

CENTRAL NEIGHBOURHOOD CONSULTATIVE FORUM AGENDA



Thursday, 20 October 2011

at 2.00 pm

**in the Council Chamber,
Civic Centre, Hartlepool**

MEMBERS: CENTRAL NEIGHBOURHOOD CONSULTATIVE FORUM:

Councillors Aiken, S Akers-Belcher, Brash, Cranney, Hall, Ingham, 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 30th June 2011
 - 4.2 Matters arising
- 5. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME / WARD ISSUES FROM WARD MEMBERS AND RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVES**

6. ITEMS FOR CONSULTATION

- 6.1 Presentation - Recycling Services – *Waste Management Team Leader*

7. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION and/or INFORMATION

- 7.1 Presentation – Review of Community Involvement and Engagement –
Assistant Director (Neighbourhood Services)

8. ITEMS FOR DECISION

- 8.1 Minor Works Proposals October 2011 – *Central Neighbourhood Manager*

9. DATE, TIME AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will take place on Thursday 16th February at 2pm in the Council Chamber

WARDS

Burn Valley
Elwick
Foggy Furze
Grange
Park
Rift House
Stranton

CENTRAL NEIGHBOURHOOD CONSULTATIVE FORUM

30 June 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 Gerard Hall	- Burn Valley Ward
Councillor Peter Ingham	- Stranton Ward
Councillor John Lauderdale	- Burn Valley Ward
Councillor Brenda Loynes	- Park Ward
Councillor Sarah Maness	- Grange Ward
Councillor Carl Richardson	- Grange Ward
Councillor Jane Shaw	- Stranton Ward
Councillor Chris Simmons	- Grange Ward
Councillor Sylvia Tempest	- Rift House Ward
Councillor Ray Wells	- Park Ward

Resident Representatives: Bob Farrow, Steven Mailien, Noma Morrish and Julie Rudge

Public: Mary Diver, Jean Kennedy, William Morrish, Jim Tighe and Ray Waller

Council Officers:

- Jon Wright, Neighbourhood Co-ordinating Manager
- Phil Hepburn, Parking Services Manager
- Helen Beaman, Environment Coordinator
- Peter Nixon, Senior Traffic Technician
- Alison Carberry, Senior Environmental Enforcement Officer
- Kate Ainger, Environmental Projects Officer
- Irene Cross, Neighbourhood Development Officer (Central)
- Karen Kelly, Housing Strategy Officer
- Scott Parker, Trainee Technician (Traffic)
- Jo Stubbs, Democratic Services Officer

Police Representatives: PCSO Calvert

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors George Morris, Robbie Payne and Hilary Thompson.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

3. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 7 APRIL 2011

Approved

4. MATTERS ARISING

Former Co-operative building - Ray McAndrew had (via resident Ray Waller) requested a further response to concerns he had previously raised as to the work carried out on the listed former Co-operative building as he felt guidelines in respect of work carried out on a listed building had not been adhered to. The Neighbourhood Co-ordinating Manager would forward these comments on to the Townscape Heritage Initiative Manager.

Grange Road signage – Councillor Chris Simmons noted the update provided regarding his comments at the previous meeting that the new signs on Grange Road appeared to be on the wrong side of the road. However he disagreed with the comments given by the traffic section saying that the signs were not within drivers' normal sight of vision and tended to draw their attention off the road. The Chair agreed with these comments, referring to a similar situation in Caledonian Road. He asked that the Highways, Traffic and Transportation Manager attend the next meeting.

Middleton Grange Shopping Centre underground car park – Resident Representative Bob Farrow requested an update on his request that automatic doors be installed. The Parking Services

Manager indicated that as this was part of the shopping centre it was their responsibility to undertake the necessary work. However Mark Rycraft had consulted the Council in relation to providing sliding doors in compliance with DDA regulations.

Victory Square – Councillor Jane Shaw queried what was meant by 'persistent abuse' in terms of youths playing ball games on Victory Square as this was happening constantly. The Chair to request a response from the Property Manager.

A19 – Resident Ray Waller reported that buses were continuing to cross the A19 despite safety implications.

Lowthian Road scrap dealer – Resident Representative Julie Rudge asked that she be contacted when there was any further action on this. She commented that something should have been done by now given the time which had elapsed. The Chair asked officers to follow this up.

Cyclists on pavements – Resident Representative Norma Morrish felt the number of teenagers and older persons cycling on pavements was increasing and this was posing a significant risk to pedestrians. The Vice-chair concurred with this and Resident Jean Kennedy raised concerns that young people were riding onto the road without their lights on. PCSO Calvert advised that tickets would be issued to teenagers and older persons caught riding on the pavement while children would be spoken to.

5. RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVES

The Vice-Chair thanked all the Resident Representatives, past and present, for their hard work over the years for the residents of Hartlepool. She felt being a Resident Representative had provided a solid training base for many who had

previously gone onto to become Councillors and wished the current cohort the very best for the future.

6. 20S PLENTY

The Chair referred to the ongoing consultation regarding altering the speed limit to 20mph on designate Hartlepool roads. A map showing the intended areas had been erected at the back of the room and the Senior Traffic Technician would be available to answer questions after the meeting

7. ADDITIONAL ITEM

The Chair reported that an additional item had been added to the agenda – namely a discussion around the ‘camera car’ to be taken by the Parking Services Manager.

