

SOUTH NEIGHBOURHOOD CONSULTATIVE FORUM AGENDA



Friday, 16th June, 2006

at 10.00 a.m.

at Owton Manor Community Centre, Wynyard Road

MEMBERS: SOUTH NEIGHBOURHOOD CONSULTATIVE FORUM:

Councillors S Cook, Gibbon, Hill, James, Johnson (Chairman), Lilley, A Marshall, Preece, Rayner, Turner, M Waller, Wistow, Young.

Resident Representatives: Mary Green, Allan McPartlin (Vice-Chairman), Iris Ryder and Joan Smith
(3 Vacancies).

- 1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**
- 2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**
- 3. TO RECEIVE ANY DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS**
- 4. MINUTES**
 - 4.1 To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 24th March, 2006 (attached).
 - 4.2 To receive the minutes of the South Neighbourhood Consultative Forum Parish Council Liaison meeting held on 28th April 2006 (attached).
- 5. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**
- 6. ITEMS FOR CONSULTATION**
 - 6.1 The H₂O Feasibility Study – a future water sports centre for Hartlepool – Consultation on the Study Conclusions – John Mennear, Assistant Director, Community Services

7. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION INFORMATION

- 7.1 Minor Works Budget – Allocation of Funding for 2006/07 – Acting Director of Neighbourhood Services.
- 7.2 Community Strategy Review – Report to be presented by a member of the Hartlepool Partnership Support Team
- 7.3 Pride in Hartlepool Project Update – Keeley Metcalfe, Community Environmental Health Officer

8. WARD ISSUES

9. DATE, TIME AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

Friday 11th August 2006 commencing at 6pm at Owton Manor Community Centre, Wynyard Road.

WARDS

Fens
Greatham
Owton
Rossmere
Seaton

**SOUTH NEIGHBOURHOOD
CONSULTATIVE FORUM**

24th March 2006

MINUTES OF THE MEETING



PRESENT:

Chair: Councillor Mick Johnson - Rossmere Ward
Vice Chair: Allan McPartlin (Resident Representative)

Councillor Geoff Lilley - Greatham Ward
Councillor Ann Marshall - Rossmere Ward
Councillor Arthur Preece - Fens Ward
Councillor Pat Rayner - Fens Ward
Councillor Michael Turner - Seaton Ward
Councillor Gerald Wistow - Owton Ward

Resident Representatives: Mike Arnold, Steve Gibbon, Mary Green, Iris Ryder and Joan Smith

Public: David Butterfield, E Butterfield, Dave Cooper, Elsie Grint, Rosemarie Kennedy, Alison Lilley, Mr J Massey, Mr Oxley, Mary Trevelle, Michael Ward, Mr and Mrs Weatherall

Officers: David Frame, Town Care Manager
Chris Little, Assistant Chief Financial Officer
John Day, Neighbourhood Services Officer
Sandra Shears, Chief Accountant
Mike Pearson, Engineering Technician - Environmental Issues
Jo Wilson, Democratic Services Officer

Primary Care Trust (PCT) Representatives: Kevin Aston, Mary Bewley and Ali Wilson

Housing Hartlepool Representative: Helen Ivison

W S Atkins Representative: Iain Roberts

69. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Marjorie James, Maureen Waller and David Young

70. APPOINTMENT OF NEW VICE-CHAIR

Prior to the meeting an election to appoint a Vice-Chair was held due to the

resignation of Mike Arnold. Allan McPartlin was the successful candidate and was welcomed to the Forum.

71. TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE SOUTH NEIGHBOURHOOD CONSULTATIVE FORUM HELD ON 3RD FEBRUARY 2006

The minutes were confirmed

72. MATTERS ARISING

Town Care Manager, David Frame, gave a verbal update on queries arising from the minutes of 3rd February 2006

- Page 2 – Various traffic related issues around Fens School – Resident Representative Mary Green asked if it would be possible for mobile traffic wardens to visit Wynyard Road. The Town Care Manager reported that there may be visits to that area in the next couple of weeks. However he would make them aware of the request.

