

CENTRAL NEIGHBOURHOOD CONSULTATIVE FORUM AGENDA



Thursday, 30 June 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, Lauderdale, Loynes, Maness, Morris, Payne, Richardson, Shaw, Simmons, Sirs, Sutheran, Tempest, H Thompson and Wells.

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

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 7th April 2011
 - 4.2 Matters arising
5. **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME/ WARD ISSUES FROM WARD MEMBERS AND RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVES**

6. ITEMS FOR CONSULTATION

- 6.1 Dog Control Orders – *Waste and Environmental Services Manager*
- 6.2 Allotment Improvements – *Waste and Environmental Services Manager*
- 6.3 Housing Strategy – *Housing Strategy Officer*

7. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION and/or INFORMATION

- 7.1 20s Plenty – *Traffic Team Leader*

8. ITEMS FOR DECISION

- 8.1 Central Neighbourhood Forum Minor Works Proposals 2011/12 –
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 28th July at 2pm in the Council Chamber

The next meeting of the Central Neighbourhood Consultative Forum will take place on Thursday 18th August at 6pm in the Council Chamber

WARDS

Burn Valley
Elwick
Foggy Furze
Grange
Park
Rift House
Stranton

CENTRAL NEIGHBOURHOOD CONSULTATIVE FORUM

7 April 2011

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 Gerald Hall	- Burn Valley Ward
Councillor Peter Ingham	- Stranton 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, Ted Jackson, Evelyn Leck, Brenda Loynes, Steven Mailen, Brian McBean, Noma Morrish and Julie Rudge

Public: W Hatch, Gordon and Stella Johnson, Ray McAndrew, J Mays, William Morrish, Ray Pocklington and Ray Waller

Council Officers:

- Clare Clark, Neighbourhood Manager
- Julie Bower, Selective Licensing Co-ordinator
- Danielle Swainston, Sure Start, Extended Services and Early Years Manager
- Irene Cross, Neighbourhood Development Officer
- David Cosgrove, Principal Democratic Services Officer

Police Representatives: Sergeant Dave Halliday

Fire Brigade Representative: Peter Bradley

48. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Dr Morris, Payne and Worthy.

49. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

50. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 17 FEBRUARY 2011

The minutes were confirmed as an accurate record.

51. MATTERS ARISING

Ray McAndrew commented that the pointing on the former Co-operative building at the junction of Park Road and Stranton was in a poor condition and set a bad example for the work that would be accepted on a listed building. The Neighbourhood manager indicated that he would be meeting the Conservation Officer on this matter later in the week.

Julie Ridge commented that the bollards in Young Street near the bus stop had not been reinstated yet. There were also problems in the positioning of the bus stop.

Brenda Loynes commented that the bus services referred to on page 4 were operated by Tees Valley not Stagecoach.

Brenda Loynes complained of the problems with recycling bags and boxes not being returned to properties. Ted Jackson also complained of the lack of follow up cleaning after the recycling collection. The Neighbourhood manager indicated that a third bin was being considered to replace the various boxes and bags.

Brenda Loynes complained that a number of the lifts in the shopping centre were still out of action. The Chair indicated that this would be forwarded onto Mark Rycroft.

Ray Pocklington commented that the report at the last meeting that there was only a 15% vacancy rate in the shopping centre seemed to underestimate the problem.

Ray McAndrew indicated that he had asked if consideration could be given to making Arncliffe Gardens one-way. Also Mr McAndrew was critical of the waste of money by the council in starting and then stopping works. He cited the no left turn works at Baden Street / Blakelock Road and the toilet block at Newburn Bridge where disabled facilities had been added after the original works were completed. The Sure Start, Extended Services and Early Years Manager commented that it had been intended to install the disabled facilities at the Newburn Bridge toilets all along but the grant funding for this element wasn't received until after the initial works were complete.