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

Stranton

Potholes – Resident Representative Julie Rudge referred to the recent decision not to resurface Young Street due to ‘the uncertain future of the Odeon’. She asked that this be rethought. The Chair advised that a response would be requested from the Highways, Traffic and Transportation Manager in advance of his attendance at the next meeting.

Camerons Brewery – Resident Jean Kennedy raised concerns at wagons using Lister Street to gain access to the Brewery and risking children and properties in the process. The Neighbourhood Co-ordinating Manager indicated that consideration was being given to a weight restriction on Lister Street and the provision of build-outs on

Waldon Street to prevent these manoeuvres. The work was currently being costed by the Traffic Team Leader. Councillor Ray Wells defended the brewery saying they provided employment for local people and worked hard to be a responsible neighbour to residents. Mrs Kennedy responded by saying she had lived nearby for 50 years and had watched the brewery evolve in that time. Residents were tortured with noise and smells from 7am. Jobs were important but not at the expense of lives. Camerons had encroached onto Waldon Street and reneged on every deal they had ever made.

One-Life Centre – Resident Jean Kennedy asked that action be taken against staff and patients smoking outside as this was something that would not be tolerated at the hospital, She raised particular concerns that people with chest complaints might be subjected to discarded toxic substances. The Senior Environmental Enforcement Officer reported that officers had previously monitored the area because of a number of complaints and would continue to do so.

Wall Repair – Resident Jean Kennedy thanked officers for their completion of this work.

Yellow Lines – Councillor Jane Shaw asked that councillors be given maps showing which yellow lines were enforceable and which had been installed for the Tall Ships event. The Highways, Traffic and Transportation Manager to send this information out. The Neighbourhood Co-ordinating Manager commented that contractors were currently removing the temporary yellow lines which would make the situation a lot clearer. Councillor Carl Richardson asked what the cost to install and remove these temporary lines would be as he had understood they would fade away, The

Chair asked officers to provide this information. Councillor Peter Ingham noted that he had previously requested clarification on the yellow lines in Whitby Street but no response had been received. Councillor Ray Wells raised concerns that contractors appeared to be using silver sand to remove the lines rather than less expensive options. He also felt that contractors should be paid a fixed rate for completion of the work rather than a daily rate. He also noted that drivers were being fined for stopping at bus stops and asked that information be provided as to which bus stops were active as it was unfair for drivers to be fined for using a disused bus stop. The Parking Services Manager advised that decommissioning bus stops was an expensive process and was not done lightly in case services were reinstated at a later date.

Victory Square – Councillor Jane Shaw asked that broken glass around this area be cleaned more thoroughly. The Neighbourhood Co-ordinating Manager noted this.

One-Life Centre access – Resident Representative Noma Morrish commented that there was no right turn access from Park Road. The Chair advised indicated there was signage advising drivers.

Shades Hotel – Resident Representative Noma Morrish referred to the dilapidated state of these premises.

Huckelhoven Way – Councillor Peter Ingham reported that there had been no dropped kerbs provided at the new housing estate despite the large number of elderly and disabled residents.

Tilly Bailey and Irvine – Councillor Peter Ingham advised that he had received a complaint from Tilly Bailey and Irvine regards the disturbance caused by

buskers on the ramp directly opposite their premises. PCSO Calvert indicated that police were targeting buskers and moving them on wherever possible.

Pigeons – Resident Jean Kennedy reported that pigeons were roosting in a shop near the Odeon and causing an unpleasant smell. She asked that they be removed as humanely as possible.

Foggy Furze

Windermere Road – Resident Representative Bob Farrow reported a pothole

Rift House

Wordsworth Avenue – Councillor Sylvia Tempest reported a number of potholes

Bus service – Councillor Sylvia Tempest advised that attempts were being made to re-route the no 6 service to cover the Brough estate.

Resident Representative – The Chair informed those present that Hilda Wales had resigned as a Resident Representative

Park

Mountston Close – Councillor Brenda Loynes indicated that the grass cutters continually missed the area outside 27 Mountston Close

Elwick Road / Egerton Road – Councillor Brenda Loynes reported that the railings had been knocked down. She understood the Traffic Team Leader was going to carry out an anti-skid test on the road surface. The Chair confirmed that a number of options were being looked at but these were limited as this was a conservation area.

Wiltshire Way shops – Councillor Brenda Loynes reported a number of potholes. The Neighbourhood Co-ordinating Manager advised that a sizeable cavity near the entrance to the car park had been repaired with the remainder due for inspection.

Elwick

Hart – Butts Lane – Resident Representative Steven Mailien reported a massive increase in lorries travelling between 5 and 6 in the morning. He also advised that the electricity pylons in this area were going rusty.

Elwick buses – Resident Representative Steven Mailien raised concerns that despite a recent scrutiny investigation into community buses the Elwick service was due to end in 4 weeks time and no replacement had yet been announced. The Chair advised that the scrutiny process was slow but ongoing.

Elwick – Craddon Bank – Resident Representative Steven Mailien reported that the give way signage was still not in place. He thanked officers for the recent resurfacing.

Grange

Pest control – Councillor Sarah Maness queried the response time for a rat infestation. Councillor Sylvia Tempest indicated that there would be an immediate response if the rat was in the house. Councillor Maness reported that residents had reported a rat infestation in the back alleys of Stephen Street and had waited 5 days for a response. She asked what residents were able to do if the process took longer than expected. The Chair asked for written clarification from the department.

Recycling – Councillor Sarah Maness requested an update on the

redevelopment of the recycling scheme. The Waste Management Team Leader to provide a response.

