and the priority given to the protection of listed buildings and building in conservation areas. Very generally two routes would be possible through enforcement. This would be to either take action for 'breach of condition', or to serve a section 215 notice. Either way HBC Planners report that a successful action would be very difficult to sustain. The position in relation to the Co-op Building is also further complicated by the fact that the property developers are now in receivership.

Gritting – Evelyn Leck highlighted that the area around the Burn Valley roundabout had not been gritted sufficiently and was icy. Councillor Hall also expressed concern about lack of gritting around elderly peoples' complex.

Many areas were identified for manual gritting during the recent arctic weather conditions. Priority lists have now been drawn up to address the concerns that have been raised around elderly peoples complexes.

Burn Valley Sewerage – Mrs Leck stated that any sewerage was the responsibility of the Authority and should be removed within 24 hours.

All vegetation that is removed from the lower part of the beck is placed on the bank side. It is done this way to allow the vegetation to dry out and to allow anything living in it to return to its natural environment. The vegetation is then removed.

Bin Collections – Mrs Leck highlighted problems with residents being unable to put their refuse out for collection as areas had not been gritted.

Many areas were identified for manual gritting when we endured the recent arctic weather conditions, priority lists have now been drawn up to address the concerns that had been raised.

Dog Fouling – Councillor Hall stated that there were problems in the rear streets in Colenso Street and Rydal Street and asked whether CCTV cameras were working in those locations.

This area has had increased patrols when possible. There also a camera positioned in this back street and at least 8 FPNs have been issued. HBC Environmental Enforcement Teams continue to monitor the area and a letter will be distributed across this area in the near future raising awareness of the negative impact on the community, and warning local residents of enforcement activity in relation to littering, fly tipping and dog fouling.

Blakelock Road Crossing – Councillor Hall expressed concern at the location of this crossing as it caused drivers to perform unsafe manoeuvres.

The crossing is currently under review, to look again at the possibility of moving it further away from the junction, thus allowing the left turn into Blakelock Gardens to be maintained. Consultation to take place with affected properties.

Baden Street – Lights on the crossing were obscured by trees.

In the short term the trees will be cut back to address this issue. The street lighting engineer is also investigating repositioning of the lighting column to provide a permanent solution to the problem.

STRANTON WARD

Middleton Grange Shopping Centre – brick missing at Park Road entrance

This issue has been passed onto the Middleton Grange shopping centre management team

St Paul's Road – Cllr Richardson re leaves blocking drains causing flooding.

The gullies at this location have been jetted. However there is a problem with the gully leads and this requires a complete extensive drainage scheme to be carried out. Unfortunately HBC Highways report that they currently have no plans to undertake these works.

York Road – Julie Rudge highlighted a pavement flooding near to the bus stop and asked that this be repaired weather permitting

Highways are aware of this problem. Further investigations have been carried out and an order now raised to rectify the problem.

York Road – Mrs Leck highlighted flooding in the St George's Church area.

This area will be inspected when we have the next heavy rainfall.

York Road – Mrs Leck highlighted loose paving stones outside Lloyds Bank and asked that these be repaired

An order has been raised for the repairs to be carried. York Road is also inspected each and every calendar month with repairs being carried out appropriately.

Hucklehoven Way – Norma Morrish asked about the possibility of traffic calming as there was nothing to protect pedestrians from traffic.

This has been added to the list of speed surveys due to take place. If there are any other specific locations that residents feel are a particular problem then this information should be passed on Peter Frost HBC Traffic Manager of the Neighbourhood Manager would be useful.

PARK WARD**The Grove – used as rat run to avoid Wooler Road queues – Chair to pass comments onto Mike Blair. Democratic Services passed comments on to Scrutiny Officer 4.1.11.**

HBCs Traffic Section informs that although not aware of major queues on Wooler Road they do not see how using The Grove would avoid queues. Although recognised that at times, southbound traffic can back up from the lights at the top of Park Road, cutting through The Grove from Grange Road would not bypass these. Neither is there evidence of northbound traffic queuing back from the roundabout, certainly not approaching the junction of The Grove/ Wooler Road, which is the point where people would turn off and use The Grove.

