

# CENTRAL NEIGHBOURHOOD CONSULTATIVE FORUM AGENDA



Thursday, 7 April 2011

at 10.00 am

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, Noma 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 17 February 2011
  - 4.2 Matters arising
  - 4.3 To receive the minutes of the Central Area Police and Community Safety Consultative Forum held on 17 March 2011 (*to follow*)

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

**6. ITEMS FOR CONSULTATION**

- 6.1 Child Poverty Strategy – *Child Poverty Working Group*
- 6.2 Presentation on Extension of Selective Licensing Scheme – *Public Protection Manager*

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

- 7.1 Central Forum Minor Works Schemes Budget 2010/11 – *Neighbourhood Manager (Central)*

**8. ITEMS FOR DECISION**

No Items

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

To be confirmed

**WARDS**

Burn Valley  
Elwick  
Foggy Furze  
Grange  
Park  
Rift House  
Stranton

**CENTRAL NEIGHBOURHOOD  
CONSULTATIVE FORUM**

**17 February 2011**

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING**



The meeting commenced at 2.00 pm. in the Civic Centre, Hartlepool

**PRESENT:**

Chair: Councillor Kevin Cranney - Foggy Furze Ward

Vice-Chair: Evelyn Leck (Resident Representative)

Councillor Gerard Hall	- Burn Valley Ward
Councillor Pauline Laffey	- Park 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: Peter Goodier, Ted Jackson, Brenda Loynes, Steven Mailen, Brian McBean, Norma Morrish, Julie Rudge and Hilda Wales

Public: Fred Corbett, Mary Diver, Brian Gale, Jean Kennedy, Ray McAndrew, William Morrish and Ray Waller

Council Officers: Clare Clark, Neighbourhood Manager  
Jon Wright, Neighbourhood Co-ordinating Manager  
Mike Blair, Highways, Traffic and Transportation Manager  
Irene Cross, Neighbourhood Development Officer  
:  
Jo Wilson, Democratic Services Officer

Fire Brigade Representative: Peter Bradley

New Deal Representative: Mark Doherty

Housing Hartlepool Representative: Lynn McPartlin

Middleton Grange Shopping Centre Representative: Mark Rycroft

**39. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Peter Ingham, George Morris and Robbie Payne

**40. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None.

**41. TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE CENTRAL NEIGHBOURHOOD CONSULTATIVE FORUM MEETING HELD ON 16 DECEMBER 2010**

These were confirmed as a true record with the following amendments:

**Public Question Time and Ward Issues**

- **Park:** Councillor Ray Wells had raised questions rather than Mr Waller.

**Public Question Time and Ward Issues**

- **Elwick – Traffic Calming signs:** Councillor Hilary Thompson had thanked officers for agreeing to fund the installation of signage in Newton Bewley – actual installation had yet to be completed.

**42. MATTERS ARISING**

**Windows in Grange Conservation Area**

– Resident Ray McAndrew felt that Council officers should be checking conservation areas for any infringements of conservation policy, rather than the onus being on residents to report infringements.

**Co-op Building** – Resident Ray McAndrew had previously raised the unsatisfactory pointing of this building as an issue. However since then the problems had widened. He referred to the response to his concerns which had been provided with the minutes. He felt the reference to a shortage in

stonemasons, blacksmiths, joiners and bricklayers was irrelevant to the repointing issue and that the assertion that ‘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’ was highly unprofessional and potentially libellous. If standards of workmanship were low the planning department should be involved and checking work as it was progressing. Mr McAndrew felt that work of this standard was unacceptable on a listed building and the Conservation Officer’s comment that ‘it is nonetheless regrettably the current position’ was incorrect. He asked that any future responses to his concerns be strictly on the repointing issue. The Chair asked that the Townscape Heritage Initiative Manager be invited to the next meeting of the Forum to provide information relating to listed buildings.

**The Grove** – Councillor Ray Wells advised that this was being used as a ‘rat run’ by drivers keen to avoid the queues of traffic on Wooler Road during peak times. Resident Fred Corbett felt that traffic management up to Elwick Road and Oxford Road needed to be looked at, including the traffic lights at the top of Elwick Road. These comments were supported by Councillor Chris Simmons who felt that the traffic management system had created a major problem and made the situation worse. The Highways, Traffic and Transportation Manager to investigate.

**Grass cuttings** – Resident Fred Corbett praised council workers for cutting the edges of grassed areas

**Grange Road** – Councillor Pauline Laffey asked that a pedestrian crossing be

installed at the top of Grange Road to help elderly residents and people using the nursery on The Parade.

**43. TO RECEIVE THE MINUTES OF THE CENTRAL AREA POLICE AND COMMUNITY SAFETY CONSULTATIVE FORUM HELD ON 13 JANUARY 2011**

These were received by members. Resident Jean Kennedy however noted that her positive comments regarding Neighbourhood Policing had not been included.

Councillor Carl Richardson advised that his suggestion of charging Middleton Grange Shopping Centre had been raised and would go forward to police debriefing. He would update the Forum on any responses he received. He had also been informed that the PCSOs were due to leave Middleton Grange imminently and security would be increased accordingly.

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

**Chief Executive's pay rise** – Resident Representative Julie Rudge expressed her 'disgust' at the recent reports of the awarding of a £10 thousand pay rise to the Chief Executive of the Council, commenting that there should be a pay freeze across the whole Council. These comments were supported by Resident Fred Corbett and Resident Representative Ted Jackson. The Chair confirmed that there was a pay freeze but the Chief Executive had not had a pay review since 2008.

Councillor Carl Richardson felt government legislation was needed to cap public sector wages at £200 thousand a year in order to prevent massive payouts of this kind. Councillor

Chris Simmons supported this, calling on governmental guidelines to be issued on the employment of Council Chief Officers in the same way that there were procedures in place for the employment of head teachers.

Councillor Gerard Hall felt it was extremely difficult to evaluate the work of the Chief Executive however when any organisation was perceived to be doing a good job it suggested that a good job was being done by those individuals at the top of the structure. Every employee was entitled to a pay review every 2 years but in this case that had not happened. The timing had been bad but this issue should have been concluded years ago and Cabinet members had tried to take the best decision on an individual basis. Resident Representative Ted Jackson felt the announcement should have been delayed by a year in light of the current economic circumstances. Councillor Jane Shaw indicated that this matter had been considered by Scrutiny Coordinating Committee but their advice and opinions had not been taken into consideration by Cabinet. It was not a matter of whether or not the Chief Executive was entitled to the pay rise, more whether he should accept it from a moral standpoint. She respected the views of Councillor Hall regarding Hartlepool as an top performing authority but this was not down to one person and this decision should not have been taken at a time when other employees were losing their jobs and having their pay frozen. Councillor Ray Wells highlighted that due to the Chief Executive being on the top level of tax over half of his pay increase would go straight back to the government. Resident Ray McAndrew queried the need for a Chief Executive and a Mayor. The Chair noted these comments, saying a referendum on the post of elected mayor could not be held until 2012.