Councillor Hall commented on the road works in Blakelock Road and indicated that following some further consultation a location for the pedestrian crossing nearer the roundabout had been agreed. It was works associated with protecting the crossing that had had to be stopped.

On the one-way proposal, Councillor Hall indicated that consultation in the area gave a 50/50 response. He was concerned that one-way street system did not slow down traffic, often the opposite and it was therefore proposed to leave the situation as it was. The road wasn't used as a bus route anymore which may alleviate some past problems.

Councillor Wells suggested that Stop lines should be introduced at more street junctions to force drivers to stop and look for traffic before pulling out of side streets.

Councillor Wells commented that following the recent changes to bus routes, some people, particularly the elderly were facing lengthy walks to access bus services. Could the services not be reinstated on their original and well-known routes. The Chair suggested that a representative form Stagecoach

should be invited to a future meeting to address this and other issues.

**52. MINUTES OF THE CENTRAL AREA
POLICE AND COMMUNITY
SAFETY CONSULTATIVE FORUM
HELD ON 17 MARCH 2011**

The minutes were received by the Forum.

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

PARK WARD

Ted Jackson asked when the Zebra Crossing was to be installed across Park Avenue that was promised at the time the car park was installed. The car park could do with better signing to promote its use as most people seemed to still park on Park Avenue. Could double yellow lines be implemented to alleviate this problem. It was also suggested that a sign indicating the parking in the car park was free may help. The Chair indicated that this could be investigated.

Brenda Loynes complained that the graffiti in Mounston Close had returned. The Neighbourhood manger indicated that this would be dealt with.

Councillor Wells indicated that he had asked if the rumble strips approaching the crossing at ??? could be higher to alert drivers to the crossing that was hidden around the corner. He also suggested that trees needed to be cut back to improve sight lines as well. Councillor Wells also asked of a warning sign could also be installed. The Chair indicated that the requests would be forwarded to the Highways, Traffic and Transportation Manager for consideration. A minor works scheme may be able to fund the sign.

GRANGE WARD

Councillor Simmons commented that it appeared that the new road signs on Grange Road were on the wrong side of the road.

Councillor Simmons and Brian McBean commented that there were considerable amounts of litter collected behind several telecommunication and telephone boxes around the ward.

Brian McBean highlighted the problems of the theft of semi-precious metals throughout the area. Sgt Halliday commented that this was a national problem. The Police were targeting scrap dealers and had arrested a criminal gang from Durham trying to sell stolen metals in Hartlepool. Similarly, some Hartlepool criminals were arrested in Yorkshire trying to sell stolen cable.

Councillor Maness asked for an update on the repairs to the potholes in Grosvenor Street near Lynnfield School. Ted Jackson asked if it would be more cost efficient for the council to employ its own staff to tackle potholes. Councillor Simmons indicated that the council already had such a team.

Councillor Richardson questioned the programme for resurfacing for Milton Road between Tankerville Street and Mulgrave Road. The Neighbourhood Development Officer reported that it was the back lanes that were being resurfaced.

Julie Rudge highlighted the problems for disabled wheelchair users in Hart lane due to the lack of dropped kerbs in some key crossing locations. The Chair indicated that this would be looked at.

FOGGY FURZE WARD

Bob Farrow indicated that following the works in the Belle Vue / Studley Road area, the fencing was in place to protect children and the trees were looking excellent at this time of year. There were problems with thefts in the area and an element of drug dealing which the Police were tackling. In relation to the underground car park at the shopping centre, Mr Farrow asked if there could be automatic doors to assist the disabled. The Chair indicated the request would be passed on to the appropriate officers.

RIFT HOUSE WARD

No questions.