Ward Jackson Park – Ray Waller wondering why trees being felled and rose bushes removed.

HBC Arboriculture team inform that the work to the trees is normal work carried out to allow for the tree cover to continue in the future and will include re-planting. The roses are reaching the end of their lives and are being replaced with other planting. These particular roses are of an age where they are looking tatty and carrying rose disease. If replanted in the same soil with new roses they would quickly contract the disease. Consequently old rose beds are replanted with new plants that are not of the rose family.

ELWICK WARD**Batts, Dalton Piercy – Steve Mailen asked that consideration be given to the planting of trees in this area.**

This scheme will be considered by the Forum in February.

Resurfacing on Dalton Road – Councillor Thompson expressed concern that despite funding being allocated this still had not been undertaken.

Unfortunately this scheme was taken off and replaced by other areas given a higher priority due to road surface conditions. However HBCs Highways Section are currently compiling the 5 year resurfacing programme, and resurfacing of Dalton Road considered for inclusion.

RIFT HOUSE WARD

Boswell Grove – Fred Corbett complained grass cuttings ending up in people's homes

There are no teams within the Council that specifically deal with removal of grass cuttings from footways. However, when we receive calls from the public about particularly bad areas we will respond if possible by sending a member of staff out with a hand blower. All footways are swept weekly which should also assist. The cycle of grass cutting is every 10 – 14 days and commences next month. We do ask that residents are patient for the first cut or two as this generally is the worst.

Oxford Road Junction – Fred Corbett complained that this is very dangerous – concerns to be passed on to Mike Blair.

Work at this junction commenced on 17 January. The scheme involves carriageway widening and the installation of traffic signals with full pedestrian facilities.

FOGGY FURZE WARD

Flooding – Bob Farrow highlighted problems with flooding in Borrowdale Street and Kathleen Street.

This area will be inspected when we have the next heavy rainfall.

Studley Road – Bob Farrow asked that trees around the lights be trimmed.

This request has been passed to Len Young to allow him to program the works.

WARDS

Burn Valley
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Foggy Furze
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Park
Rift House
Stranton

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

13 January 2011

MINUTES OF THE MEETING



The meeting commenced at 10.00 a.m. in the Belle Vue Community Sports and Youth Centre, Kendal Road, Hartlepool

PRESENT:

Chair: Councillor Kevin Cranney - Foggy Furze

Vice-Chair: Resident Representative Evelyn Leck

Councillor Gerard Hall	- Burn Valley Ward
Councillor Pauline Laffey	- Park Ward
Councillor Sarah Maness	- Grange Ward
Councillor Carl Richardson	- Grange Ward
Councillor Ray Wells	- Park Ward

Resident Representatives: Bob Farrow, Ted Jackson, Julie Rudge and Hilda Wales

Residents: Fred Corbett, C W Hopkins, Gordon & Stella Johnson and Ray Waller

Council Officers:

- Clare Clark, Neighbourhood Manager
- Brian Neale, Community Safety Manager
- Irene Cross, Neighbourhood Development Officer (Central)
- Carl Gatenby, Police Anti Social Behaviour Officer
- Julie Hetherington, Community Safety Assistant
- Peter Gouldsbro, Community Safety Officer
- Jo Wilson, Democratic Services Officer

Police Representatives: Sgt Dave Halliday, PCSO Graeme Handley

Fire Brigade Representative: Peter Bradley

18. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were submitted by Councillors Frances London, George Morris, Robbie Payne, Chris Simmons and Gladys Worthy and Resident Representatives

Brenda Loynes, Steve Mailen and Noma Morrish

**19. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD
ON 11 NOVEMBER 2010**

Confirmed as a true record

20. MATTERS ARISING

None

21. UPDATE FROM THE POLICE

Sergeant Dave Halliday referred to a number of concerns which had been highlighted by residents in recent months as follows:

Visual Audits - Sergeant Halliday indicated that Chief Inspector Lynn Beeston had instructed that these would only be held in areas where they were felt to be of value. In the case of the Central area this meant the Foggy Furze visual audits would remain in place however the York Road meetings would be scrapped. Sergeant Halliday emphasised that officers were carrying out visual audits every time they left the office.