## Stranton

**Young Street** – Resident Representative Julie Rudge asked if bollards would be reinstalled when the work was completed on the bus stop. The Neighbourhood Coordinating Manager confirmed that some form of street furniture would be used as protection.

**516 bus** – Resident Representative Norma Morrish expressed anger at the forthcoming cancellation of this service which was a lifeline to the elderly Burbank residents. A petition to support the retention of the service was in progress. The Chair acknowledged these feelings but felt that Stagecoach had been holding the Council to ransom over bus services for a long time. The Highways, Traffic and Transportation Manager indicated that consideration was being given to the setting up of a community transport system utilising the existing Council fleet. However this was still in the very early stages. Councillor Hilary Thompson felt something needed to be provided for residents in the rural communities and that this should run to a definite timetable so people could organise their shopping and appointments accordingly. Councillor Gerard Hall suggested other companies be asked to reroute existing services in order to include the villages, particularly the more frequent services.

Councillor Chris Simmons criticised Stagecoach for not facing up to their responsibilities as a public service provider. He acknowledged that they were a commercial company but they had been making money off the Council for years, every penny of which had gone to shareholders rather than on the service. More pressure should be put on bus companies by the Council. However Resident Representative Brenda Loynes noted that each depot was a separate business and would be closed if they did not make a profit. Councillor Carl

Richardson queried how much profit bus companies had made in Hartlepool over the years. Resident Fred Corbett commented that if the Transport Interchange had not been built Stagecoach could have been subsidised for years to come. He raised concerns for residents using transport to get to out of town hospitals, particularly as it was highly likely the University Hospital of Hartlepool would close

**Civic Centre** – Councillor Jane Shaw asked that the repairs to the front be made more permanent due to ongoing damage to the steps by bikes and skateboards.

**Stalking Law** – Councillor Jane Shaw asked if the new stalking laws would be operational in Hartlepool. The Police representative was unaware of any new stalking laws. However the Harassment Act was used by Cleveland Police.

## Elwick

**Restriction signage** – Councillor Hilary Thompson had understood there would be another restriction sign installed on the entrance into Elwick.

**Refuse collection** – Councillor Hilary Thompson highlighted the carelessness of refuse collectors, particularly in areas which had only recently been tidied by other council workers. The Neighbourhood Coordinating Manager noted this.

**Hart Village** – Councillor Hilary Thompson reported that needles had been found in Hart Village and requested that police monitor this. She highlighted a perception by people in the Hart and Clavering areas that the police were absent during the winter months.

**Fly tipping** – Councillor Hilary Thompson noted that this was on the increase on Dalton Lane and the road to Hart Village.

**Road surfaces** – Councillor Hilary Thompson commented upon the ‘abysmal’ state of the rural roads around Hart, Elwick and Dalton Piercy which were slowly turning into tracks. She had had a number of letters from Thorpe Bulmer residents on this issue. She acknowledged that money was tight at the moment but felt that these roads must be resurfaced rather than just repaired. She asked for confirmation as to where the rural roads were on the 5-year resurfacing plan.

**Composting Plant** – Resident Representative Steven Mailen advised that 125 residents had attended a recent meeting to complain about plans to build a composting plant at the back of Hart Village

**Broadband** – Resident Representative Steven Mailen asked whether a letter could be sent by the Forum to British Telecom complaining about the lack of broadband availability in Elwick. The Chair indicated that there might be funding available to develop a NAP rural area and this could be part of it.

### **Burn Valley**

**Flooding and sewerage** – The Vice Chair and Resident Brian Gale raised ongoing concerns with Hartlepool’s inadequate sewerage system. He indicated that since 1964 his business premises had been regularly flooded with sewerage as had other shops nearby. His garden and those of his neighbours had been similarly affected, leading to the devaluation of these houses. New housing was not equipped for the existing sewer system and he queried why nothing had yet been done to improve the sewerage infrastructure. Without such

improvements it would not be possible to develop Tunstall Farm. Councillor Ray Wells suggested that this development be removed from the Core Strategy until these issues were resolved. This was noted by Councillor Gerard Hall, Portfolio Holder for Adult and Public Health Services. Resident Ray Waller indicated that the existing drainage scheme had been installed by Northumbrian Water in the 1960s and any problems were their responsibility. The Chair asked that a representative from Northumbrian Water be invited to the next meeting to discuss these issues. Resident Ray Waller also suggested that an officer from the engineers department be invited to explain the drainage system to members. Resident Ray Waller felt it might be worth Scrutiny looking at these issues in greater detail. Councillor Gerard Hall also requested clarification on what allotment holders were able to do.

**Wansbeck Road** – Resident Ray McAndrew thanked the Neighbourhood Coordinating Manager for recent repairs.

**Tall Ships** – Resident Ray McAndrew felt that the souvenir DVD should have been better publicised as it showed Hartlepool in a tremendous light. He also noted that there were still many double yellow lines left around Hartlepool and that tourists would be unaware where they were able to park.

### **Park**

**Tarnston Road** – Resident Representative Brenda Loynes reported that a Chinese man had been seen regularly dumping rubbish in the large bin

**Core Strategy** – Resident Representative Brenda Loynes had been advised by the planning department that over a thousand objections had been received to the Quarry Farm and Tunstall Farm developments. Resident Brian

Gale queried whether housing of this kind was needed given the current state of the housing market. He indicated that he had previously raised these concerns as part of the Cabinet consultation on the core strategy but had not received a response. The Chair advised that Councillor Gerard Hall was present and would note these comments and ensure they were fed into the process.

**Refuse collection** – Resident Representative Brenda Loynes reported complaints from residents that blue boxes and white bags were not been left outside residents' houses.

**Ward Jackson Park** – Resident Representative Brenda Loynes reported she had seen a Council wagon accessing the Park on Sunday lunchtime and queried whether council workers would be paid double time for working on a Sunday. The Neighbourhood Manager to look into this.

