SOUTH NEIGHBOURHOOD CONSULTATIVE FORUM AGENDA



Friday, 21 October 2011

at 2.00 pm

at Owton Manor Community Centre, Wynyard Road, Hartlepool

MEMBERS: SOUTH NEIGHBOURHOOD CONSULTATIVE FORUM:

Councillors C Akers-Belcher, Gibbon, Hargreaves, Hill, James, Lawton, A E Lilley, G Lilley, A Marshall, Preece, Turner, P Thompson and Wilcox.

Resident Representatives: Maureen Braithwaite, Peter Joyce, Rosemarie Kennedy, Iris Ryder and Michael Unwin

- 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 South Neighbourhood Consultative Forum meeting held on 1st July 2011
 - 4.2 Matters arising
- 5. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

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 Neighbourhood Manager (South)
- 8.2 Warrior Drive Proposed Traffic Calming Assistant Director (Transportation and Engineering

9 WARD ISSUES FROM WARD MEMBERS AND RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVES

10 DATE, TIME AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will take place on Friday 17th February 2012 at 2pm at Owton Manor Community Centre.

WARDS

Fens Greatham Owton Rossmere Seaton

SOUTH NEIGHBOURHOOD CONSULTATIVE FORUM

1 July 2011

MINUTES OF THE MEETING



The meeting commenced at 10.00 am in Jutland Road Community Centre, Jutland Road, Hartlepool

PRESENT:

Chair: Councillor Ann Marshall - Rossmere Ward

Councillor Christopher Akers-Belcher -

Councillor Steve Gibbon

Councillor Pamela Hargreaves

Councillor Marjorie James Councillor Trisha Lawton

Councillor Alican Lillay

Councillor Alison Lilley
Councillor Geoff Lilley

Councillor Arthur Preece

Councillor Paul Thompson

Councillor Mike Turner

Rossmere Ward

Fens Ward

Owton Ward

Owton Ward

Rossmere Ward

- Fens Ward

Greatham Ward

- Fens Ward

- Seaton Ward

Seaton Ward

Resident Representatives: Maureen Braithwaite, Peter Joyce, Rosemarie Kennedy, Iris

Ryder and Michael Unwin

Public: Dorothy Clark, Mary Green, Sheila Kell, H Oxley and Joan Unwin

Officers: David Frame, Neighbourhood Manager (South)

Nigel Johnson, Housing Services Manager Helen Beaman, Environment Coordinator Peter Nixon, Senior Traffic Technician

Alison Carberry, Senior Environmental Enforcement Officer

Kate Ainger, Environmental Projects Officer

Karen Kelly, Housing Strategy Officer

Sue McBride, Neighbourhood Development Officer (South)

Scott Parker, Trainee Technician (Traffic)

Julie Hetherington, Community Safety Assistant

Jo Stubbs, Democratic Services Officer

Police Representatives: Inspector Lee Rukin, Acting Sergeant Paul Smith and PCSO Julie

Dobson

Fire Brigade Representative: Peter Bradley

1.WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The Chair congratulated the former Vice-Chair Councillor Angie Wilcox on her election and thanked former Resident Representative Mary Green for her work in supporting this Fora.

2.APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were submitted by Councillor Angie Wilcox.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

4. MINUTES OF THE SOUTH NEIGHBOURHOOD CONSULTATIVE FORUM HELD ON 8th APRIL 2011

Confirmed.

5. MATTERS ARISING

Ward Issues – Refuse and Recycling Collection – Resident Representative Iris Ryder clarified that she had been referring to bins and containers being brought to the front of premises on collection day only.

6. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Owton Manor Lane – Resident Mary Green queried why there were no traffic lights at Owton Manor Lane or Wynyard Road while there were at Oxford Road and Truro Drive. The Senior Traffic Technician advised that a scheme was drawn up for lights at the junction however at the moment funding was an issue. It was hoped that the scheme would form part of the South Western expansion. Councillor Marjorie James queried whether the junction at Catcote Road/Owton Manor Lane was being

widened. Officers were not aware of this but felt it could be part of bus service improvements. Councillor Jam es suggested that it might be appropriate for the Chair to arrange a meeting of interested parties to look at what schemes were planned for the area and ensure the right schemes were being done at the right time before any money was spent. She asked that Mrs Green be invited to this meeting. Councillor Alison Lilley asked officers to ensure that traffic surveys were done at all times of the day, rather than concentrating on the early to mid morning traffic. The Neighbourhood Manager commented that the surveys in this area were more about congestion than speed. Councillor Geoff Lilley suggested that some of the monies retrieved by the 'camera car' be put toward this scheme.