Policing in Middleton Grange Shopping Centre – Concerns had previously been raised at the high numbers of PCSOs being taken from their neighbourhood policing duties to police Middleton Grange Shopping Centre. Sergeant Halliday confirmed that this was still taking place and would continue until 31st March, although in a scaled down form from mid-February. The original intent had been to educate the existing security at the Shopping Centre, however the opposite effect had taken place and the PCSOs tended to take the place of the existing security. This was a concern that the District Commander was aware of. Abstraction statistics of 2.7% had previously been quoted however this did not take into account the fact that only officers in the central area were being taken away from their regular duties with officers from the north and south unaffected. Sergeant Halliday estimated an abstraction rate of 15%, saying he had lost 2 PCSOs permanently to this initiative. He acknowledged that the 2

operations (respect and shadow) had been successful but at a cost to neighbourhood policing. Shops in the Shopping Centre were being protected while smaller shops in the communities were being left vulnerable. Councillor Richardson felt that the police should be charging Middleton Grange for their services and would raise this as a suggestion at the next meeting of the Police Authority of which he was a member. Resident Representative Evelyn Leck referred to the abstraction figures previously given by District Commander Glen Gudgeon which were now being disputed. She suggested that the District Commander be invited to a future meeting of the forum to respond to these criticisms. Sergeant Halliday confirmed that he had raised concerns regarding officers being overstretched and potential crime displacement when the operation was first launched but had been told he was being negative. Councillor Pauline Laffey understood that the police had difficult decisions to make but the Shopping Centre was closed at night whereas people lived in their neighbourhoods 24/7. Resident Ray Waller moved that the Council's Police Authority representatives be asked to take this matter up particularly the unfair distribution of the work solely onto central PCSOs. Councillor Carl Richardson was in agreement but highlighted that the council did not control the police and if this was an operational matter there was little they could do about it. Councillor Ray Wells referred to a meeting he had attended with the District Commander and the robust argument which had been given in support of the initiative. If an arrest was made 2 officers could be off the streets for up to 3 days dealing with the aftermath. This was a preventative measure to keep officers on the beat. Sergeant Halliday acknowledged this but said his role as Sergeant of Neighbourhood Policing was to ensure people felt safe in their communities. The

Assistant Chief Constable was due to attend an open forum in Hartlepool on neighbourhood policing in February and Sergeant Halliday would feed back all the concerns raised here.

Sergeant Halliday then gave an overview for performance for December force wide and specific to Hartlepool. Instances of crime had fallen in all categories leading to a drop in total crime of over 20% for Cleveland and over 19% for Hartlepool. Details of performance in the Central area in relation to arrests, detections and incidents were given along with feedback on concerns previously raised by residents in relation to Dent Street, Baden Street and Hereford Street. A number of good news stories were highlighted.

Resident Representative Julie Rudge praised officers for their excellent work in combating drug crime

Resident Fred Corbett referred to plans to install CCTV at Stranton Cemetery saying a balance needed to be struck between spending money on CCTV and utilising PCSOs more. He also felt that the retention of personal data by Cleveland Police made people less inclined to report crime.

The Chair thanked Sergeant Halliday for attending the meeting and answering questions.

22. UPDATE FROM THE FIRE BRIGADE

Peter Bradley from Cleveland Fire Brigade gave an update on the number of fires which had occurred in the Central area between October and December 2010. Comparison figures with the same period 2009/10 showed no increase in any category of fire, with all remaining static or decreasing. There had been a drop in the number of home fire safety

visits but this was thought to be due to the inclement weather.

Mr Bradley also discussed various diversionary activities including the Rifty on Friday evenings. The Multi Use Games Area (MUGA) owned by the fire service had recently been deployed at the Thornton Street car park, leading to a 60% reduction in secondary fires and a 6.9% reduction in anti-social behaviour. The MUGA would be taken to different locations throughout the summer.

Resident Ray Waller asked what priority would be given to diversionary activities in the forthcoming budget cuts. The Neighbourhood Manager advised that funding for the Rifty, which came through the local Neighbourhood Action Plan and Central Joint Action Group, would disappear by the end of the year. The Council would support the administrators in their efforts to find alternative sources of funding. Given the huge success of the project they were felt to be in a strong position to apply for additional funding.