**Stranton Cemetery** – Resident Representative Brenda Loynes asked that the Brierton Lane gates be closed at night to deter hooligans.

#### **Rift House**

**Grass verges** – Resident Representative Hilda Wales noted that the tarmacing of grass verges was ongoing. The Chair commented that this tended to lead to more flooding.

**Compton Road / Marlow Road** – Resident Representative Hilda Wales reported terrible flooding in this area during heavy rain.

**Fernville Close** – Resident Representative Hilda Wales reported that signage was still not in place, something which had resulted in an ambulance being unable to find a property recently.

The Neighbourhood Coordinating Manager would chase this up

**Kipling Road new housing** – Resident Representative Peter Goodier asked that this area be named after a poet in line with the rest of the locality. The Chair would raised this with Housing Hartlepool

#### **Grange**

The Neighbourhood Development Officer advised that Resident Representative Brian McBean had raised any issues at the recent residents meeting.

#### **Foggy Furze**

**Oxford Road bus shelter** – Councillor Frances London requested feedback. The Neighbourhood Coordinating Manager to provide. Councillor London also highlighted that the bus times on the post had been demolished

#### **45. MARK RYCROFT – MIDDLETON GRANGE SHOPPING CENTRE**

The Manager of Middleton Grange Shopping Centre gave a brief presentation on current work. He acknowledged that the shopping centre had a higher than normal vacancy rate but felt this was due to a number of factors including the inward locality of the centre, outside perceptions of Hartlepool and its shoppers and the current economic climate. In order to arrest this downward decline a number of initiatives were being put forward such as a £400 thousand external facelift of the centre and better promotion and marketing of Middleton Grange in terms of businesses and shoppers. There had been some close work with the Buy Local campaign in respect of the indoor market and a recent competition had been used to encourage people to take vacant spaces in the market hall. However he felt the Centre had a thriving ground floor mall.



He acknowledged concerns raised by Councillor Jane Shaw regarding the inadequate closure of the underpass and obstructive parking outside Wilkinsons and indicated that every attempt was made to deal with these issues. A police representative confirmed that police could take action if parking was causing an obstruction while the Highways, Traffic and Transportation Manager indicated that as the Council were the enforcement officers for parking restrictions they would liaise with the police on this matter.

The following issues were then raised by members:

**Smoking in the underground car park** – Resident Ray Waller highlighted this. Mr Rycroft advised that this issue had been raised with the Council as they were responsible for the car parks but they did not have enforcement officers available to levy fines.

**Quality of shops** – Resident Ray Waller queried why Middleton Grange were not able to attract retailers on a par with Dalton Park or the Cleveland Centre. He felt that it was not due to the inward nature of the centre as the Cleveland Centre was similar and managed to attract some high level retailers. Mr Rycroft felt that demographics were the main problem rather than rental costs. If retailers did not believe they would be able to make a profit they would not move to an area. Letting agents were working on improving the situation but there was just no interest at the moment.

**Variety of shops** – The Vice-Chair felt more variety was needed for shoppers and reduced rents for businesses. Mr Rycroft however believed there were a wide variety of shops available. He was unable to comment on rents but incentives were provided to retailers and in the end there was only a 15% vacancy rate within the centre.

**Eating within the centre** – Resident Representative Hilda Wales highlighted the issue of people sitting on the floor and in the toilets eating. She felt this gave a dreadful impression to visitors and asked what was done to remedy this. Mr Rycroft advised that security staff had a moving on policy but this had been happening for years particularly when young people were bored or cold. He would raise these comments at the team meeting the following morning.

**Indoor market rents** – Resident Representative Brenda Loynes asked whether rents of £160 thousand were being charged for the indoor market. Mr Rycroft denied this, saying the cost was £20 per square foot per annum and 1 months rent as deposit

**Parking charges and lifts** – Resident Representative Brenda Loynes felt high parking charges did not encourage visitors. She also indicated that the lifts rarely worked. Mr Rycroft indicated that both these were the responsibility of the Council. However he did note there was free parking after 4pm.

**Music** – Resident Representative Noma Morrish felt the 'muzak' at the entrance was too loud. Mr Rycroft noted these comments.

**Rumours** – Councillor Frances London queried whether Superdrug and Savers were closing due to high rents. Mr Rycroft was not aware of this but would check.

**Rental rates** – Councillor Gerard Hall felt that a big reason for the decline of shopping centres was the growth of supermarkets where anything could be bought. He felt that given the vacancy rate the business case for the centre should be looked at as a marketing tool to get empty areas into use. If this was not Mr Rycroft's area he called on him to lobby the relevant people. Mr Rycroft

commented that the rumours of high or increasing rents were not true. The landlord was flexible as it was in his interest to let a unit out in order to gain income. Rental charges were not the issue.

**Youth** – Resident Jean Kennedy was pleased to note that young people were not seen as a threat by Mr Rycroft. She felt somewhere should be provided for young people so they did not feel the need to congregate on Victory Square. The Chair suggested that a vacant unit could be provided for them to congregate. Mr Rycroft felt there were plenty of existing places within the centre for young people to eat and drink. Also the 177 centre. However he felt that there problems were for the community to solve rather than Middleton Grange. Mrs Kennedy called on the Council and Middleton Grange to work together on this issue.

The Chair thanked Mr Rycroft for attending and answering questions. Mr Rycroft asked that any further queries from members be emailed to him at [mark@middleton-grange.co.uk](mailto:mark@middleton-grange.co.uk). He would try to come to future meetings of the Forum.

**46. HARTLEPOOL BOROUGH  
COUNCIL DRAFT LOCAL  
TRANSPORT PLAN**

The Highways, Traffic and Transportation Manager outlined an overview of the content of the Provisional Hartlepool Local Transport Plan 3 which was now the subject of consultation prior to its implementation on 1 April 2011. He asked that those present at the meeting make comment on this Strategic document relating to the aims of the Authority in terms of travel by 28 February 2011.

The following issues were then raised:

**Consultation** – Resident Ray Waller commented that more than half of the over 50s did not have access to the internet and would be unaware that the Local Transport Plan even existed. The Chair queried how the information was disseminated. The Highways, Traffic and Transportation Manager advised that it was publicised via the local media and usual council outlets but acknowledged it was difficult to reach everybody. Hard copies of the Plan were available upon request.

**Osbourne Road and Park Road** – Resident Ray Waller asked if traffic lights and zebra crossings could be provided in these areas. The Highways, Traffic and Transportation Manager was in favour of this however it would cost a lot of money and could not be justified on safety grounds at the moment. Should the Forum wish to allocate Minor Works spending officers would be happy to work with them on a solution.