ELWICK WARD

Steve Miller stated that the residents in Elwick were furious at the withdrawal of the bus services. People accepted that the Council needed to make cutbacks but no other part of the town had been left without any bus service at all, unlike Elwick. Taxi's were not an option for pensioners. The Chair acknowledged the comments and stated that a Working Group had been established recently to look at situations like this. Councillor Simmons indicated that the working group had held its first meeting and would be working with the Integrated Transport Unit on solutions. Ray Waller indicated that in County Durham parish councils, who were not capped by the government, had taken on the subsidy of many routes that served the smaller villages. Officers should contact their counterparts at Durham to investigate this option.

Councillor Hilary Thompson commented that the Parish Councils in Hartlepool had very little money. The perception that the villages such as Elwick were home to the well-heeled, was completely untrue but may become fact as only those who could

afford their own transport will be able to live there now.

Steven Mailen indicated that the Give Way signs at Dalton cross-roads were still missing.

Councillor Hilary Thompson indicated that the A19 Dalton to Sheraton was to be resurfaced in the coming weeks and indicated that after being promised low noise road surface that was not now going to be provided. Residents in the area and on the edges of the villages suffered a considerable amount of road noise and this could have alleviated their problems slightly.

Ted Jackson commented that the road surface from Dalton Lodge into the village was in a very poor condition. It was indicated that it was on the schedule to be resurfaced.

BURN VALLEY WARD

Ray McAndrew questioned why it was necessary to amend the layout of the junctions onto Catcote Road. Mr McAndrew also questioned why the right turn from the A689 south into Clarence Road was being removed. It was noted that Museum Road had now returned to two-way operation. The Chair indicated that an explanation of the works would be sought.

Ray Waller asked if the surveys on Osbourne Road and Park Road would take into account pedestrian numbers as crossing the road in these roads was becoming increasingly difficult.

Councillor Hall indicated he had received complaints from residents in Marske Street about the condition of the back street.

Councillor Hall questioned if one of the cross town services that go through to

Hart Village could be extended to Elwick. Ray Waller indicated that he believed that Stagecoach policy was that buses were not permitted to cross the A19.

Ray Pocklington referred to the recent traffic survey for Eldon Grove where there was a 20mph speed limit which showed an average speed of 28mph. Councillor Hall indicated that there had been a recent scrutiny investigation into 20mph speed limits as there was clear evidence they did reduce overall traffic speeds. The Police commented that they did not have the equipment to monitor 20mph speed limits.

Ray Waller asked if the flashing speed monitor signs could be implemented in park Road to slow traffic down. Councillor Hilary Thompson indicated that the signs recently installed in Newton Bewley seemed to have had an positive affect.

STRANTON WARD

Noma Morrish asked if the bus operators need approval to operate and if it could be revoked. The chair thought this was an interesting question and asked if officers could find out for the next meeting.

Noma Morrish commented that she had nearly been knocked over by a cyclist riding on the pavement at Wilkinson's Corner on her way to the meeting. Were cyclists tackled for this by the Police. The police indicated that a number of fixed penalty notices were handed out for this. Initially the approach was to educate first then enforce. Younger cyclists would receive a home visit. Sgt Halliday indicated that if people could let them know of particular problem areas then the PCSO's would monitor them. Members considered that an awareness campaign may help with this problem.

Julie Rudge commented that the bus stops on Victoria Road near the bingo hall appeared to be the wrong way around.

Julie Rudge raised concern with the condition of the Church of the Nazarene land which was covered in broken glass yet some parents were encouraging their children to play there. The Neighbourhood Manager indicated that a notice had been served on the church in relation to the land.

Julie Rudge complained of a scrap metal dealer creating noise from first thing on a morning through to the evening. A complaint had been made to the owner but they simply said they were allowed to operate and would continue to do so. The Chair thought such sites usually had operational times applied to them and officers would be asked to investigate this site.

Brian McBean complained of the condition of the linear park in Thomton Street. The Neighbourhood Manager reported that the council was working with residents on the linear park.

Councillor Shaw expressed concern in relation to the children that were regularly playing on the grating in front of the Civic Centre and was concerned that one may fall through into the car park below.