Victoria Road / York Road – Councillor Sarah Maness reported a large depression in the road by the lights heading toward Grange Road in need of urgent attention. The Neighbourhood Co-ordinating Manager confirmed that this was included in the resurfacing programme for 2011/12.

Selective licensing – Councillor Chris Simmons referred to a recent discussion with the Selective Licensing Officer when he had been informed that the existing scheme had not yet been monitored and evaluated. He indicated that he was unable to support the scheme without these safeguards. He also queried why some streets had been included and some had not. Councillor Sylvia Tempest advised that Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Forum would be investigating selective licensing prior to its being officially launched. Councillor Gerard Hall had spoken to the police about the scheme underway in Cornwall Street and they had reported mixed feelings. He felt these comments needed to be fed into the scrutiny process. The Chair suggested that someone be invited to the next meeting to discuss this issue.

Back alley keys – Councillor Chris Simmons queried the availability of and access to back alley keys as he had been told that the rag and bone man had been given copies. The Neighbourhood Co-ordinating Manager asked that he pass the details on to the police who had the power to stop and seize.

Cobden Street – Councillor Chris Simmons reported an abandoned mattress in the back street

Taxis – Councillor Chris Simmons indicated that a taxi driver had informed

an elderly passenger that he was unable to drop her off in York Road. The Parking Services Manager clarified that new rules regarding bus stops meant vehicles could not wait in bus stops but taxis had special exemption to drop off and pick up passengers. He would confirm this with the taxi representatives so that drivers were aware of this.

Councillor Gerard Hall also reported concerns that taxis were unable to drop children off outside school and instead had to go to the nearest available place or street. He queried where this left the safety of the child and who was responsible for the child's journey from the drop-off point to the school

Accredited landlord system – Councillor Carl Richardson requested an update report. The Chair confirmed that this would be provided at the next meeting.

Burn Valley

Clarence Road/Victoria Road/Raby Road – Resident Ray McAndrew had raised concerns (via resident Ray Waller) as to confusion around the current road system in this area. Councillor Sarah Maness felt that the arrows indicating a right turn onto Clarence Road should be removed as they were causing confusion

Park Road – Resident Ray Waller reported heavy downpours of water causing flooding in St Paul's Road and Hutton Avenue. He requested an explanation by way of presentation at a future meeting particularly in light of forthcoming planning applications which could exacerbate the problem. The Chair agreed that this was a problem coupled with an increase in the tarmacing of grass drives and verges. He suggested that Northumbrian Water be invited to a town-wide one-off meeting.

Brinkburn Road / Blakelock Gardens – The Vice-Chair raised concerns about the volume of early morning traffic causing problems for pedestrians attempting to cross. The Neighbourhood Co-ordinating Manager would look at this.

Vermin – The Vice-Chair had been informed that a resident had reported a dead rat to the Council but no action had been taken.

Ryedale Street – The Vice-Chair highlighted a recent gas explosion in an empty property and queried whether the gas should have been turned off as the property was empty. If the owners of the property had not informed the gas company should other residents or the Council do so?

Blakelock Gardens / Belmont Road – Councillor Gerard Hall reported tentative enquiries from residents regards resident parking charges.

Arncliffe Gardens – Councillor Gerard Hall reported residents petitioning in favour of a one-way system. He was not in favour of this as it would encourage speeding. Also previous surveys had always shown a 50/50 response.

Victoria and Jubilee Homes – Councillor Gerard Hall reported that recent correspondence had been received by residents from the Regeneration and Neighbourhoods Department regarding this being designated as a listed building.

Osbourne Road – Councillor Gerard Hall reported the 20s plenty signage was facing the wrong way. He also felt bollards might be needed. The Neighbourhood Co-ordinating Manager advised that the signage would be turned round and bollards were being considered outside nos 81 and 83 Elwick Road

Chaterhouse Street – Councillor Gerard Hall advised that a pizza shop on the corner was causing litter problems and enforcement might be required. The Neighbourhood Co-ordinating Manager advised that this was currently being looked at.

Oxford Road – Councillor John Lauderdale asked that contractors resurfacing the road be mindful of the Baptist Church Service schedule.

9. DOG CONTROL ORDERS

The Environmental Projects Officer gave a brief presentation on the current Dog Control Orders consultation which was running until 31st July. Information was given as to the orders currently in place and proposed new orders. Participants are asked whether they live in Hartlepool, whether they own or regularly walk a dog in town and for their opinions of the current and proposed orders. Questionnaires were available online or in a paper copy from Council offices and libraries. Responses would be considered by the relevant Portfolio Holder in September. The Chair asked that the outcomes be reported back to the forum.

The following issues were then raised:

Enforcement – Councillor Chris Simmons felt that enforcement was crucial. He also would like to see dogs banned from all school playing fields because of the dangers of toxoplasmosis.

Number of dogs – Resident Jean Kennedy queried whether the maximum 4 dogs which the current orders allowed at any one time needed to be on leads or loose. She referred to a previous incident when her dog had been attacked by another dog which was off-lead accompanied by 3 other dogs. The

Senior Environmental Enforcement Officer advised that the dogs could be on or off lead and encouraged Mrs Kennedy to voice her opinions in the questionnaire. If a dog was felt to be out of control officers could order it back onto the lead and issue a fixed penalty notice. Any dangerous dog should be reported to the police.