73. 2006/07 TO 2007/08 BUDGET STRATEGY AND COUNCIL TAX

The Assistant Chief Financial Officer, Chris Little, gave a presentation to the Forum highlighting the following main areas: -

- 2005/06 Budget position
- 2006/07 Capital Budget
- 2006/07 Revenue Budget and Council Tax
- 2007/08 Revenue Budget and Council Tax
- Reserves

A history of Council Tax was outlined and details of Government Grants to the Council given. A variety of formats were used to illustrate the issues.

The Assistant Chief Financial Officer concluded by reminding those at the Forum that advice on Council Tax Benefit was available, as follows:

- Benefits Exhibition – 27th April 06 from 9am to 4pm in Middleton Grange Shopping Centre;
- Weekly benefits surgeries – Housing Hartlepool Offices as follows;
- Monday - Owton Manor 1pm to 3pm
- Tuesday – West View 2pm to 4pm
- Wednesday – Chester Road 11am to 3pm
- Thursday – Owton Manor 1pm to 4pm
- Friday – Headland 1.30pm to 3pm

Telephone Number for enquiries about the above - 284188.

The following issues were then raised:

- Resident Michael Ward asked if a reduction in the Authority workforce had been considered as a way of reducing the Council Tax. The Assistant Chief Financial Officer indicated that this was a policy decision but significant savings had helped to keep the Council Tax as low as possible. Hartlepool's increase had been lower than the national average for the last five years.
- Councillor Geoff Lilley pointed out that Hartlepool's Council Tax and Council Tax rise was the highest in Teesside. The Assistant Chief Financial Officer acknowledged that Band D was higher but as there were very few Band D properties in Hartlepool this was not a true representation. The average amount of Council Tax actually paid was lower.

- Resident Representative Mary Green asked why she was able to continue paying her bills without a wage rise but the Council could not do the same. The Assistant Chief Financial Officer indicated this was a policy question but said it came down to a difficult choice of cutting Council Tax or cutting services.
- Councillor Gerald Wistow raised the issue of the Government grant. He felt that if the full grant had been awarded the Council Tax would not have increased as much and people should be made aware that a lot of the control rested with Central Government. Councillor Wistow called on the Cabinet to raise this as an issue. The Assistant Chief Financial Officer reported that Cabinet members and the Chief Financial Officer had spoken to a Government representative on this matter in 2005 and intended to do so again in the future.
- Councillor Pat Rayner asked what population basis the grant was awarded on. The Assistant Chief Financial Officer said 90,000, 1500 less than the actual population of Hartlepool which officers were happy with.
- Resident Alison Lilley highlighted a number of ways the Council Tax could be reduced including staff cuts and energy saving measures. She also queried if it was cost effective to borrow money. The Assistant Chief Financial Officer explained this was often the only way jobs could be done. He also reported on the energy saving measures being put into place at Council buildings. Council Tax was unfair but officers had to work within it and try to make the best of a bad situation.

The Chair thanked the Assistant Chief Financial Officer for the presentation and for answering questions. However he explained that Mr Little was not responsible for policy decisions and questioned whether the responsible Portfolio Holder should have attended the meeting.

74. HIGHWAYS UPDATE

The Neighbourhood Services Officer, John Day, gave an update on various highways related issues in the South area. The following issues were then raised:

- Councillor Geoff Lilley requested an update on the crossing at the Fens shops. The Neighbourhood Services Officer explained that they were unable to fit an audible crossing system due to the proximity to properties and for safety reasons. He would raise the possibility of the use of a tactile button for the blind and partially-sighted with the Traffic Section.
- Resident Mr Massey thanked everyone present at the previous meeting for the help they had given him when he had taken ill at the previous meeting. He also thanked the officers for the work they had done at Fens School on behalf of the children and crossing guards. Mr Massey then asked if it would be possible for the grass verge on the side nearest the school to be tarmaced over to form a parking zone. The Town Care Manager agreed to investigate this in the new financial year.