Councillor Shaw was also extremely concerned by the ball games that were being played on Victory Square despite them being banned. She was particularly concerned that a small child could be injured. The Neighbourhood Manager indicated that there bye-laws in place but there needed to be persistent abuse before action could be taken. All Council drivers had also been advised not to mount the pavements in this area.

Brenda Loynes complained of the m number of taxis queuing in Swainston

Street on double yellow lines making it extremely difficult on occasions for other vehicles to get past. The Chair indicated that the licensing team would be asked to look at this.

53. CHILD POVERTY STRATEGY

The Forum was reminded that the Local Authority had a duty to produce a Child Poverty Needs Assessment and Strategy. The Child Poverty Working Group had drafted a Child Poverty needs assessment and a refreshed strategy and were in the process of consulting with interested parties for views.

The Forum was told that the Government measured poverty by saying that any adult with one child living on less than £145 per week was classed as living in poverty. Locally, children and young people in Hartlepool made up almost 20% of the population and almost a third of these were living in poverty. Hartlepool has one of the highest percentages of children living in poverty in the North East. An independent review had been carried out nationally which recommended the establishment of a set of 'life chances' indicators as well as establishing a foundation year's education system covering 0 – 5 years. The Sure Start, Extended Services and Early Years Manager asked for views on how the Authority could support families currently in poverty as well as preventing poor children from becoming poor adults.

The Chair commented that there were some families in their third generation of poverty who simply saw it as normal. Tackling such an issue required a multi-agency approach but all were faced with the problem of a lack of funding.

Bob Farrow commented that due to recent grant cuts, the Belle Vue Centre was having to reduce the number of youth club nights it offered just when

young people needed these services more.

Councillor Hall commented that these figures had caused great concern when reported to Cabinet recently. There was no such thing as child poverty but family poverty that affected children. The issue of child poverty had been added to every Cabinet Portfolio so that it was considered as part of every issue brought forward. Councillor Hall felt that the recent cut of £14m from the councils budgets simply made the problems worse and affected the services, such as the Family Intervention Project, that were designed to help people in such situations. The ending of the Education Maintenance Allowance to the majority of tertiary students also made it difficult for many to continue their education – a primary route out of poverty.

The Sure Start, Extended Services and Early Years Manager indicated that the consultation period continued until 21 June and encouraged as many as possible to partake in the consultation on this important strategy.

54. BOUNDARY COMMISSION REVIEW CONSULTATION

The Neighbourhood Manager advised the Forum that the consultation on the new ward boundary and naming proposed by the Independent Local Government Boundary Commission had commenced and would continue until 20 June 2011.

Ray Waller commented that he could not understand how the ward serving the easterly part of the town had been renamed Middleton Ward and that it was difficult from the proposals to see where the Heritage Ward started and ended.

55. CENTRAL FORUM MINOR WORKS SCHEMES BUDGET 2010/11

The Neighbourhood Manager submitted a report outlining the expenditure on minor works schemes over the past year. The chair thanked the officers for their work on the schemes which had made a significant difference to residents.

56. EXTENSION OF SELECTIVE LICENSING SCHEME

The Selective Licensing Coordinator outlined details of the scheme to the Forum i.e. that in certain areas of the town, private landlords were required to be licensed. This scheme already in place in some areas of Hartlepool was to be extended to other parts of the town and consultations were currently taking place with residents groups, landlords, consultative forums and partner agencies. Everyone in the affected and surrounding areas would have received a consultation document. The results of the consultation would be considered by Cabinet in June and updates would be brought to future Neighbourhood Consultative Forums.

The Chair commented that he could only support the extension of these schemes. Brian McBean commented that there were seasonal variations in the numbers of empty properties and asked if this was taken into account. There was also concern that the areas covered by the licensing created a migration of bad tenants into areas outside the licensing zone thus causing problems for those areas.

Councillor Hall acknowledged that the licensing scheme would not cure all the problems of bad tenants. The areas targeted were statistically selected and when the private landlords were brought on board great improvements could be made.