Cemeteries – Councillor Sylvia Tempest queried what levels of Dog Control Order were in place at Stranton Cemetery. The Senior Environmental Enforcement Officer indicated there were 4 orders covering areas including dogs on leads and a maximum of 4 dogs. She also confirmed that whatever the results of the consultation existing orders would not be removed and could only be added to. Councillor Tempest felt that the highest level of control was needed in the town's cemeteries.

Burn Valley Gardens – The Vice Chair reported dog owners were allowing their dogs off the lead despite controls being in place to prevent this. The Senior Environmental Enforcement Officer urged residents to report infringements of this type so that enforcement officers could be present at the appropriate time.

Consultation – Councillor Ray Wells queried the need for this consultation. He noted that the number of wardens had more than halved in recent years and felt that the money being used on this consultation could be used to employ another warden. He questioned the sense of spending money on a consultation to deliver a service with less people. He had previously suggested that councillors should be given the same powers as enforcement officers thereby potentially increasing the workforce by 33. He felt that the amount of consultation carried out generally was spending scarce resources on outcomes which could not be achieved. The Senior

Environmental Enforcement Officer advised that this was a statutory consultation and not optional.

Resident Ray Waller concurred with Councillor Wells saying as the Government had cut funding then they should not expect local authority to implement these outcomes. He also felt it was difficult to be sure which orders applied in which areas and felt the crux of the matter was that people did not want dogs fouling footpaths or pavements. The Senior Environmental Enforcement Officer commented that consultation meant perceived problem areas could be targeted. Signage was provided for all areas covered by Dog Control Orders.

Councillor Carl Richardson suggested it would be easier and more cost effective for officers to consult with Councillors as they would be aware of the needs of their constituents while not having the potential vested interest of dog owners and non-dog owners. The Environmental Projects Officer confirmed that apart from the available questionnaire officers had visited residents associations, parish councils and these neighbourhood forums. She urged Councillors to take part in the consultation process.

The Chair thanked the Senior Environmental Enforcement Officer and Environmental Projects Officer for attending the meeting and answering questions.

10. ALLOTMENT IMPROVEMENTS

The Environment Coordinator gave a brief presentation on the current consultation into the allotments service. Two concurrent surveys were being run, one aimed at allotment holders and the other at nearby residents and stakeholders. Details were given of the questionnaire which was available online or via Council offices and libraries.

Topics included water pressure, toilet facilities and rental charges. Allotment holders were also being asked how user friendly the 'rules booklet' was. It was hoped that the information gathered would make the service more sustainable. The Chair noted that this was a very emotive issue and had resulted in one of the largest attendances at a scrutiny forum he had ever seen.

The following issues were raised

Consultation – Councillor Chris Simmons had chaired the Adult and Community Services Scrutiny Forum when this issue had been discussed. He noted that despite a wide-ranging consultation no real progress had been made and queried whether the current consultation was really necessary 2 years after the previous consultation and at a time of limited resources. The Environment Coordinator acknowledged these comments but felt that the current consultation would help to focus their limited budget.

Clearing of plots – Councillor Chris Simmons felt that clearing derelict plots would be a positive step in enabling more people to come off the allotment waiting list. The Environment Coordinator confirmed that this work was ongoing. Consideration was also being given to the splitting of larger plots thereby enabling more people to become allotment holders.

Waiting list – Councillor Ray Wells asked how the waiting list was prioritised as he felt it was unfair if people with large gardens were given an allotment simply because they had been on the waiting list longer than those without gardens. He felt allotments should be primarily for people without gardens. The Environment Coordinator acknowledged these comments but was unsure whether such restrictions would be legal.

The Chair thanked the Environment Coordinator for attending the meeting and answering questions.

11. CENTRAL NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM MINOR WORKS PROPOSALS 2011/12

The Neighbourhood Manager reported details of the Minor Works Budget allocation for 2011/12 and the Forum's role with regard to the proposal and approval of schemes.

It was noted that

- ❖ £25,000 was available for general Minor Works schemes
- ❖ £18,00 was available for highway related schemes
- ❖ A further £15,000 had been allocated to address the common issue of the conversion of grass verges to hard standing

The Forum was then asked to agree to recommend the following minor works schemes to the Portfolio Holder for approval:-

1. Grange Road – Eltringham Road – installation of wall mounted railings - £2,340
2. Park Road – Mountston Close – planting scheme - £342
3. Rift House Ward – Compton Road – grass verge removal - £4,000
4. Rift House Ward – Huxley Walk – installation of bollards - £900

Decision

That all the minor works schemes be recommended for approval to the Portfolio Holder.

12. HOUSING STRATEGY

The Housing Strategy Officer gave a brief presentation on the Housing Strategy consultation. This was a consultation on the housing strategy which would cover Hartlepool from 2011-2015. The closing date had recently been extended to the end of July to enable as many people as possible to participate and register their comments. The draft strategy was based on previous consultation with partners and stakeholders and considered issues of social and environmental sustainability. These included the development of new homes and sustainable communities around those homes, improving existing homes and meeting specific housing needs. Given cuts in funding and resources it was more important than ever to have a strategy in place to target future resources. The consultation document was available online or through the officer.

Councillor Jane Shaw suggested that Middleton Grange Shopping Centre could be utilised for consultations of this type.

Resident Ray Waller queried why the agreed number of 2 presentations had been exceeded on this occasion and why there had been nothing on the screen. The Chair advised that both had been his decision.

The Chair thanked the Housing Strategy Officer for attending the meeting.