<p>75. PRIMARY CARE TRUST CONSULTATION – TOWN CENTRE DEVELOPMENT</p>

Ali Wilson from the PCT gave a presentation on the Town Centre Health Development – a proposal to build a major health centre on the site of the former Barlow's printing works. This development had been shaped by local views and was a big step towards modernisation of Primary Health Care facilities across the town. The presentation contained slides on

- “Why do it?”
- Existing facilities at Caroline Street
- Primary and Community Care Issues
- What the Centre can provide
- Additional purposes
- Next steps in 2006 and in 2007/08, with the Centre being in operation in early 2009.

Consultation was being undertaken up until 19th May 2006 with;

- GP surgeries, dentists and libraries
- Community Network
- Patient and Public Involvement Forum
- Neigh. Consult. Forums
- Hartlepool Partnership Group
- Health and Care Strategy Group

The following issues were then raised:

- Councillor Michael Turner asked if there was any concern that smaller surgeries would lose patients in favour of those moving into the new centre. Ms Wilson explained that there were tentative plans to have additional practitioners at the centre that anybody could use.
- Councillor Pat Rayner asked if the centre would be open 24 hours. Ms

Wilson said this was unlikely but opening hours might be extended, depending on patient needs. In answer to queries about the future of the Caroline Street surgery she explained that initial thoughts were to move clinical services out then develop the site. However this would come after the completion of the Town Centre Development.

- Councillor Geoff Lilley raised the issue of parking at the proposed centre. Residents Mr Massey and Elsie Grint echoed this. Ms Wilson reported that parking would be part of the planning application which would be submitted to the Council and issues such as disabled parking and shoppers using the car parks would be addressed. The Head of Technical Services added that the Local Plan would look at accessibility to the centre by public transport. Disabled parking would be a priority.
- Councillor Geoff Lilley asked how the development would be financed. Ms Wilson explained this would be through a public sector/private sector partnership called LIFT. Essentially private sector finance would pay for it to be built and the PCT would pay for the upkeep.
- Resident Representative Mary Green asked if the centre would have a walk-in system similar to the Headland. Ms Wilson confirmed this, saying the intention was to have a mix of appointments and walk-ins.
- Councillor Gerald Wistow requested an update on the former ORCEL building. Ms Wilson said this would be open July 2006. The existing practice would have more medical practitioners and drop-ins. There would also be an extension of hours and more minor surgery, in effect

turning the premises into a mini health centre. Patients would not need to be registered to use some of the services.

The Chair thanked Ms Wilson for the presentation and for answering questions.

76. PRIMARY CARE TRUST CONSULTATION – LOCAL DELIVERY PLAN

Ali Wilson from the PCT gave a presentation on the Hartlepool PCT Local Delivery Plan 2006/08. The presentation slides described the following:

- Key objectives;
- Vision for Care principles;
- New Services;
- New Infrastructure;
- Fitness for purpose;
- Current financial position;
- Prime reasons;

The presentation also contained detailed budgetary information and actions to be taken to achieve a balanced budget. The requirements from the PCT Board and PEC members were also outlined.

The Chair thanked Ms Wilson for the presentation.

77. COASTAL PROTECTION STRATEGY STUDY

The Director of Neighbourhood Services had circulated a report to inform Members of the South Neighbourhood Consultative Forum regarding the recent Coast Defence Strategy Study Report and the recommendations considered by Cabinet on 27th February 2006. (A copy of the Cabinet report was attached as an appendix). Cabinet had agreed to adopt the Study Report.

Iain Roberts from W S Atkins (the consultants engaged to carry out the study) gave a presentation to the Forum to advise of the potential risks and financial implications of the options recommended in the plan.

The slides covered the following:

- Why a Strategy Study
- Background
- Constraints and Issues
- Priority Score
- Strategy Units
- North Sands (C5-1)
- Headland (C6-1)
- Heugh Breakwater (C6-2)
- Town Wall (C6-3)
- Marina (C6-4) North Pier

The Scheme Summary indicated the action(s) to be taken, developments and protection over the next 0-5 years, 5-10 years and 10-20 years in the case of the Marina.

The Forum was advised that

- £15M of capital investment was needed over the next 10 years;
- Only £0.5m currently qualifies for DEFRA support;
- Up to £250k p.a. revenue for maintenance could be required.