Jill Rudge supported the scheme and indicated that it had worked well in her

area. It did rely on residents reporting anti-social behaviour and if they didn't they couldn't blame the council for not taking action. The Selective Licensing Coordinator indicated that the scheme could be a win-win for everyone; residents, tenants and landlords. The majority of landlords were very cooperative with the scheme.

The Chair indicated that if any of the resident groups wanted further information, the officers involved would regularly attend groups to make presentations on the scheme.

In closing the meeting, the Chair thanked all the Councillors, Resident Representatives, officers and local residents that had made this a successful year in the operation of the forum.

Members thanked the Chair for his support during the year.

The meeting concluded at 12.20 pm

Issues Feedback from February Meeting of the Central Neighbourhood Consultative Forum

Matters Arising

Suggestion that Stop lines should be introduced at more street junctions to force drivers to stop and look for traffic before pulling out of side streets – Cllr Wells

HBC Traffic Team report that set criteria in terms of visibility must be met before a Stop line/ sign can be introduced, with regulations stating that it must be an “exceptional case.” Approval is also required from the Secretary of State for Transport. Peter Frost Traffic Team Leader is more than happy to investigate requests where specific locations are identified. During investigations there may be other measures that can be taken such as yellow lines, to prevent vehicles parking right on a junction.

Following the recent changes to bus routes, some people, particularly the elderly were facing lengthy walks to access bus services. Could the services not be reinstated on their original and well-known routes. Cllr Wells

Services supported by the Council were withdrawn at the end of March, as part of the budget reduction process. Bus operators will not run them commercially as they are not financially viable for them, hence the services being supported in the first place. Peter Frost can provide contact details if required, if the Forum would like to request an officer from Stagecoach, or the other operators to attend.

PARK WARD

When will installation of the Zebra Crossing across Park Avenue take place that was promised at the time the car park was installed. The car park could do with better signing to promote its use as most people seemed to still park on Park Avenue. Could double yellow lines be implemented to alleviate this problem. It was also suggested that a sign indicating the parking in the car park was free may help. The Chair indicated that this could be investigated - Ted Jackson

HBC Traffic Team Report that the crossing was part of a larger traffic calming scheme, which has dropped down the list of proposed schemes as the road's accident record has improved. However it is recognised that it is important to improve access to and from the car park in order to encourage its use, and the installation of a crossing will be prioritised from future years Local Transport Plan programme.

In relation to signage it is the opinion of the Traffic Team that the car park is well signed, but the problem appears to be that people park on Park Avenue instead as it is nearer/ easier. It may see increased usage at busy times, due

to the lack of an alternative. There are double yellow lines on the “park” side of Park Avenue, but it would be difficult to place them on the residential side, unless all residents were in favour.

Problems with graffiti in Mounston Close – Brenda Loynes

This Graffiti has been removed.

Could rumble strips approaching the crossing at Elwick Road be higher to alert drivers to the crossing that was hidden around the corner. Trees needed be cut back to improve sight lines as well. Could a warning sign also be installed. Cllr Wells

Visibility of the crossing meets the relevant safety standards, however the provision of a warning sign would help, and this will be arranged. This is likely to be much more effective than the rumble strips. Bob Golightly is investigating cutting back trees and bushes to improve sight lines.

Problems with recycling bags and boxes not being returned to properties. Brenda Loynes – and lack of follow up cleaning after the recycling collection - Ted Jackson.

There will be a consultation on the recycling collection service in October-December to determine the viability of changing collection methods to an enclosed container such as a wheeled bin.

Fiona Srogi has spoken to the staff in relation to returning bags and boxes. The crews will pick up any material that they drop, however any wind blown material will be cleansed by street cleansing.