13. ADDITIONAL ITEM – PARKING ENFORCEMENT

The Parking Services Manager gave a brief update on the recent parking enforcement through use of the 'camera car'. Restrictions are plotted on a digital map and an onboard computer and camera system allows the vehicle to record any vehicle parked in contravention. Evidence is reviewed by a senior officer and a Penalty Charge Notice is posted to the registered keeper.

of the vehicle. Areas such as school keep clears, cycle paths, pedestrian zig zags, bus stops and loading bans were all covered. Predominantly these are contraventions where no parking or loading concessions are allowed. The camera car will not be used to record yellow lines offences as they still required a physical check by enforcement officers to ensure a disabled badge or valid permit is not being displayed. The car was also not being used to record speeding offences, mobile phone use or drivers not wearing seat belts. The Parking Services Manager reiterated that the camera car was not enforcing any new contraventions. It was however proving to be a much more efficient way of enforcing problematic contraventions and appeared to be having a significant effect on driver compliance. Taxis are given exemption to pick up and drop off in bus stops but there were no exemptions for any vehicles to park on school keep clear markings.. Head Teachers have been encouraged to offer the use of the school car park in certain cases but this was an ongoing.. In the 6 weeks since the project had 'gone live' 700 penalty charges had been issued. The Chair gave his total support to the project, saying safety was paramount particularly around schools.

The following issues were then raised

Prior knowledge – Councillor Jane Shaw queried why elected members had not been informed in advance that this scheme was underway. Shopmobility had also been unaware and information regards exemptions for taxis in bus stops did not appear to be getting through to the appropriate people. She felt there had been a lack of thought and that such information should have been properly disseminated prior to 'go live' as many people had great concerns, particularly the elderly and disabled.

Pavements – Resident Ray Waller queried whether parking on pavements was included in the enforcement. The Parking Services Manager confirmed that it was if there was a restriction present such as a loading ban. Otherwise enforcement for cars parked on pavements was a police matter.

Council vehicles – The Vice-Chair highlighted the large numbers of Council vehicles which consistently park on the pavement at the front of the Civic Centre. The Chair asked that any further infringements be reported. The Parking Services Manager confirmed that 4 council vehicles had already been issued with penalty charges which individual drivers were responsible for paying.

Appeal – Resident Representative Bob Farrow referred to the 21 day opportunity to appeal. He queried whether the chance to pay £35 if paid in 21 days was still offered to those who had been unsuccessful. The Parking Services Manager confirmed this was the case.

Engineers Club – Councillor Brenda Loynes noted that taxis continued to park outside the Engineers Club despite being provided with a taxi rank. The Parking Services Manager advised that this was not something which would be covered by the camera car however enforcement officers visited the area regularly and it had been raised in taxi licensing group meetings.

14. DEMOCRATIC SERVICES OFFICER

The Chair congratulated the Democratic Services Officer on her recent marriage

The meeting concluded at 1:30pm.

Issues Raised at the Central Neighbourhood Consultative Forum June 2011

MATTERS ARISING

Former Co-operative building - Ray McAndrew had (via resident Ray Waller) requested a further response to concerns he had previously raised as to the work carried out on the listed former Co-operative building as he felt guidelines in respect of work carried out on a listed building had not been adhered to.

Mr McAndrew attended a special meeting with HBCs Conservation Officers and the Neighbourhood Manager a number of months ago where Mr McAndrew's concerns were discussed at length. Whilst Mr McAndrew was unhappy with the outcome of the meeting ie that the guidelines could not be used in this instance to rectify the matter, he was satisfied that HBC Officers had done what they could to attempt to rectify the situation.

Grange Road Traffic Signage - Councillor Chris Simmons noted the update provided regarding his comments at the previous meeting that the new signs on Grange Road appeared to be on the wrong side of the road. However he disagreed with the comments given by the traffic section saying that the signs were not within drivers' normal sight of vision and tended to draw their attention off the road.

HBC Highways report that the sign that would be displayed to eastbound traffic would be partly obscured by a nearby tree were it sited on the north side footpath. There is nothing to say that the signs must be on the left hand side for approaching traffic, and although it is the usual method of installation, certain locations can be more effective with the alternative way. The signs seem to be having an impact, and positive feedback has been received. The signs will be monitored and if it appears motorists are having problems their installation can be reviewed.

Victory Square – Councillor Jane Shaw queried what was meant by 'persistent abuse' in terms of youths playing ball games on Victory Square as this was happening constantly. The Chair to request a response from the Property Manager.

HBC Property Management report that the area known as Victory Square containing the Cenotaph is considered to be a place of quiet contemplation, to be enjoyed by both general visitors and those wishing to remember family members and anyone lost in past conflicts. Albert Williams is not aware of the phrase "persistent abuse" however it is well known that on many occasions

ball games are played on and around the cenotaph which conflicts with the above.

Lowthian Road scrap dealer – Resident Representative Julie Rudge asked that she be contacted when there was any further action on this. She commented that something should have been done by now given the time which had elapsed. The Chair asked officers to follow this up.

This issue has now been dealt with by HBCs Environmental Enforcement Team

STRANTON

Potholes – Resident Representative Julie Rudge referred to the recent decision not to resurface Young Street due to ‘the uncertain future of the Odeon’. She asked that this be rethought.

This resurfacing scheme was taken out of the resurfacing program by the portfolio holder due to the uncertain future of the old Odeon Cinema.