The Strategy Study Conclusions were:

- Strategy has had to deal with difficult issues;
- It has justified options to upgrade the Headland walls and Heugh breakwater in the medium term;
- Grant aid for this work will depend on future government spending priorities;

The present policy was to maintain the existing walls on a reactive basis but using monitoring and inspection to target resources.

The following issues were then raised:

- Resident Alison Lilley asked if there was concern about rising sea levels. Mr Roberts confirmed there was huge concern, saying the Government set out the anticipated sea level rise and this was included in all the plans.
- Councillor Geoff Lilley queried if the repairs to the town wall would be in keeping with its conservation area status. Mr Roberts confirmed this.
- Resident Representative Joan Smith referred to the Town Moor, asking if this would now be let go. Mr Roberts said this was an issue that DEFRA might not fund but the Council could choose to maintain it out of the budget. He considered this would be best in order to avoid more erosion.
- Resident Representative Iris Ryder queried the proposal to cut the breakwater by a third. She felt a shorter pier would make the Marina and Seaton sea fronts more vulnerable and would therefore be false economy. Ms Ryder also drew members attention to the proposals contained in the report to disinter bodies buried in the Spion Kop cemetery for reburial elsewhere. She felt this could not be treated as just another landscaping scheme and it was imperative that the general public were made fully aware of this recommendation.

The Chair thanked Mr Roberts for the presentation and for answering questions.

78. MINOR WORKS PROPOSAL – DROPPED CROSSINGS

The Forum was reminded of their previous commitment to providing dropped crossings in the South Area on a

rolling programme basis. £3,500 had been allocated to the scheme during the current financial year and it was proposed that a further £3,500 be allocated for next financial year. This was accepted by the Forum as it was felt the continued improvements were necessary.

79. WARD ISSUES

Greatham

Councillor Geoff Lilley raised the issue of mini-motorbikes, asking if the Council's policy on them could be determined. The Town Care Manager said a multi-agency task group would soon be looking into this problem and the problem of off-road bikes. The advent of neighbourhood policing would also help. The Chair urged the police to invest more money in this problem. Councillor Gerald Wistow enquired as to the timeline of the proposed task group and the Chair asked that a letter be sent to Chris Scaife, the co-ordinator of the group, to urge a speedy end date.

Resident Alison Lilley requested that any trimming of hedges be done in the Autumn for the sake of birds and other wildlife. The Town Care Manager reported that this sort of work tended to be carried out in the Autumn already. Following a supplementary question he agreed to look into examples of the ideal height of shrubbery.

Owton

Councillor Ann Marshall reported on the potentially hazardous Maxwell Road/Owton Manor Lane crossing. A nearby hedge was causing a blind spot and had almost led to an accident recently. The Town Care Manager agreed to look into this.

Councillor Gerald Wistow requested a progress update on the building of a

fence on Owton Manor Primary School field. The Neighbourhood Services Officer said this was going through the planning process and there had been no response from the school so far. Councillor Wistow asked if officers could give him an update on the situation before the next Governors meeting on 5th April 2006.

Rossmere

Resident Rosemarie Kennedy asked when the requested crossing on Alfred Court/Ardrossan Road would be in place. The Chair informed members that owing to the objections of Stagecoach the crossing would have to be situated slightly further along. A further letter would be written to Stagecoach on this matter.

Resident Mrs Weatherall raised the issue of vans causing a hazard on Queensland Road due to improper parking and requested if they could park in gardens. The Neighbourhood Services Officer agreed to look into this.

Seaton

Resident Representative Iris Ryder reported that a row of four street lights were currently out on Coronation Drive beside Wainwright Walk. Mrs Ryder also thanked officers for the prompt action on the lights at Newburn Bridge but questioned why there only seemed to be one person working on it at a time.

Councillor Mike Turner asked if the North Shelter works would be completed on time. The Town Care Manager reported that the tarmac would be completed the following week, weather permitting.

80.ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Members, Resident Representatives and residents would be advised of meeting dates for the 2006/07 Municipal Year as soon as the new diary was available.