GRANGE WARD

It appeared that the new road signs on Grange Road were on the wrong side of the road – Cllr Simmons

HBC Traffic Section inform that the signs have been positioned this way for 2 reasons:- When heading towards the town centre there are trees on the left hand side of the road which would obscure the sign, and when driving up Grange Road, a large Transit van had been seen to be parking on the left hand side on a regular basis, which again would have blocked drivers view of the sign. It's perfectly legal to install the signs in this way, and they seem to be proving effective.

Litter collecting behind several telecommunication and telephone boxes around the ward – Brian McBean and Cllr Chris Simmons.

The cleansing teams have been spoken to in relation to this matter, more attention will be taken when cleansing to ensure these areas are not overlooked.

Request for an update on the repairs to the potholes in Grosvenor Street near Lynnfield School – Cllr Maness.

This area has been inspected and any actionable work was carried out in April, Bob Golightly has asked the inspector to check again and he has again found no actionable defects, Bob will contact the councillor and ask if she can provide specific locations, it may be that the inspector is inspecting the wrong location.

Query about the programme for resurfacing for Milton Road between Tankerville Street and Mulgrave Road – Cllr Richardson

Resurfacing of the rear alleyway on this particular stretch of Milton Road was funded through the Central Forums Minor Works Budget for this financial year and is now complete.

Problems for disabled wheelchair users in Hart lane due to the lack of dropped kerbs in some key crossing locations – Julie Rudge

Due to budget cuts there is no longer a specific budget for dropped crossings. However if there are areas of concern that cause difficulty to wheelchair users, then these areas will be looked at with a view to assisting where possible. Specific details will be sought and investigated.

FOGGY FURZE WARD

In relation to the underground car park at the shopping centre could automatic doors be installed to assist the disabled. Bob Farrow

The request for the automatic doors has been reported to Mark Rycroft's team – what answer was received?

ELWICK WARD

Residents are furious due to withdrawal of the bus services at Elwick. People accepted that the Council needed to make cutbacks but no other part of the town had been left without any bus service at all, unlike Elwick. Taxi's were not an option for pensioners. Steve Mailen

Discussions are ongoing with bus operators over the possibility of providing some sort of service, but nothing definite has been agreed as yet. The Working Group has carried out a consultation exercise, and the findings will be reported back to Scrutiny.

Give Way signs at Dalton cross-roads were still missing – Steve Mailen.

A Highways technician has been on site at Dalton cross-roads, there are a number of signs missing and orders have been raised for the signs to be replaced within the next couple of weeks.

A19 Dalton to Sheraton resurfacing planned but not low noise road surface as originally promised - residents in the area and on the edges of the villages suffer a considerable amount of road noise and this could have alleviated their problems slightly – Cllr Thompson

Unfortunately this road is the responsibility of the Highways Agency who have indicated that they don't have the funding to provide a low noise road surface. Peter Frost can provide contact details if required, if the Forum would like to request an officer from the Highways Agency to attend.

Road surface from Dalton Lodge into the village was in a very poor condition. It was indicated previously that it was on the schedule to be resurfaced – Ted Jackson.

The scheduled resurfacing program is underway and this section of carriageway will be resurfaced between June and July 2011.

BURN VALLEY WARD

Why is it necessary to amend the layout of the junctions onto Catcote Road, and why is the right turn from the A689 south into Clarence Road being removed - Ray McAndrew

These schemes are all part of the Bus Network Improvements project, which includes significant funding from the government. They are all designed to give increased junction capacity, and therefore enable buses to make quicker journeys – Oxford Rd/ Catcote Rd signals and widening, plus the widening of other junctions along Catcote Road to prevent right turning vehicles from holding up through traffic.

The right turn into Clarence Road has been removed to allow more northbound flow through the junction. A lot of the congestion around the town centre area stemmed from this point, and by enabling northbound traffic to flow for longer (while the right turn into Church Square is in operation) this has helped to bring about an improvement.