Camerons Brewery – Resident Jean Kennedy raised concerns at wagons using Lister Street to gain access to the Brewery and risking children and properties in the process.

A weight restriction will be introduced on Lister Street in conjunction with the next phase of the York Road improvements, scheduled for early next year. A ‘build out’ scheme for Waldon Street is currently being designed by the Council’s Engineering Consultancy and is included in the Minor Works Report for the October Forum.

One-Life Centre – Resident Jean Kennedy asked that action be taken against staff and patients smoking outside as this was something that would not be tolerated at the hospital, She raised particular concerns that people with chest complaints might be subjected to discarded toxic substances.

The Senior Environmental Enforcement Officer reported that officers had previously monitored the area because of a number of complaints and would continue to do so.

Yellow Lines – Councillor Jane Shaw asked that councillors be given maps showing which yellow lines were enforceable and which had been installed for the Tall Ships event.

Councillor Peter Ingham noted that he had previously requested clarification on the yellow lines in Whitby Street but no response had been received.

Councillor Ray Wells raised concerns that contractors appeared to be using silver sand to remove the lines rather than less expensive options. He also felt that contractors should be paid a fixed rate for completion of the work rather than a daily rate.

The removal of Tall Ships related yellow lines was completed early in the summer. All lines remaining around the town are now permanent, and should not be parked on. There are a small number of areas where following the event it was felt to be beneficial for the lines to become permanent for road safety/ traffic management reasons, and traffic regulation orders will be processed for these locations. All areas affecting residential/ business properties have been removed. It was never the intention that the lines would fade away, but were of a type of paint that was easier to remove than the usual thermoplastic material.

The Traffic Team Leader is not aware of any queries regarding Whitby Street, but the temporary lines there were removed early on in the programme. The sand used was different to the type specified when the specialist machine was hired, and was much cheaper but equally effective. 3 of the 4 bus stops in Arncliffe Gardens are to have the markings removed, in order to allow additional parking for residents. The final stop, next to St. Matthew's Hall, would be likely to cause problems at the Elwick Road junction should vehicles park on it, and will therefore be replaced by a "No waiting 8am – 6pm" restriction. It will be available for parking outside of these hours.

Victory Square – Councillor Jane Shaw asked that broken glass around this area be cleaned more thoroughly.

The cleansing frequency has been improved in this area. This has also included using a grass blower to clear the cigarette ends and detritus from beneath the benches.

Shades Hotel – Resident Representative Norma Morrish referred to the dilapidated state of these premises.

This building to be added to the derelict lands and buildings register.

Huckelhoven Way – Councillor Peter Ingham reported that there had been no dropped kerbs provided at the new housing estate despite the large number of elderly and disabled residents.

The Highways section has looked into this issue with a view to installing some dropped kerbs next financial year, unfortunately it appears that no dropped crossings had been included in the original design.

Pigeons – Resident Jean Kennedy reported that pigeons were roosting in a shop near the Odeon and causing an unpleasant smell. She asked that they be removed as humanely as possible.

Remedial works are being carried out on the Odeon at the moment and the pigeon issue will be dealt with as part of those works.

FOGGY FURZE WARD

Windermere Road – Resident Representative Bob Farrow reported a pothole – has this been done

This area has been inspected and there is a depression in the centre of the carriageway, this will be resurfaced as part of the new development.

RIFT HOUSE WARD

Wordsworth Avenue – Councillor Sylvia Tempest reported a number of potholes

The Highways Inspector has carried out inspections and all works orders have been issued, and all actionable defects have been repaired.

PARK WARD

Mountston Close – Councillor Brenda Loynes indicated that the grass cutters continually missed the area outside 27 Mountston Close.

The need to include this area on grass cutting rounds has been reiterated to the grass cutting operatives and should now be routinely cut.

Elwick Road / Egerton Road – Councillor Brenda Loynes reported that the railings had been knocked down. She understood the Traffic Team Leader was going to carry out an anti-skid test on the road surface. The Chair confirmed that a number of options were being looked at but these were limited as this was a conservation area.

Skid resistance testing has been carried out, which found that there were no problems with the carriageway surface. The barriers have been replaced, and high visibility chevrons have also been installed.

Wiltshire Way shops – Councillor Brenda Loynes reported a number of potholes. The Neighbourhood Co-ordinating Manager advised that a sizeable cavity near the entrance to the car park had been repaired with the remainder due for inspection.

These potholes have all been repaired

ELWICK

Hart – Butts Lane – Resident Representative Steven Mailien reported a massive increase in lorries travelling between 5 and 6 in the morning. He also advised that the electricity pylons in this area were going rusty.

Highways have advised that there is no funding available for a road widening scheme, as suggested, at this location. However all hedge lines and bushes will be flailed as part of the winter maintenance program.

Bob Golightly will contact NEDL and ask them to arrange for the electricity pylons to be inspected

Elwick buses – Resident Representative Steven Mailien raised concerns that despite a recent scrutiny investigation into community buses the Elwick service was due to end in 4 weeks time and no replacement had yet been announced. The Chair advised that the scrutiny process was slow but ongoing.

Following the withdrawal of the supported bus funding in March 2011, the Portfolio Holder for Transport and Neighbourhoods established the Bus Working Group to investigate the impact of the changes in transport provision, and seek suitable solutions. Investigations identified that there are a small number of areas and groups of people within the town who have been disadvantaged by the changes. The Bus Working Group agreed that Community Travel Club initiatives should be discussed with residents in these areas.