MICHAEL JOHNSON

CHAIRMAN

**SOUTH NEIGHBOURHOOD CONSULTATIVE
FORUM - PARISH COUNCIL LIAISON
MINUTES AND DECISION RECORD**
28th April 2006

PRESENT:

Officers: David Frame, Town Care Manager
Pat Watson, Democratic Services Officer
Paul Mitchinson,
Pat Brotherton, Greatham Parish Council
Brian Walker, Greatham Parish Council

6. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillor Mick Johnson, Chairman, Alan McPartlin, Deputy Vict-Chair and Mrs Dorothy Coates (Newton Bewley) submitted apologies.

7. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 14th October were confirmed.

Updates and Matters arising –

Pride in Hartlepool – Newton Bewley - Work on revamping shrubs not yet finished – should be soon.

Gateway Issues - Countdown signs to be replaced at Newton Bewley

Egerton Terrace, Greatham - The plans had been sent to the utility companies and an estimate was expected very shortly. Will be actioned with Peter Frost to identify timescale for works and advise Brian Walker.

The Drive, Greatham - Road adoption issue – Mike Blair had advised Brian Walker £27,000 to bring to adoptable standard – accepted was responsibility of residents.

The Green and Egerton Terrace, Greatham - Egerton Terrace had been resurfaced. The Green still in poor condition but holes patched for the time being. Hope to put it onto next year's resurfacing programme

The Grove, Greatham - Road needs patching. Also following the tree pruning programme one tree was not removed due to a car in the location. The Arboricultural Officer to chase up.

Dog Fouling - Animal wardens visited the highlighted trouble spots in Greatham

Dog Bins - Brian Walker to identify suitable sites (later in meeting).

Saltaire Terrace Parking Problems - Still no Funding – Officers to try again this year's LTP.

Saltaire Terrace street lighting - Work done.

Front Street – Benches / Planter - Brian Walker had asked if the benches could be replaced. Enquiries had been made and there were no benches available. Brian asked if the huge wooden planter could be removed when Spring over (BW to get in touch).

Grit boxes - Paul Mitchinson asked for any outstanding issues or problems to be advised to him on 523706.

Greatham Primary School perimeter fence - Pat Brotherton advised that the work had been completed brilliantly.

Saltaire Terrace Play Area - Most of the funding was in place but still trying to progress.

Cemetery hedge - work now completed.

Farm track from Greatham to Newton Bewley – Re-surfacing now completed.

Cycle Way, Saltaire Terrace- Paul Mitchinson to get information and advise Brian Walker.

South Fens Black Path lighting scheme – now complete

Station Road Playing Field repair – Paul advised that an order had now been placed for tarmac.

8. GREATHAM PARISH COUNCIL

- (I) Road Safety – Traffic Markings – Paul Mitchinson indicated that he would advise Brian Walker of the start date.

Pat Brotherton advised of a further issue – Chevron missing at junction of A19 to Village – near steep bend into Dalton Back Lane. No traffic signs on stretch of road from A19 to Dalton. Paul agreed to check out all ground area for markings and signage.

- (II) Dog Fouling bins – Locations requested by Brian Walker – Sappers Corner on garage side (not too near to bus stop) and one towards Queens Meadow. Will be installed and monitored for usage levels.
- (III) Potholes – Brian advised that The Green and The Grove were in a

particularly bad state. Also problems at Parish Row and West Row and the junction of Front Street and High Street. Paul Mitchinson indicated that if bigger than 40ml they would be picked up. No major work was planned for this year. Brian indicated that there had been patch upon patch at The Green and The Grove and the whole road was bad. Paul indicated that the cost would be in the region of £10 per square meter for planing and re-surfacing. Brian said he would prefer re-surfacing. David Frame commented that perhaps this was a matter to be considered under minor works funding. Paul Mitchinson to provide costs for further consideration by the South Neighbourhood Consultative Forum during the 2006/07 municipal year.

9. NEWTON BEWLEY PARISH

No Parish representative in attendance.