7. 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 considered by the relevant Portfolio Holder in September.

The following issues were then raised

North Sands Beach - Councillor Marjorie James queried the proposal to include the North Sands Beach from the golf course to Marine Drive during the winter months. The Environmental Projects Officer clarified that this had been requested by Natural England due

to bird nesting patterns. Councillor James suggested that this information be included on the questionnaire so that people were better informed when giving The Environmental their opinions. Projects Officer advised that the questionnaire had alreadv been distributed however the online version could be amended. The reason for coming to events such as these was to enable a fuller explanation to be given to people.

Poster – Resident Mary Green had previously suggested that a poster be erected in areas where Dog Control Orders were in place warning of the dangers of toxoplasmosis. The Environmental Projects Officer indicated that officers regularly visited school to warn about these risks. It was hoped that by involving children they would pass the message onto parents.

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

8. POLICE INSPECTOR

The Chair introduced the new inspector for the South area, Lee Rukin.

9. 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 following issues were then raised

Allotments Group – The Chair suggested that allotment holders might be willing to form a constituted group. The Environment Coordinator advised that while the questionnaire did not ask if allotment holders would be prepared to form a group there were asked if they felt there was a lack of community spirit. In addition 12 of the 16 allotment sites already had an association.

Clearing of sites – The Chair suggested that the clearing of derelict allotment sites could be a Community Payback project. The Environment Coordinator indicated that a tenancy support group were looking at the most efficient ways to have plots cleared and ready for people on the waiting list. Consideration was also being given to halving plots thereby enabling more people to come off the waiting list.

Consultation – Councillor Geoff Lilley was a firm supporter of the allotment strategy and keen to see improvements however he felt there was a danger of too much consultation. He queried when real change would start to become apparent. The Environment Coordinator reported that this issue had been examined for 6 months and a number of positive actions taken such as the removal of problem tenants. Work was also ongoing with She hoped that other departments. improvements would be evident soon however the allotments service had been problematic for some time and it was a large task.

Scrutiny - Councillor Christopher Akers-Belcher referred to the scrutiny investigation into this topic in 2009, saying that many people felt that the issues raised at that time had not been looked at properly and no real action

He asked for information as to taken. what actions had been taken following the scrutiny investigation as this consultation felt like repetition. Councillor Marjorie James, in her role as chair of Scrutiny Coordinating Committee, advised that the final report had been endorsed by the Cabinet with outcom es beina reviewed every six months. She understood that all the recommendations had been implemented and asked to be informed if this was not the case.

Profiling – Councillor Christopher Akers-Belcher acknowledged that profiling was necessary but felt that asking people their age on the questionnaire could be seen as ageist. The Environment Coordinator denied this was the case and it was to aid knowledge of the profile and needs of allotment holders.

Pricing - Councillor Christopher Akers-Belcher referred to the proposals to raise the rental fees on plots. He gave details of fees charged by neighbouring local authorities and said that the proposed increase of £2.50 per week would place Hartlepool allotment holders at a disadvantage particularly pensioners who would be paying £125 per year compared £20 per year in neighbouring authorities. The Environment Coordinator advised that allotment rental prices had always been unrealistically low and neighbouring authorities were also considering raising their fees. Councillor Akers-Belcher felt the focus needed to be on a manageable prepared plot, however the Environmental Coordinator indicated that the current yearly income of £30-60 per plot per year did not begin to cover the cost of £2,500 needed to clear each allotment. Councillor Akers-Belcher suggested officers engage with the voluntary community.

Fires – Resident Representative Iris Ryder requested clarification on the rules around fires on allotment plots. The

Environment Coordinator reported that the burning of rubbish was only allowed in the last week of October, first week of November and the last two weeks of March.

Animals – Resident Mary Green queried whether officers regularly visited allotments to check on animals being kept there. The Environment Coordinator confirmed that council officers worked closely with the RSPCA. All animals kept on allotments should be registered and if they were not or were found to be kept in an inhumane manner then steps would be taken.

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

10. 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.