Community Travel Clubs identify their communities travel needs and the Council's Passenger Transport Services Team identify/ arrange appropriate transport options to meet that need. All costs related to the provision are met by the Community Travel Club. In relation to this work is ongoing with Elwick and Dalton Villages, and the residents of Schooner Court and the surrounding area.

Elwick – Craggon Bank – Resident Representative Steven Mailien reported that the give way signage was still not in place. He thanked officers for the recent resurfacing.

Highways have informed that these have now been replaced.

GRANGE

Pest control – Councillor Sarah Maness queried the response time for a rat infestation.

The pest control section inform that they work to a target of two working days for an initial response. There are occasions due to work loads that they may not meet the response time. If the rat was inside the property it would be dealt with as an emergency call and it would normally get an immediate response.

Recycling – Councillor Sarah Maness requested an update on the redevelopment of the recycling scheme The Waste Management Team Leader to provide a response.

A three month public consultation will be carried out in relation to kerbside collection methods. With the outcome of this identified by March 2011. Any changes will be hopefully implemented in 2012/13 financial year. The Forum will be consulted on kerbside collection at their October meeting.

Victoria Road / York Road – Councillor Sarah Maness reported a large depression in the road by the lights heading toward Grange Road in need of urgent attention.

This junction has now been partially resurfaced

Selective licensing – Councillor Chris Simmons referred to a recent discussion with the Selective Licensing Officer when he had been informed that the existing scheme had not yet been monitored and evaluated. He indicated that he was unable to support the scheme without these safeguards. The Chair suggested that someone be invited to the next meeting to discuss this issue.

An Officer will attend the Central Consultative Forum in October to give an update.

Back alley keys – Councillor Chris Simmons queried the availability of and access to back alley keys as he had been told that the rag and bone man had been given copies.

This information was passed to the Police

Cobden Street – Councillor Chris Simmons reported an abandoned mattress in the back street

This was collected immediately

Accredited landlord system – Councillor Carl Richardson requested an update report. The Chair confirmed that this would be provided at the next meeting.

An Officer will attend the Central Consultative Forum in October and give an update.

BURN VALLEY

Clarence Road/Victoria Road/Raby Road – Resident Ray McAndrew had raised concerns (via resident Ray Waller) as to confusion around the current road system in this area. Councillor Sarah Maness felt that the arrows indicating a right turn onto Clarence Road should be removed as they were causing confusion

The right turn arrow into Clarence Road has been removed. Temporary signs were also erected advising of the removal of the one way system on Museum Road.

Park Road – Resident Ray Waller reported heavy downpours of water causing flooding in St Paul's Road and Hutton Avenue. He requested an explanation by way of presentation at a future meeting particularly in light of forthcoming planning applications which could exacerbate the problem. The Chair agreed that this was a problem coupled with an increase in the tarmacing of grass drives and verges. He suggested that Northumbrian Water be invited to a town-wide one-off meeting.

Following discussion with the Chair of the Forum a townwide meeting will be arranged in the new year.

Brinkburn Road / Blakelock Gardens – The Vice-Chair raised concerns about the volume of early morning traffic causing problems for pedestrians attempting to cross.

HBC Traffic Section has reported that there are currently no future plans to provide further crossing points over Blakelock Gardens.

Arncliffe Gardens – Councillor Gerard Hall reported residents petitioning in favour of a one-way system. He was not in favour of this as it would encourage speeding. Also previous surveys had always shown a 50/50 response.

A report is due to go to Transport & Neighbourhoods Portfolio, with the possibility of further consultation. Investigations will also consider adjacent streets.

Victoria and Jubilee Homes – Councillor Gerard Hall reported that recent correspondence had been received by residents from the Regeneration and Neighbourhoods Department regarding this being designated as a listed building.

Peter Graves has confirmed that both Victoria and Jubilee homes have been short listed to become listed buildings, however only on a local list and not in

the national sense. This will have no impact on planning or building regulations but merely secure their future against demolition.

Osbourne Road – Councillor Gerard Hall reported the 20s plenty signage was facing the wrong way. He also felt bollards might be needed. The Neighbourhood Co-ordinating Manager advised that the signage would be turned round and bollards were being considered outside nos 81 and 83.

The signage is now facing the correct way and the highways section are monitoring the situation at number 81 and 83 Elwick Road.

Chaterhouse Street – Councillor Gerard Hall advised that a pizza shop on the corner was causing litter problems and enforcement might be required.

The manager of the Pizza shop has been spoken to and the situation seems to have improved.

Oxford Road – Councillor John Lauderdale asked that contractors resurfacing the road be mindful of the Baptist Church Service schedule.

This work was undertaken with Cllr Lauderdale's concerns being addressed.

Report of: Central Neighbourhood Manager

Subject: MINOR WORKS PROPOSALS OCTOBER 2011

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

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

2.0 BACKGROUND / CURRENT POSITION

The total available spend on Minor Works Schemes 2011/12 is **£58,000**, and the total committed spend to date is **£7,582**. The total Minor Works Budget available to spend is therefore **£50,418**.

3.0 PROPOSED SCHEMES

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

Foggy Furze

(a) South Parade Traffic Safety Scheme

A number of accidents have occurred with vehicles failing to stop when approaching the South Parade/Sydenham Road junction, resulting in damage to parked vehicles and the adjacent properties. To address this issue a series of road humps are proposed for the section of South Parade between Oxford Street and Sydenham Road. The total cost of implementing the scheme is £15,000. HBC Highways will contribute £10,000 to the scheme. The Forum is asked to approve the remainder of the funding to enable the scheme to go ahead.