Mr Bradley also referred to visual audits saying he made every effort to get to as many as possible but could not attend them all.

The Chair thanked the Cleveland Fire Brigade Representative for attending the meeting.

23. UPDATE FROM THE ANTISOCIAL BEHAVIOUR UNIT

The Police Anti-Social Behaviour Officer gave details of a number of initiatives which had been carried out by the Anti-Social Behaviour Unit recently. These included resident focus groups as part of the development of a new social behaviour strategy and a leaflet drop in the Dent Street area. The Unit had been heavily involved in the public multi-

agency meeting to tackle anti-social behaviour in the Linear Park area, resulting in the placing of 15 young people on Acceptable Behaviour Agreements and a dramatic decrease in complaints from local residents. Anti-social behaviour orders had also been obtained for disorder in the Baden Street area. There had been no further information regarding the possible scrapping of anti-social behaviour orders and they would therefore continue to be used.

Linear Park – Resident Ray Waller referred to the noise and disturbance caused by children and young people using this area at night. He highlighted the lack of suitable play facilities nearby and asked how these problems could be resolved. The Police Anti-Social Behaviour Officer felt it would be impossible to prevent young people from gathering together and more should be done to limit the impact on residents such as the provision of diversionary activities. The Neighbourhood Manager commented that children tended to play outside the park despite the park originally being designed as a place for children to play. Although residents had initially been reluctant to provide facilities within the park there was increasing recognition that this may be necessary. The possibility of a forecourt within the park was being looked at but would need to go through the planning process. The local residents were all fully supportive. Resident Fred Corbett felt that the Linear Park was not fit for purpose and had been designed by planning people who did not know what children wanted. However the Chair and others present advised that the park had been designed and implemented following detailed consultation with local residents. Resident Gordon Johnson suggested that high fencing be installed as a way to ensure children would be safe while playing.

Street games – Councillor Gerard Hall asked if there was a more informal way to deal with children playing in the street. He acknowledged that children needed to play but it was unacceptable if by doing so they caused damage to cars. The Police Anti-Social Behaviour Officer indicated that officers tended to speak to individuals and parents before the problem escalated. Police could deal with any issues of criminal damage, previously the council had byelaws but these had now ceased. Identifying the perpetrators remained one of the most problematic issues. Softballs were also provided as a replacement to footballs where appropriate. However Councillor Ray Wells felt this was not a satisfactory solution as it gave the impression that football on the highway was acceptable. The Police Anti-Social Behaviour Officer advised that this was certainly not a solution if children were playing football near cars and would depend on the specific location. The wishes of the residents were always taken into account.

25. UPDATE FROM THE CRIME AND DISORDER CO-ORDINATION UNIT

The Community Safety Manager offered his full support to the neighbourhood policing initiative and the good work being carried out around Hartlepool. He sympathised with some of the comments made previously regards current operations, saying that the ethos of neighbourhood policing was being debated locally at a senior level. He then went on to give details of the results of the 12 month Strategic Assessment review for the Crime and Disorder Co-ordination Unit which had recently been completed. Priorities for 2011/12 were highlighted, including alcohol treatment, criminal damage and confidence and cohesion. Details were also given of the new objectives of the unit for 2011-2014.

The Community Safety Manager updated those present on changes to the departmental structure, specifically the forthcoming retirement of the Assistant Director for Community Safety and Protection. The Assistant Director for Neighbourhood Services would take over her role in Community Safety.

CHAIR

Resident Fred Corbett referred to plans to install CCTV at Stranton Cemetery saying it would be preferable to have increased PCSO patrols. The Community Safety Officer advised that the security improvements to Stranton Cemetery involved 9 measures including CCTV and an increased police presence. The cameras would not be fixed and could therefore be moved out of the cemetery should the current situation improve.

The Chair highlighted an investigation being carried out by the Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum into domestic violence and queried the percentage of attacks on men. The Community Safety Manager reported that these figures were very low.

The Chair thanked the Community Safety Manager for attending the meeting and answering questions.