Will the surveys on Osbourne Road and Park Road take into account pedestrian numbers as crossing the road in these roads was becoming increasingly difficult. – Ray Waller

A previous junction survey showed that vehicles exiting both sides of Osbourne Road experience delays at busy times, and that the introduction of traffic signals at the junction would be beneficial. Such a scheme would also include

pedestrian crossing phases on all 4 legs of the junction, although no funding is available at present, with the Local Transport Plan budget having been cut by more than 50%.

Complaints from residents in Marske Street about the condition of the back street – Cllr Hall

These works are now completed

In relation to bus services could one of the cross town services that go through to Hart Village be extended to Elwick. Cllr Hall - Ray Waller indicated that he believed that Stagecoach policy was that buses were not permitted to cross the A19.

Peter Frost has confirmed that Stagecoach policy was that buses are not permitted to cross the A19.

Effectiveness of 20mph speed limits questioned - Ray Pocklington

Following the recent Scrutiny investigation, consultation is due to take place over the introduction of 20mph limits on a town-wide basis. Main roads are proposed to remain at their existing limits, with estate roads identified for 20mph limits. These would be 20mph limits by signs alone, not physical traffic calming measures, and the scheme would run alongside a publicity/ education programme.

Request for flashing speed monitor signs to be implemented in Park Road to slow traffic down – Ray Waller

The possibility of rotating some of the existing vehicle activated signs around the town is to be looked at, and Park Road has been placed on the list for the next rotation

Request for consideration to be given to making Arncliffe Gardens one-way and Council wasting money in starting and then stopping works - no left turn works at Baden Street / Blakelock Road and the toilet block at Newburn Bridge where disabled facilities had been added after the original works were completed cited as examples – Ray McAndrew

In relation to Newburn Bridge toilets it was always the intention to install the disabled facilities but the grant funding for this element wasn't received until after the initial works were complete.

Road works in Blakelock Road had stopped following concerns raised with the initial scheme by local residents thus requiring further consultation. A location for the pedestrian crossing nearer the roundabout had been agreed but works associated with protecting the crossing that had to be stopped. However the crossing works are now 99% complete (14 June). The crossing is expected to become operational this week. The crossing was originally to

be located closer to the Brinkbum Road junction with the left turn into Blakelock Gardens prohibited, but following further representations from members of the public this decision has been changed. Consequently, the crossing has gone in slightly further down the road, with the left turn reinstated.

On the one-way proposal – consultations on one way systems tend to give a 50/50 response on whether people are in favour or not, and then a similar ratio regarding which direction the system should operate. It is also correct to say that one way systems actually increase vehicle speeds, as motorists know they aren't going to meet oncoming traffic. As the bus route no longer operates along Arncliffe Gardens, Peter Frost will make arrangements for the bus stops to be suspended in order to give more parking space for residents. There may be a need to extend the yellow lines slightly at the Elwick Road end, to help keep the junction clear.

STRANTON WARD

The bollards in Young Street near the bus stop have not been reinstated yet - and problems in the positioning of the bus stop. Julie Rudge

A price has been requested for the installation of barriers. Works should take place in the next 2-3 weeks. The bus stop is now in a lay-by, the shelter has been re-instated, and the barrier installation will prevent vehicle access to the area of open land.

Do the bus operators need approval to operate and if it could be revoked – Norma Morrish.

Bus operators need to register with the Traffic Commissioners if they want to run a service, which takes 56 days. This also applies if they want to withdraw an existing service. They are also measured on the standard of service they provide, including journey punctuality surveys.

The bus stops on Victoria Road near the bingo hall appear to be the wrong way around. Julie Rudge

With regard to bus shelters there is no right and wrong way, shelters are installed in the most appropriate way for each particular location. If there is a more specific query then Officers are more than happy to investigate.

Condition of the Church of the Nazarene land covered in broken glass yet some parents were encouraging their children to play there - Julie Rudge

Investigations are underway in relation to possible future use of this land with the Church and partners – however it is recognised that the current state of the land is of some concern to local residents therefore the Council is investigating serving a section 215 notice to tidy up the land.