**Arnccliffe Gardens area** – Resident Ray McAndrew asked if the roads around this area could be made one-way as they would no longer be used by buses. The Highways, Traffic and Transportation Manager advised that he would be happy to do this in theory however he was concerned that this could lead to traffic speeding as drivers knew nobody would be coming the other way. There would also be the inevitable disagreements from residents regarding traffic direction.

**Baden Street and Blakelock Road** – Resident Ray McAndrew asked whether a left traffic turn could be provided. However the Vice-Chair felt that a pedestrian crossing was needed in the area due to the proximity of the Burn Valley roundabout. The Highways, Traffic and Transportation Manager advised that the scheme had been put on hold by the Portfolio Holder due to concerns over the banned left turn. If the left turn was

retained any crossing would have to be moved further from the junction for safety reasons and this had raised objections from businesses in the area. The matter was due to be considered by the Portfolio Holder soon but until then there was nothing officers could do. Councillor Gerard Hall felt that a crossing was needed while the retention of a left turn was not a good idea.

**Hart Lane** – Councillor Ray Welles highlighted a proposal to further enforce a heavy goods ban on Hart Lane as he was concerned this would affect roads in the Park and Elwick Wards. The Highways, Traffic and Transportation Manager confirmed that a review of all weight restrictions on Hart Lane was ongoing. Issues around weight restrictions in Elwick and Dalton Piercy would be taken into consideration. Concerns around heavy goods vehicles using Park Road, Tarnston Road and Stockton Road were also referred to.

The Chair thanked the Highways, Traffic and Transportation Manager for attending the meeting and answering questions.

<p><b>47. CENTRAL NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM MINOR WORKS PROPOSALS 2011</b></p>
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The following schemes were considered by the Forum:

- Rift House Ward – Fletcher Walk – replacement of grassed area with tarmac – cost £3,600
- Elwick Ward – Hart Village – painting of rails on pedestrian fencing with aluminium paint – cost £868
- Elwick Ward – Dalton Village – tree planting scheme – cost £500

- Grange Ward – Eltringham Road – installation of gates at opening of Eltringham Road – cost £919

**Eltringham Road** – Resident Ray McAndrew indicated he would be in favour of this scheme provided the entrance were tidied and dog fouling stopped. Councillor Gerard Hall expressed his support for this proposal which would provide a green space in the centre for town where children could play.

**Decision**

That Minor Works Funding as detailed within the report be recommended for approval to the Portfolio Holder

The meeting concluded at 5:15 pm

CHAIR

## **Central Neighbourhood Forum Action sheet from meeting held on 17 February 2011**

### **PARK WARD**

**The Grove and Wooler Road - Cllr Wells raised concerns at The Grove being used as a rat run for people trying to avoid backed up traffic on Wooler Road. Mile Blair to carry out peak time traffic survey.**

The Traffic and Transportation Manager informs that survey results will be available for the Forum in due course.

**Traffic lights top of Elwick Road - Fred Corbett asked that these be looked at.**

The Traffic and Transportation Manager reports that a scheme is being designed to widen this junction. This may also include traffic signals being installed, dependent on traffic surveys. There is no funding at present, but with the potential for savings on some of the other Tees Valley Bus Network Improvement schemes, this may be able to be re-allocated for this location.

**Grange Road near The Parade - Cllr Laffey asked that a crossing be provided from The Parade to the other side of Grange Road to prevent future accidents.**

The Traffic and Transportation Manager reports that it has been looked at previously, but unfortunately due to the number of driveways and also the White House car park entrance, it is not possible to site a crossing close to the roundabout. Any crossing would need to be such a distance away from the pedestrian desire line of Grande Road/The Parade that it would be impractical for people to walk along to use the crossing, and then back again to continue their journey.

### **GENERAL - BUS SERVICES**

**Cancellation of the 516 bus - Cllr Richardson asked that the local bus companies be lobbied to put pressure on them to provide a better service - Cllr Hall asked that out-of town busses be re-routed through Elwick and Hart.**

The Traffic and Transportation Manager reports that supported services will cease at the end of March, however the issue is being referred back to Scrutiny to investigate the possibility of some form of community transport provision.

Buses through Hart will continue as normal. Buses through Elwick and Dalton were only running as the Council had previously decided to support these

services financially, when the bus companies were going to withdraw them. The Council has limited influence over where operators run commercial services, particularly if this involves a major re-routing, as including the villages would do.

### **STRANTON WARD**

**Middleton Grange underpass - Cllr Shaw asked that a better way to close it off be found.**

Bob Golightly is investigating the possibility of welding two bars across the entrance of the subway allowing the removal of the existing temporary barriers.

**Civic Centre - Cllr Shaw asked that repairs to damage caused by bikes and skateboard be made more permanent.**

Bob Golightly reports the situation as follows:

- Engineers have met with specialist contractors to determine that what has been suggested is feasible.
- Engineers have determined interest from contractors.
- The Engineering Consultancy is in the process of reviewing their structural drawings as undertaken by their previous structural engineer. The current structural engineer is now looking towards detailed design for the works affecting the structural integrity of the site.
- Once the structural work is complete we will be in position to produce documentation for pricing.

**Wilkinsons - Cllr Shaw asked that vehicles be prosecuted for parking on the pavement outside Wilkinsons.**

Any drivers parked on the pavement without permission should be prosecuted. There may be occasions when temporary permission is approved, (shop fitting, repairs etc.) Where works vans need equipment close to them and parking is granted under license, but in general officers would issue a PCN or encourage drivers to move the vehicle if they witnessed this. Car Parking Enforcement Officers will visit and take action against offenders.

### **ELWICK WARD**

**Elwick clean up - Cllr H Thompson asked that more care be taken by the refuse collectors to prevent rubbish be scattered.**

Fiona Srogi, recycling Officer has spoken with refuse and recycling staff on this matter reiterating the need to take care to prevent rubbish being scattered on collection.

**Hart Village - Cllr H Thompson reported needles found in the village - asked that police monitor.**

The Police and Council are currently monitoring incidents of needles reported being found in the village.

**Flytipping - Cllr H Thompson reported increase on Dalton Lane and road to Hart.**

Routine inspections are being carried out on all these country lanes due to an increase in fly tipping; Covert cameras will also be deployed.