Total cost of scheme: £15,000

Total cost to Forum: £ 5,000

Stranton**(b) Dalton Street Bin Store Fencing Scheme**

Ward Councillors and the Neighbourhood Management Team have received a series of complaints from local residents, businesses, and users of the car park in Dalton Street relating to youths gathering, drug taking and rubbish being strewn around the area from the bin store on Dalton Street. The proposed scheme will effectively fence off this area with lockable gates to improve the security of this site, increase feelings of safety for local residents, businesses, and users of the car park, and at the same time facilitate an improvement in the cleanliness of the area. The cost of this scheme is £5,278 and the Forum is asked to approve this funding to enable the scheme to go ahead.

Total cost of scheme: £5,278

Total cost to Forum: £5,278

(c) Chandlers Close Footway Construction

There has been a request from local residents and elected members for a footway to be constructed over the grassed verge at Chandlers Close to assist elderly residents in accessing vehicles. The total cost of the scheme is £500 and the Forum is asked to approve this funding to enable the scheme to go ahead.

Total cost of scheme: £500

Total cost to Forum: £500

(d) Waldon Street Traffic Management Scheme

The Neighbourhood Management Team has received a number of complaints and requests from residents and Ward Councillors to address concerns relating to speeding vehicles and discourage abuse of the carriageway by HGV vehicles in the residential part of Waldon Street. Following a site visit with Ward Councillors a proposed scheme has been developed incorporating build outs just north of the junction with Lister Street. The total cost of the proposed scheme is £10,000. The Forum is asked to approve £5,000 as a contribution towards implementation of the scheme with HBC Highways funding the remaining £5,000 to enable the scheme to go ahead.

Total cost of scheme: £10,000

Total cost to Forum: £ 5,000

(e) Burbank Estate Dropped Crossings

A number of requests have been received from residents of the Burbank Estate to install dropped crossings in key locations across the estate to enable access to amenity areas. The cost of installing dropped crossings at the identified locations is £6,000. The Forum is asked to approve the total cost of this scheme to enable it to go ahead.

Total cost of scheme: £6,000

Total cost to Forum: £6,000

Grange

(f) Sheriff Street House Painting Scheme

In recent months concerns have been raised by residents of Sheriff Street about the general appearance of the street. The proposed painting project will improve the appearance of 80 properties in Sheriff Street, both owner occupied and privately rented. On each property the front door and window sills (both floors) will be prepared, primed, undercoated and glossed to provide a facelift to the property and improve the overall appearance of the streetscape. This project will compliment the new development at Trinity Court and the environmental improvements implemented in this area over recent years. The total cost of the project is £7,020 and the Forum is asked to agree this funding in principle to enable the scheme to go ahead on the understanding that efforts are made to lever in match funding for the project.

Total cost of scheme: £7,020

Total cost to Forum: £7,020

Elwick

(g) Manor Close

The need to provide additional parking in Manor Close at Elwick Village has been raised on a number of occasions by the resident representative for the village and Ward Councillor. The Forum is therefore requested to consider the approval of funding for the removal of a grassed area in Manor Close to provide additional parking.

Total cost of scheme: £2,400

Total cost to Forum: £2,400

Park**(h) Park Avenue**

As part of the ongoing lighting improvements for the park area, it is requested that the Forum consider funding to upgrade the lighting in Park Avenue to white light to improve illumination and energy efficiency. The total cost of the scheme is £8,000 and the Forum is requested to consider approving £5,000 towards this scheme to enable it to go ahead.

Total cost of scheme: £8,000

Total cost to Forum: £5,000

Rift House**(i) Gladys Worthy Court**

Residents have raised concerns about both pedal and motorcycles cutting through this new development, and following site visits have come up with a proposed solution. The proposal is to erect a bow topped fence to prevent the desire line of these cycles following naturally through the shrubbed area, therefore forcing them to follow the footway and pass through a gated entrance. This scheme will slow cyclists down, improve the safety of local residents, and prevent the shrubbed area from being damaged. The total cost of the scheme is £2,849 and the Forum is asked to approve this level of funding to enable the scheme to go ahead.

Total cost of scheme: £2,849

Total cost to Forum: £2,849

(j) Masfield Road

There has been a request from residents and ward members for the grassed verge to be removed and replaced with tarmac outside of 64 – 78 Masfield Road. The Forum is asked to approve this funding to enable the scheme to go ahead.

Total cost of scheme: £5,800

Total cost to Forum: £5,800

(k) Waverley Terrace

There has been a request from residents and Ward Councillors for the grassed verge to be removed and replaced with tarmac at the Kingsley Avenue end of Waverley Terrace near to the Woodcutter Public House. The Forum is asked to approve funding for the total cost of this scheme to enable it to go ahead.

Total cost of scheme: £2,000

Total cost to Forum: £2,000

4.0 RECOMMENDATION

4.1 The Forum is requested to recommend to the Neighbourhoods and Transport Portfolio Holder that the schemes be approved from the Minor Works Budget

4.2 The total cost of schemes proposed is: **£46,847**

4.3 Minor works monies remaining if schemes approved is: **£3,571**

Residents and members of the Forum are reminded to contact members of the Neighbourhood Management team with details of any schemes for future consideration by the Forum.