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- (i) Neighbourhood Policing Event to be held at Fire Brigade Headquarters – David Frame advised of this event to be held on 15th May 2006 from 10am until 3pm (lunch provided) – interested agencies and residents to be involved. David asked for a nomination from Greatham. Brian Walker indicated that he would let David know early next week. Pat Brotherton indicated that she would be happy to attend.
- (ii) Alleyways – David Frame advised that consultation was being undertaken on closure of paths at 14-22 Barford Close and between Aldbrough Close and Black Path. David asked Paul Mitchinson to arrange for Greatham Parish to be advised formally.

DAVID FRAME

CHAIRMAN

Report of: Director of Neighbourhood Services

Subject: MINOR WORKS BUDGET 2006/2007

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To report to the Forum details of the Minor Works Budget allocation for 2006/2007 and the Forum's role with regard to the proposal and approval of schemes.

2. OUTLINE OF CONTENTS

2.1 In 2005/2006 the Forum was responsible for recommending and undertaking minor works for the general improvement of the South Area from a budget allocated by the Council.

2.2 The remit of the Forum for 2006/2007 will be to request approval for proposed minor works schemes from the Liveability and Regeneration Portfolio holder. If approval is given, then these works will be progressed in the normal way.

2.3 The Forum has been delegated £52,000 for this financial year, 2006/2007, as a Minor Works Budget. As was the case in 2006/2007 an additional allocation of £20,000 has been made from Highways Budgets, (£10,000 from the Local Transport Plan and £10,000 from the Highways Maintenance Budget). This money will address specific highways issues raised by the Forum in the South Area.

2.4 Further to this, an additional £15,000 has again been allocated to the Forum to address the common issue of the conversion of grass verges to hard standing, where the Forum considers this appropriate.

2.5 The framework when considering proposed schemes will continue as in previous years, as follows:

- (i) Outline schemes to be proposed by Members, Residents, Residents 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.

- (iv) Minor works schemes are likely to include any works of improvement to the area which benefit the community or a number of individual residents and enhance the quality of life in the neighbourhood. Individual repairs and improvements would not normally be funded from this budget but would be referred to other departmental budgets.

3. RECOMMENDATION

3.1 The Forum is asked to note that:

- (i) The Forum will submit recommendations regarding minor works proposals to the Portfolio Holder for Regeneration, Liveability and Housing for final decision.
- (ii) £52,000 is available for general minor works schemes.
- (iii) £20,000 is available for highway related schemes.
- (iv) A further £15,000 has been allocated to specifically address the issues concerning grass verge re-instatement.

Report of: The Hartlepool Partnership

Subject: COMMUNITY STRATEGY REVIEW 2006

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To inform members of the Neighbourhood Consultative Forum of the Hartlepool Partnership's timetable for preparing a new Community Strategy and to seek support from the Forum for their involvement in the process.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Hartlepool Partnership first met in July 1999 and undertook work to prepare a Vision of how key stakeholders saw the town developing in the next 15-20 years.
- 2.2 The Local Government Act 2000 introduced Local Strategic Partnerships (LSPs) and Community Strategies. Local Strategic Partnerships were set up as bodies that brought together, at a local level, the different parts of the public sector as well as the private, business, community and voluntary sectors so that different initiatives and services supported each other and work together. LSPs were given the core task of preparing and implementing a Community Strategy for the area. The Community Strategy was defined by government as a Strategy to promote or improve the economic, social and environmental well-being of the area.
- 2.3 The Hartlepool Partnership moved into the role as the town's Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) and agreed a set of Terms of Reference in December 2001. Today it acts as the strategic body bringing together all of the town's partnerships delivering services. In May 2001 a draft Community Strategy was published. Following a period of consultation events and activities that took place between May-December 2001, a final Community Strategy was agreed in April 2002.
- 2.4 On 5th May 2006 the Partnership launched a review of the Community Strategy and set out its intention to have a new Community Strategy for Hartlepool by the end of March 2007.