**Road surfaces - Cllr H Thompson reported abysmal condition of rural roads round Elwick and Dalton - Thorpe Bulmer particularly bad - some rural roads turning into tracks.**

The Highways section is aware of the condition of these roads and hopefully these can be addressed as part of our 5 year highway plan.

#### **BURN VALLEY WARD**

**Flooding and sewerage in Burn Valley - Evelyn Leck and Brian Gayle reported problems with flooding across Hartlepool - asked for a whole new town sewerage system. Chair asked that Northumbrian water attend next meeting. Agreed by Chair. Ray Waller suggested that scrutiny may want to consider this issue in greater detail.**

Northumbrian Water and Engineers to attend future meeting.

**Allotments - Cllr Hall asked for clarity regards what allotment holders were allowed to do.**

Helen Beaman Allotment Officer has reported directly to Cllr Hall on this issue

**Tall Ships double yellow lines – Ray McAndrew asked that the temporary double yellow lined be removed in time for the tourist season.**

The great majority of the lines have now been removed, with Coronation Drive a priority to complete before the summer. All lines in the Marina area have now been removed.

#### **PARK WARD**

**Tarnston Road bin - Brenda Loynes reported a Chinese man dumping large amounts of rubbish.**

This issue has been passed to HBC's Environmental Enforcement Team to monitor.

**White Bags and Blue Boxes - Brenda Loynes asked that refuse collectors leave empty bags and bins outside residents' houses.**

Fiona Srogi, HBC Refuse and Recycling Officer has spoken with the refuse and recycling staff on this matter reiterating the need to return recycling receptacles to the appropriate place.

**Ward Jackson Park - Brenda Loynes queried whether council workers would get double time pay for work done on Sunday lunchtime.**

Council Workers no longer receive double time payments. Sunday working is paid on a time and a half basis and would only occur rarely and where necessary. On this occasion these works were required.

**RIFT HOUSE**

**Compton Road/Marlow Road - Hilda Wales reported flooding to the road at the bottom during heavy rain. Chair asked for investigation.**

Highways will arrange for this to be inspected during the next rainfall.

**Fernville Close - Signage still not in place. Jon Wright to chase this up with Mike Blair.**

Housing Hartlepool are responsible and are dealing with this issue.

**Kipling Road new houses - Peter Goodier asked that the name given this area be poets name to fit in with the surrounding area. Housing Hartlepool would be notified of this request.**

Housing Hartlepool have been notified of this request.

**MIDDLETON GRANGE UPDATE**

**Response from Mark Rycroft on issues requiring further info following the meeting.**

**Underground car park - Ray Waller requested seating be provided**

No plans to provide seating, although we have made significant efforts in association with the shopping centre to try and discourage smoking in the car park. The bins have been moved to discourage smokers gathering, and additional signs have been erected to advise that the site is within a no smoking area. In addition officers who patrol the site have advised smokers if they observe them actually smoking. The last observation found many of the smokers were members of staff from the shopping centre on their break. As a result the shopping centre were also going to run an article in the next newsletter to tenants.

**High parking charges - Brenda Loynes felt this put people off. Mark Rycroft advised re free parking after 4pm.**

Although some charges have increased, the last tariff increases also included a change to tariff structure. At the request of traders many of the sites now have an hourly charge rate rather than min 2 hour. In addition we have continued to supplement free after 4pm initiative, free sundry parking and provide sites with charges set for specific needs (long stay, short stay and discounted season tickets for commuters). Although car park usage is down, this is reflected nationally. In comparison to neighbouring authorities, Hartlepool still offers parking at a competitive rate with innovative ideas on how to encourage car park use.

**Lifts - Brenda Loynes advised that these rarely worked**

Over the last two years the lifts have been the subject of extensive refurbishment programme and major investment specifically aimed at improving reliability. As a result lift failure is now minimal and other than planned maintenance and safety checks I am only aware of one instance (town centre power cut) when the lifts were completely out of action.

**HARTLEPOOL BOROUGH COUNCIL DRAFT LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN 3**

**Response from Mike Blair on issues requiring further info following the meeting.**

**Park Road - Ray Waller asked that zebra crossings be provided. Also signals on Osbourne Road and Park Road**

A junction survey has been carried out previously, which determined that the introduction of traffic signals would be beneficial due to the delays on the side roads. This would also allow pedestrian crossing phases to be incorporated into the junction. No funding is available at present, but should money become available then we will look to introduce this scheme. Full consultation will be carried out prior to any scheme being taken forward.

**Arncliffe Gardens - Following the cessation of bus services Ray McAndrew asked if the area around Arncliffe and Osbourne could be made one-way**

The re-routing of the bus service away from Arncliffe Gardens would make a one way system easier to introduce, but there are still drawbacks to the proposal. These are long roads, and residents living towards one end or the other are likely to be inconvenienced by the necessary detours. One way streets also lead to an increase in vehicle speeds, as drivers know they aren't going to meet anyone travelling in the opposite direction. If there is a strength of feeling towards this course of action then a public consultation exercise could be undertaken? Suggest asking ward members for their views as a



starting point? Consultation with emergency services, etc, would also need to be carried out.

**Hart Lane - Cllr Wells raised concerns re further enforcement of heavy goods ban on Hart Lane - could affect Park and Elwick wards. Ray Waller noted heavy goods use on Park Road, Brenda Loynes Tarnston Road and Evelyn Leck Stockton Road.**

A meeting has taken place with Councillor Wells and Councillor Morris, and the proposals will ensure that there is not a knock-on effect into the Elwick and Ward Jackson park areas.

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



**WARDS**  
Burn Valley  
Elwick  
Foggy Furze  
Grange  
Park  
Rift House  
Stranton

**17 March 2011**

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING**

The meeting commenced at 2.00 pm in the Civic Centre, Hartlepool

**PRESENT:**

Chair: Councillor Kevin Cranney - Foggy Furze Ward

Vice-Chair: Evelyn Leck (Resident Representative)

Councillor Gerald Hall - Burn Valley Ward  
Councillor Frances London - Foggy Furze Ward  
Councillor Dr George Morris - Park Ward  
Councillor Carl Richardson - Grange Ward  
Councillor Jane Shaw - Stranton Ward  
Councillor Ray Wells - Park Ward

Resident Representatives:

Ted Jackson, Brenda Loynes Noma Morrish and Hilda Wales

Residents: Gordon and Stella Johnson, William Morrish, Julie Tring and Ray Waller

Council Officers:

Clare Clark – Neighbourhood Manager (Central)  
Jon Wright - Neighbourhood Co-ordinating Manager  
Carl Gatenby – Police Anti-Social Behaviour Officer  
Sarah Harrison – Democratic Services Officer

Police Representatives: Chief Inspector Lynn Beeston, Inspector Carl Broughton, Sergeant Dave Halliday

Fire and Rescue Representative: Peter Bradley, Community Liaison Officer

**27. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION**

The Chair Councillor Kevin Cranney welcomed residents, Councillors and Officers.