Complaints of a scrap metal dealer creating noise from first thing on a morning through to the evening. A complaint had been made to the owner but they simply said they were allowed to operate and would continue to do so - Julie Rudge

The planning section are looking into this matter, once a decision has been reached as to the restrictions on this business this information will be fed back to the Forum.

Complaint about condition of the linear park in Thornton Street – Brian McBean

In addition to the ongoing developments and work with residents, HBC are awaiting estimates to repair the broken and cracked plinths.

Complaint about the number of taxis queuing in Swainston Street on double yellow lines making it extremely difficult on occasions for other vehicles to get past – Brenda Loynes

A scheme is due to be advertised shortly which will see the taxi rank extended back past the Engineers Club giving more space for taxis, while strengthening the restrictions on the opposite side to include a loading ban. This will keep the west side clear, particularly from blue badge holders, which tend to be the vehicles which cause the hold-ups. The existing, short, loading bay outside the Grand Hotel will be retained.

Complaints that a number of the lifts in the shopping centre were still out of action - Brenda Loynes.

Phil Hepbum will be in attendance at the Consultative Forum and will give a verbal update.

Report of: Neighbourhood Manager (Central)

Subject: CENTRAL NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM MINOR WORKS PROPOSALS 2011/12

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

2.1 The Forum has been delegated a total Minor Works Budget of **£25,000** for the financial year 2011/2012. This includes an allocation of **£10,000** from highways budgets to address specific highways issues raised by the Forum in the Central Area, **£15,000** to address the common issue of the conversion of grass verges to hard standing, and a further **£,8000** from the Local Transport Plan for various highways or traffic related issues.

Total Forum Budget 2011/12: £58,000

2.2 The framework when considering proposed schemes as in previous years is as follows

- (i) Outline schemes to be proposed by Members, Residents, Resident Representatives, or Officers;
- (ii) The Chair and Vice Chair of the Neighbourhood Consultative Forum will assess the proposal and where appropriate instruct Officers to cost the works and report to the Forum;
- (iii) Reports to the Forum will include estimated costs, alternative options where appropriate, residents' views, and any other related information.

3.0 PROPOSALS

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

(i) GRANGE WARD

Eltringham Road - Wall Mounted Railings

Residents and ward members have requested the installation of railings to the top of an existing wall around the small public open space on the junction of

Eltringham Road and Clifton Avenue. The railings will match the design and specification of the recently installed gates. The Forum is asked to approve this scheme at a cost of £2,340.00.

Total cost to Forum: £2,340

(ii) PARK WARD

Mounston Close - Planting Scheme

There has been a request by a resident to install a small planting scheme to the side of number 12 Mounston Close, this will assist in preventing ball games directly against the residents fenceline.

Total cost to Forum £342

(iii) RIFT HOUSE WARD

Compton Road – Grass Verge Removal

There has been a request from residents and ward members for the removal of the grassed verge between 19 and 25 Compton Road and replacement with tarmac hardstanding. This would be the final section to be removed and would complete a successful minor works scheme from last financial year.

Total cost to Forum £4,000

Huxley Walk – Installation of Bollards

Residents and ward members have requested that the unsightly boulders initially installed some years ago to prevent vehicle overriding are removed from Huxley Walk and replaced with bollards. As requested this will prevent vehicle overriding and at the same time improve the aesthetics of the area.

Total cost to Forum £900

3.0 RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 The Forum is requested to recommend to the Neighbourhoods and Community Safety Portfolio Holder that the schemes be approved from the Minor Works Budget.
- 3.2 The cost of schemes proposed is **£7,582.00**
- 3.3 Minor works monies remaining is **£50,418.00** - Members of the Forum are reminded to contact the Neighbourhood Management Team if there are any schemes that they would like the Forum to consider in the new financial year.