3. COMMUNITY STRATEGY REVIEW 2006

- 3.1 The Community Strategy Review is taking place in 3 distinct phases. The first of these reviews the current Community Strategy and seeks input from local residents, service users and service providers to inform the new Strategy. During June and July the Hartlepool Partnership needs the Forum's help in finding out what people living, working, playing and studying in the area really feel about the town and what they would like to see

changed. We want to know what type of a town people want to live in, and what are the priority areas for improvement. There are a number of ways the Neighbourhood Consultative Forum can be involved including:

- Encouraging forum members to complete household questionnaires either on paper or online at the Partnership's website
- Promoting the Community Strategy Review 2006 toolkit to local groups and organisations encouraging them to run their own consultation events
- Working with the Hartlepool Community Network to review the Strengthening Communities Theme of the Community Strategy and attending their workshop on the morning of 21st June 2006.

3.2 During summer a first draft of the new Strategy will be produced and during October and November the Forum will be invited to comment on the first draft. A final draft will be produced by the end of December and it is hoped that the Strategy will be formally adopted by the Partnership and key partners, including Hartlepool Borough Council, in early 2007.

4. RECOMMENDATIONS

4.1 The Forum is requested to note the timetable for the Community Strategy Review 2006 and work with the Hartlepool Partnership to ensure the Forum's views are fed into the review.

5. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 The above recommendation is proposed as the new Community Strategy will set out a long-term vision for Hartlepool, and provide an overarching planning framework. It is important that the Forum's views are fed into the review to help shape the emerging Strategy.

6. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Hartlepool Community Strategy 2002
Local Strategic Partnerships – Shaping their future. ODPM December 2005

8. CONTACT OFFICER

Joanne Smithson
Hartlepool Partnership
Bryan Hanson House
Hanson Square
Hartlepool
TS24 7BT

Tel. 01429 284147
e-mail joanne.smithson@hartlepool.gov.uk
Web www.hartlepoolpartnership.co.uk

Report of: Community Environmental Health Officer

Subject: Pride in Hartlepool – South Projects Update

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To update members of the South Neighbourhood Forum on Pride in Hartlepool Projects implemented in the South Forum area during 2005 and early 2006.

2. PROJECT UPDATE

2.1 Greatham in Bloom

In early 2005 Pride in Hartlepool supported Greatham in Bloom to obtain spring flowering bulbs such as snowdrops, daffodils and bluebells. The bulbs will contribute towards the groups efforts in the Northumbria in Bloom competition.

2.2 Holy Trinity Church, Seaton Carew

Work is underway to develop a large area of open space surrounding the church and improve its value as a wildlife area. A large area has been cleared and reseeded, wildflowers have been planted by local school children and bird boxes have also been put up. Tees Valley Wildlife Trust are currently working with a volunteer group to further improve the site.

2.3 Newton Bewley Parish Meeting

With support from Pride in Hartlepool a new rockery and shrub border has been created on the village green. The planting contributes year round interest to what was previously a very open space.

2.4 Manor West Project

Pride in Hartlepool has enabled up to 10 dead and unhealthy trees to be replaced and replanted with new soil and fixed underground to ensure that they are secure and have the best chance of survival in what was previously very poor soil.

2.5 18th Hartlepool Scouts

The 18th Hartlepool Scouts received funding from Pride in Hartlepool to purchase some bird and bat box kits. The Scouts assembled these boxes and then these were put up at designated around the town with support from the Hartlepool Countryside Warden.

2.6 Greatham Primary School

A living willow tunnel has been created in the school grounds and this will act as a feature in the grounds but will also aid outdoor learning.

2.7 Fens Primary School

Fens Primary have created a new herb garden to enhance the school grounds but to also aid learning about plants which have a variety of uses, historical relevance and cultural references.

2.8 Rossmere Primary School

The nursery garden at Rossmere Primary has been developed greatly as an outdoor play and learning resource for the nursery children and users of the adjacent SureStart centre. Funds have been obtained from various sources including Pride in Hartlepool. The new grounds include a living willow tunnel, herb garden and vegetable garden.

2.9 Seaton Carew Nursery School

A small wildlife pond has been created to attract aquatic life to the school garden and to aid children to learn about the environment. A viewing platform enables people to look into the pond and when not in use the pond has a secure fence and gate.