**28. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Aiken, Ingham, Laffey, Maness, Simmons and H Thompson as well as Resident Representatives Bob Farrow, Peter Goodier, and Julie Rudge

### 29. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 13 JANUARY 2011

Confirmed as an accurate account.

### 30. MATTERS ARISING

Linear Park – Resident Ray Waller informed the meeting that benches had been instated in this area.

### 31. UPDATE FROM THE POLICE

Sgt Dave Halliday highlighted Forcewide performance figures which showed an upward trend for the majority of categories of recorded crime. However Hartlepool District recorded crime had been reduced except for offences of house burglary, the majority of which were occurring in empty premises. Details were given of District performance and also of arrests and detections in the central area. However these figures did not include work done by PCSOs to facilitate arrests and follow up visits to victims of crime. Various recent Operations were outlined including drugs warrants being executed with partner agencies in the Dent Street Area and increased patrols around the Rift House shopping precinct. Good news stories included partnership links between Police and the Guinness Trust to evict problem tenants, a response to a call from a resident to a property in Grasmere which was in the process of being burgled. This call had led to an arrest. Smartwater had been offered to vulnerable residents to help prevent burglaries.

**Middleton Grange Shopping Centre Security** – Sgt Halliday updated the forum saying that town centre security staff were now more actively involved in patrols in the shopping centre. Most police staff involved in Operations

Respect and Shadow were to be redeployed to the Neighbourhood Teams leaving only 2 Officers from Stranton to cover the shopping centre, but this would be reviewed on a monthly basis.

**Westbourne Road/Cornwall Street** – The Vice Chair highlighted that cars had been vandalised in that area and was informed that an individual had been arrested in connection with this and there was a possibility of putting CCTV in the Westbourne Road. Installation of a permanent camera in Cornwall Street was also being investigated.

**Upward Trend of Crime** – The Chair asked whether crime had increased during the current economic recession and was informed that the figures presented were for a three month period but end of year figures should show overall decreases. However there were still rises in scrap metal theft and burglaries in empty houses. The Chair suggested that statistics for the same period in the previous year be brought to the meeting so that comparisons could be made.

**Parking on Pavements** – Councillor Shaw highlighted that cars were parking on the pavement next to the British Heart Foundation shop and also the Post Office which obstructed people trying to use the area as well as causing damage to the pavements. It was clarified that if there were yellow lines then it was the responsibility of the Local Authority to move traffic on, but if there were no lines and vehicles were causing an obstruction then Police intervention was required.

**War Memorial** – Councillor Shaw highlighted damage to seating in this area and commented that this usually occurred at lunchtime.

**Cameron Street** – Councillor Shaw said she had received complaints that delivery

vans frequently parked in front of the charity shop.

**Burbank Community Centre** – Councillor Shaw asked why police were not currently using the room here to liaise with members of the public. Sgt Halliday said that this was not a permanent measure. In relation to CCTV it was highlighted that links with HBC monitoring centre were being improved but Police access to Burbank Community Centre would be still be necessary in the future.

**Weather Conditions** – Councillor London commented that it was likely that crime figures would be affected by the snowfall in December and Chief Inspector Beeston agreed that this had played a part.

**Private Landlords** – Councillor London commented that private landlords appeared to be more responsible than previously and Chief Inspector Beeston agreed that most private landlords were co-operating with Police and other Agencies.

**PCSOs in Hartlepool** – Councillor Hall said that he had received assurances that the number of PCSOs in Hartlepool would not be cut and that evidence given at this meeting proved their value. Chief Inspector Beeston said that money from the Working Neighbourhood Fund which paid for 8 PCSOs was to cease, however the Chief Constable had taken the view that Hartlepool had historically had more PCSOs than other Districts and would allocate 48 PCSOs to Hartlepool. Hartlepool would have at least one PCSO and one Officer per Ward. The Neighbourhood Task Group was to be disbanded and PCSOs formerly attached to this would be spread out across the town. Resident Ray Waller and Councillor Richardson commented that future government cuts may affect officer numbers.

**Stockton Road Residents' Association** – The Vice Chair commented that PCSOs did a good job but that none had attended recent meetings of the above association and was disappointed as this was a good line of communication with the public. Chief Inspector Beeston said that information could be passed on via telephone. Sgt Halliday said that he would ensure that there was a Police presence at the beginning of these meetings. The Vice Chair said that telephone messages were not always passed on. The Neighbourhood Manager agreed to look into this.

The Chair thanked the Officers for attending the meeting.

### 32. UPDATE FROM THE FIRE BRIGADE

Community Liaison Officer Peter Bradley updated the meeting with statistics in relation to the number of incidents in the Central area between January and March 2011 comparable to the same period last year. The number of deliberate F1 (fires with a monetary value) had remained the same. Deliberate F3 fires (rubbish) had decreased. Fewer home safety visits had been carried out but this was attributed to recent bad weather. The hotspot in the Central Area was Foggy Furze where half of the incidents in the Central Area had taken place. The current trend for metal theft had provoked a rise in incidents as thieves would steal cables and then burn off the casing. This was occurring in Mainsforth Terrace and Newburn Bridge and appliances were finding it difficult to gain access to these areas because of the terrain. However, the Fire Authority were to enlist the help of the Community Payback team and Network Rail to try and level the terrain.

**Tunstall Court** – Councillor Wells asked for details of the latest fire at these premises and Mr Bradley said that there had been a fire on the third floor and the premises had been broken into. Arrests had been made but the premises had not yet been made secure.

**Cable Stripping** – The Vice Chair informed the meeting that cable stripping was also taking place in Brenda Road. Mr Bradley said that he had been aware of this in the past.

**Allotment Fires** – Councillor Hall said that there had been a number of fires at Burn Valley Allotments and allegations had been made that livestock had been burnt. Mr Bradley was working with the Local Authority's Environment Co-ordinator to devise new rules and regulations for allotment holders. Allotment holders had been contacted to remind them of fire risks and there would be a press release on that subject the following week.

Mr Bradley was thanked for his update.