26. ANY OTHER BUSINESS AGREED BY THE CHAIR

Resident Fred Corbett highlighted the amount of dog dirt remaining in the streets following the snow melting. The Chair announced that there would be a town wide meeting on this and other dog control issues on Tuesday 8th February at the Civic Centre. He urged residents to let officers know details of any problem areas at this meeting.

The meeting concluded at 11:40 am

Report of: ASSISTANT DIRECTOR (TRANSPORTATION & ENGINEERING)

Subject: HARTLEPOOL BOROUGH COUNCIL DRAFT LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN 3

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To provide Hartlepool Borough Council with appropriate comments, via consultation with the Neighbourhood Consultative Forums, relating to the content of the Provisional Hartlepool Local Transport Plan 2011.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The draft third Local Transport Plan has been developed to deliver outcomes that have been identified as priorities by all stakeholders including those identified through the Sustainable Community Strategy in the Environment Theme.
- 2.2 The Council's Second Local Transport Plan (LTP2) covers the period to 31st March 2011, after this date the Council's Third Local Transport Plan (LTP3) will come in to effect.

3. THIRD LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN (DRAFT) – BRIEF OUTLINE

- 3.1 The Draft plan has been developed in the way reported and in accordance with the most up to date guidance available from central government.
- 3.2 The provisional document has been set out in the following sections

Section 1- Introduction

This section provides the background as to how and why the document has been produced and how it links to National, Regional, Sub-Regional and Local agendas.

Section 2- Tees Valley Transport Strategy

This section details the sub-regional issues and agendas and explains how Hartlepool fits into this.

Section 3- Transport in Hartlepool

Sets out how transport impacts upon residents, businesses and visitors to the Borough including details of travel demand patterns and key pressures on the transport network.

Section 4- LTP 3 Vision and Objectives

Sets out the vision and objectives for the third Local Transport Plan and considers how transport supports and contributes to the Council's wider policy agendas and aspirations for all who live, work and visit the town.

Section 5- Delivering Sustainable Economic Growth

Identifies how transport can contribute to sustainable economic growth in Hartlepool.

Section 6- Reducing the Impact of Transport on the Environment and Tackling Climate Change.

Looks at how the LTP can support Hartlepool's Climate Strategy by reducing the impact of transport on the environment.

Section 7- Safer and Healthier Travel

Relates to improving transport related safety and security as well as promoting healthier travel.

Section 8- Improve Equality of Opportunity through access to Services

Where people live impacts directly upon their ability to access services as their ability to travel is affected by the quality of the transport available to them. This section looks at how transport options can be positively influenced.

Section 9- Quality of Life

This section deals with ensuring that transport helps to improve quality of life for all.

Section 10- Linking the Objectives

Links together the objectives identified in sections 5 to 9 of the Plan.

Part 2 of the Plan identifies the intended Delivery Programme towards achieving the objectives set out over the first four years for which budgets have been indicated.

- 3.3 The recent settlement letter, from the Department for Transport, for the Integrated Transport and Structural Maintenance block funding for the next four years has shown large reductions in the indicative budgets previously indicated by the outgoing Government. The differences are tabled below:

	2011/12 £000s	2012/13 £000s	2013/14 £000s	2014/15 £000s
Integrated Transport Block				
Indicative Budget	1169	1193	1217	1241
Actual Budget	526	561	561	790
Difference	-55%	-53%	-54%	-36%

	2011/12 £000s	2012/13 £000s	2013/14 £000s	2014/15 £000s
Highways Capital Maintenance Block				
Indicative Budget	864	881	899	917
Actual Budget	823	849	781	766
Difference	-5%	-4%	-13%	-16%
* Note: 2011/12 and 2012/13 are final allocations, 2013/14 and 2014/15 are indicative.				

- 3.4 It can be seen from the above that the Integrated Transport Block has been reduced significantly from indicative budgets provided before the change in Government and subsequent to the Comprehensive Spending Review.
- 3.5 Capital maintenance budgets have also been reduced but by a much lesser degree.
- 3.6 Given the above reductions and the existing commitment towards the Tees Valley Bus Network Improvement programme (£238k per year up to and including 2014/15), the Councils ability to build on previous LTP successes is restricted over the first four years of the new plan period.
- 3.7 The Government have also announced a new Local Sustainable Transport Fund which will be available for Councils to bid for additional funding to support their LTP aspirations. The overall value of the Fund, over the four year period to 2014/15, is £560 million and guidance is awaited as to the process for bidding and the criteria as to how the decisions on the allocation of funding will be taken. Initial indication are that this criteria will include meeting the core objectives of supporting economic growth and reducing carbon and that bids will need to demonstrate value for money, deliverability and affordability for a four year package of works (i.e. there will only be two rounds of bidding in 2011/12 for the full four year allocation).