### 33. UPDATE FROM THE ANTISOCIAL BEHAVIOUR UNIT

The Police Anti Social Behaviour Officer updated the meeting with numbers and categories of cases dealt with by the Unit in comparison to the previous year. Statistics in relation to cases dealt with by Housing Hartlepool for the same period were also provided. There had been a reduction complaints of rowdy behaviour and harassment. It was thought that the bad weather in December had affected this.

Items of interest included work done in Thornton Street and Mitchell Street with partner agencies and the neighbourhood policing team in early intervention. 15 Young People had signed up for

Voluntary Acceptable Behaviour contracts. Officer Jean Shanava was to rejoin the York Road team to deal with complaints. 3 Drink Banning Orders had been granted and another three were pending.

It was clarified that the statistics provided in relation to Case Outcomes were numbers of cases rather than percentages.

**Drink Banning Orders** – Councillor Wells asked who issued these and was informed that these were issued by Magistrates.

**Staffing Levels at Antisocial Behaviour Unit** – Councillor Wells asked how many staff were paid by the Local Authority and was informed that there were 7 although some were based at the Police Office and some in York Road.

**Soft Footballs** – Councillor Hall said that youths playing football in the street in the Eamont Gardens area had been issued with soft footballs by Police which had alleviated the nuisance issue.

The Chair thanked the ASB Officer for his update.

### 34. ANY OTHER ITEMS WHICH THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS ARE URGENT

No items.

The meeting concluded at 3.07 pm

CHAIR

**Report of:** Child Poverty Working Group

**Subject:** CHILD POVERTY NEEDS ASSESSMENT AND STRATEGY

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**1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

The purpose of this report is to inform the consultative forum of a consultation process for a refreshed child poverty strategy.

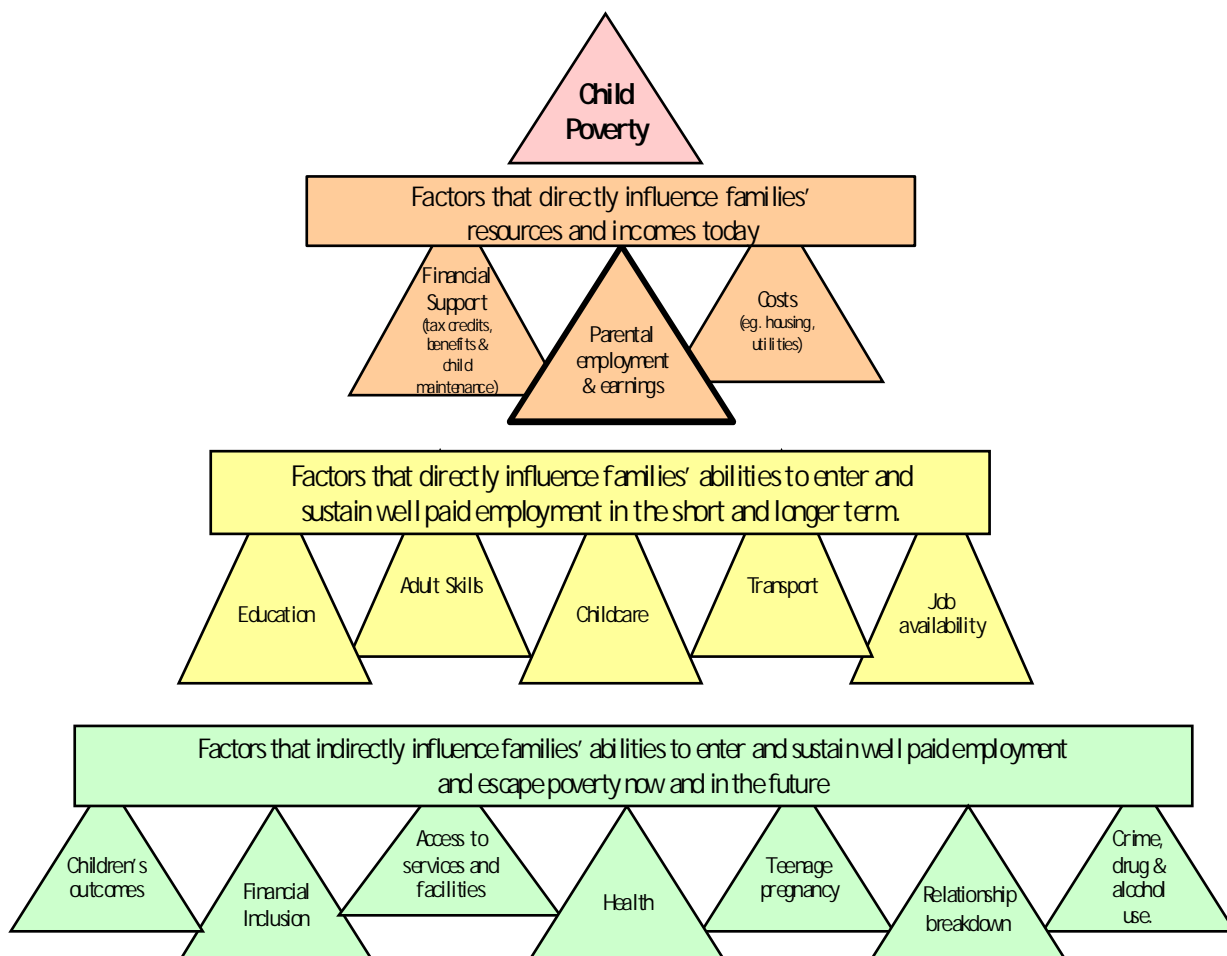
**2. BACKGROUND**

2.1 The Local Authority with its partners has a duty to produce a Child Poverty Needs Assessment and Child Poverty Strategy through the Child Poverty Act 2010. A previous Child Poverty Strategy was approved by Hartlepool Borough Council Cabinet in April 2010. Since this time an independent report by Frank Field has been published therefore a refresh of the current strategy is needed using the information collated in the needs assessment and the evidence presented in the Frank Field Review.

2.2 The child poverty working group have drafted a Child Poverty needs assessment and a refreshed strategy. This strategy is being consulted widely to ensure all partners have an opportunity to inform the strategy.

**3. CHILD POVERTY NEEDS ASSESSMENT**

3.1 A draft needs assessment has been produced which sets out data linked to child poverty as set out below:



3.2 The data has been set out in wards and have been RAG (Red/ Amber/ Green) rated with 1 being the highest level of concern and 17 being the lowest. This is generally translated into RAG rating as follows:  
 1-5 highest results - of most cause for concern  
 6-10 highest results - of medium cause for concern  
 11-17 - lowest cause for concern.

3.3 This needs assessment gives an overview of the needs in Hartlepool and needs to be used to inform the strategy and the actions linked to the strategy.

#### 4. CHILD POVERTY STRATEGY

4.1 The draft Child Poverty Strategy has been developed using research from national pilots, local activities and the review published by Frank Field. It sets out two approaches that need consideration:

1. Targeted approach – supporting families currently in poverty
2. Preventative approach – preventing poor children becoming poor adults

4.2 The strategy attempts to address both these approaches but obviously in a difficult economic climate the level of interventions needs debating.

## 5. CONSULTATION

5.1 A consultation is taking place in March and April 2011 to allow the public and partners to shape the strategy. The consultation period ends on 21<sup>st</sup> April 2011. Responses will be collated and added to the strategy as appropriate and a final strategy will be presented to Cabinet and the Hartlepool partnership for approval in May/June 2011.

5.2 The draft needs assessment and draft strategy is on the council website and can be accessed at  
[http://www.hartlepool.gov.uk/downloads/file/7129/draft\\_child\\_poverty\\_strategy\\_and\\_needs\\_assessment](http://www.hartlepool.gov.uk/downloads/file/7129/draft_child_poverty_strategy_and_needs_assessment)

5.3 Responses to the strategy should be sent by 21<sup>st</sup> April 2011 to:

Danielle Swainston, Sure Start, Extended Services and Early Years  
Manager, Civic Centre, Victoria Road, Hartlepool TS24 8AY  
[danielle.swainston@hartlepool.gov.uk](mailto:danielle.swainston@hartlepool.gov.uk)  
01429 523671

## 6. RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 For members of the consultative forum and the public to respond to the consultation.

6.2 Responses to the strategy should be sent to:

Danielle Swainston, Sure Start, Extended Services and Early Years  
Manager, Civic Centre, Victoria Road, Hartlepool TS24 8AY  
[danielle.swainston@hartlepool.gov.uk](mailto:danielle.swainston@hartlepool.gov.uk)  
01429 523671

## 7. BACKGROUND PAPERS

The draft Child Poverty Needs Assessment and draft Child Poverty Strategy are available on Hartlepool Council's website  
[http://www.hartlepool.gov.uk/downloads/file/7129/draft\\_child\\_poverty\\_strategy\\_and\\_needs\\_assessment](http://www.hartlepool.gov.uk/downloads/file/7129/draft_child_poverty_strategy_and_needs_assessment)

## 8. CONTACT OFFICER

Danielle Swainston, Sure Start, Extended Services and Early Years  
Manager, 01429 523671  
[danielle.swainston@hartlepool.gov.uk](mailto:danielle.swainston@hartlepool.gov.uk)



**CENTRAL FORUM MINOR WORKS SCHEMES BUDGET 2010/11**

**TOTAL BUDGET 2010/11 : £87,000 - INCLUDES ALLOCATION FROM HIGHWAYS TO ADDRESS SPECIFIC HIGHWAYS ISSUES (£20,000), AND SPECIFIC PROBLEM OF CONVERSION OF GRASS VERGES TO TARMAC HARDSTANDING (£15,000).**

**NB due to a reduced scheme to address the railings at Hart Village identified in the previous financial year, this has enabled additional schemes to be included in 2010/11 bringing the total Minor Works budget spend for 2010/11 to £91,842.93.**

<b>WARD</b>	<b>SCHEME</b>	<b>MATCH FUNDING</b> <b>£</b>	<b>CENTRAL FORUM APPROVAL</b> <b>£</b>	<b>TOTAL FUNDING APPROVED</b> <b>£</b>
Central Forum Wide	Tactile crossings Pride in Hartlepool	8,000.00	3,500.00 5,000.00	11,500.00 5,000.00
<b>Central Forum Wide Schemes Total</b>		<b>8,000.00</b>	<b>8,500.00</b>	<b>16,500</b>
Grange	Milton Road resurfacing Eltringham Road shrubs Eltringham Road gates	0.00 0.00 0.00	9,000.00 600.00 919.00	9,000.00 600.00 919.00
<b>Grange Total</b>		<b>0.00</b>	<b>10,519.00</b>	<b>10,519.00</b>
Rift House	Compton Road grassed verge removal  Summerhill Lane allotments fencing	0.00  Parks & Countryside 750.00 Central JAG 1,350.00	10,350.00	10,350.00

	Fletcher Walk	Section 17 NAP	16,900.00 5,000.00 0.00	2,000.00 3,600.00	26,000.00 3,600.00
<b>Rift House Total</b>			<b>24,000.00</b>	<b>15,950.00</b>	<b>39,950.00</b>
Park	Dunston Road Lay-by Elwick Road		20,000.00 0.00	15,000.00 1,600.00	35,000.00 1,600.00
<b>Park Ward Total</b>			<b>20,000.00</b>	<b>16,600.00</b>	<b>36,600.00</b>
Stranton	Cameron Road traffic build out		16,584.07	4,515.93	17,000.00
<b>Stranton Total</b>			<b>12,484.07</b>	<b>4515.93</b>	<b>17,000.00</b>
Foggy Furze	Haswell Allotments pathway Stratford Road entrance to back lane Caladonian Road LED speed signs Studley Road fencing	NDC Beautification	7,000.00	1,500.00 2,500.00 4,500.00 5,500.00	1,500.00 2,500.00 4,500.00 12,500.00
<b>Foggy Furze Total</b>			<b>7,000.00</b>	<b>14,000.00</b>	<b>21,000.00</b>
Burn Valley	Blakelock Road Puffin Crossing Alston Street additional light		25,000.00 0.00	15,000.00 800.00	40,000.00 800.00
<b>Burn Valley Total</b>			<b>25,000.00</b>	<b>15,800.00</b>	<b>40,800.00</b>
Elwick Village	Drainage scheme		0.00	2,590.00	2,590.00
Newton Bewley	Speed recognition signs		4,000.00	2,000.00	6,000.00
Hart Village	Painting of railings		0.00	868.00	868.00
Dalton Village	Cost for the supply of trees		0.00	500.00	500.00

<b>Elwick Total</b>		<b>4,000.00</b>	<b>5,958.00</b>	<b>9,958.00</b>
<b>TOTAL TO DATE</b>		<b>100,484.07</b>	<b>91,842.93</b>	<b>192,327.00</b>