4. RECOMMENDATION

- 4.1 ***To note the Report and provide comments to the appropriate contact officer as detailed below.***

5.0 CONTACT OFFICER

- 5.1 Please send your comments to : Neil Jeffery
LTP Co-ordinator
Hartlepool Borough Council
1 Church Street
HARTLEPOOL
TS24 7DS

or e-mail : transport@hartlepool.gov.uk

The LTP3 Draft Report can be downloaded via the Council website

www.hartlepool.gov.uk

After accessing this website, the Home Page is displayed.

Under the column headed “**I Am**”

- Click on “**Interested In The Local Transport Plan**”
- Another page is then displayed. Scroll down until the section headed LTP3 Draft Report is visible.
- Within the narrative, there is a section worded “**All 3 of these reports can be accessed from here**”. Click on this link.
- A new page is then displayed and under the heading LTP3 DRAFT, there is a link “**LTP3 Draft**”. Click on this link.
- Then click on the “**Download Now**” link (the report is in .PDF format)

If you are unable to access the Draft LTP3 report, via a computer, then please telephone the above Contact Officer on 01429 523585, and arrangements will be made to provide you with a hard copy.

The deadline for comments to be received is **Monday 28th February, 2011.**

Report of: Neighbourhood Manager (Central)

Subject: Central Neighbourhood Forum Minor Works
Proposals February 2011

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To consider improvement schemes for potential funding from the Central Neighbourhood Consultative Forum Minor Works Budget

2.0 BACKGROUND / CURRENT POSITION

The total available spend on minor works schemes 2010/11 is **£87,000** and the total committed spend to date is **£87,000**.

Due to a commitment of **£5,887** for a fencing scheme on Front Street in Hart Village that is no longer required, this sum of money has been transferred back into this year's budget.

3.0 PROPOSED SCHEMES

- 3.1 A number of schemes are detailed below to address concerns raised by Elected Members, Residents' Representatives and residents in the Central Forum area.

Rift House Ward

(a) Fletcher Walk

Residents of this area in Rift House have requested that the grassed verge be removed and replaced with tarmac. The area in question is adjacent to number 1 Fletcher Walk and will improve parking and the aesthetics of the area. The Forum is asked to approve the total cost of this scheme to enable the scheme to go ahead.

Total cost of scheme: £3,600

Total cost to Forum: £3,600

Elwick Ward

(b) Hart Village

Hart Parish Council has requested that the rails on the existing pedestrian fencing be painted using aluminium paint. This is an

alternative scheme to the original renewal which was estimated at £5,887. The Forum is asked to approve the total cost of the scheme to enable the scheme to go ahead

Total cost of scheme: £868

Total cost to Forum: £868

(c) Dalton Village

Resident representatives and Ward Councillors have requested that consideration be given to the funding of a tree planting scheme at Dalton Piercy. The £500.00 will cover the purchase of 500 saplings with local children being involved in the planting.

Total cost of scheme: £500

Total cost to Forum: £500

Grange Ward

(d) Eltringham Road

As part of on the going improvements to the grassed area at the junction with Clifton Avenue, Councillors and residents have requested that gates are installed to the opening on Eltringham Road. The gates will improve the safety of children playing within the grounds identified. The Forum is asked to approve the total cost of this scheme to enable the scheme to go ahead

Total cost of scheme: £919

Total cost to Forum: £919

4.0 RECOMMENDATION

- 4.1 The Forum is requested to recommend to the Community Safety and Housing Portfolio Holder that the schemes be approved from the Minor Works Budget
- 4.2 The total cost of schemes proposed is: **£5,887**
- 4.3 Minor works monies remaining if schemes approved is: **£00,000**