The following issues were then raised

Social Housing - Councillor Marjorie James felt that the current minimum of

10% social housing in each new development was too low and should be raised to 15% with the additional 5% concentrated on the old or disabled. Councillor Geoff Lilley questioned whether this increase would be fair however saying it could affect the developers willingness to develop as a large amount of social housing might make a development less attractive to builders or buyers. The Housing Strategy Officer indicated that all developments were considered on a site by site basis and affordable housing could be placed away from the actual development so long as it was made available.

Youth homelessness Councillor Marjorie James referred to the current housing of 8 young homeless people outside Hartlepool at a cost of £85,000 per year. She felt that as these young people were Hartlepudlians they should be housed here. Under 25s were not entitled to housing benefit and there should be strategies in place to ensure that that they were able to sustain a home financially. Otherwise it could be difficult to get a mortgage later in life with a failed tenancy on their credit rating. Housing Strategy Officer acknowledged these concerns and felt that this needed to be built into the housing strategy and Councillor homelessness strategy. James' comments would be fed into the process.

Disabled – Councillor Christopher Akers-Belcher highlighted a lack of properties available for families including children and disabled older members. He acknowledged that the ratio of care homes in Hartlepool was high when compared to the rest of the Tees Valley but sustainable communities were about integration and people should not have to move out of the community to receive the care they need. Councillor Marjorie James also suggested that any new

properties over 2 storeys high should be fitted with a sprinkler system.

The Chair thanked the Housing Strategy Officer for attending the meeting and answering questions.

11. 20s PLENTY

The Senior Traffic Technician gave a brief presentation on the ongoing consultation regarding altering the speed limit to 20mph on designated Hartlepool roads. A map showing the intended areas had been erected at the back of the room and he would be available to answer questions after the meeting. The map was also available on the website.

The following issues were then raised

Travellers Rest Resident Representative Rosemarie Kennedv advised that the signage near the Travellers Rest had been damaged but never replaced. The Senior Traffic Technician confirmed that this had been reordered while the Neighbourhood Manager highlighted the signage on the other side of the dual carriageway.

Changing attitudes – Councillor Paul Thompson referred to the introduction of 20s plenty in his Scottish family home and said it was now seen on a par with drink driving or smoking in a public house. All the signage used was designed by children and could be quite impactful. The Senior Traffic Technician commented that the signage recently installed outside Kingsley Primary School had been designed by the children. People felt that given time people would take 20s plenty on board and start to drive more slowly.

Enforcement – Resident Dorothy Clark queried whether a 20mph limit would be enforced. The Senior Traffic Technician indicated that it would not be enforced as

police would not have the technology to ascertain these speeds. Councillor Marjorie James queried whether this was something the 'camera car' could help with however the Senior Traffic Technician advised that it could not. PSCO Julie Dobson confirmed that police did not have the technology to enforce this at the moment however she would look into it.

Signage – Councillor Trisha Lawton asked if signage would be placed on all the roads. The Senior Traffic Technician confirmed that signage would be erected where the speed changed from the national speed limit. In estates small would be randomly placed. Councillor Alison Lilley asked that existing posts be utilised for the signage rather than new posts being implemented. The Senior Traffic Technician indicated that an audit would be carried out and any redundant signs or polls would be removed. New signage would always be placed on an existing poll wherever possible. Councillor Mike Turner was concerned that signage might be missed and queried whether other ways could be found such as a change in the road colour and road markings. The Senior Traffic Technician said upright standard signs were needed in order to make it legal although carriageway markings were used in addition where necessary. Councillor Pamela Hargreaves suggested that signage be erected at the town's boundaries indicating that Hartlepool was a 20mph zone unless advised otherwise. This would limit the amount of signage needed. She asked if a letter could be sent to the Secretary of State regarding this. The Senior Technician would take this forward

Brierton Lane – Resident Representative Rosemarie Kennedy noted that drivers regularly exceeded 20mph on the top half of Brierton Lane. The Senior Traffic Technician reiterated that drivers needed to be educated to drive more slowly.

'Camera car' - Councillor Marjorie James praised the ongoing work being carried out by the operators of the 'camera car' commenting that inconsiderate parking was as dangerous as people speeding

Representative Peter Joyce noted that he had recently witnessed a car travelling at over 40mph but police officers who had been present had daimed not to know how fast the car was travelling. This was noted by Acting Sergeant Smith.

The Chair thanked the Senior Traffic Technician for attending and meeting and answering questions.

12. PUBLIC MEETING

The Chair announced that the Rossmere Ward Councillors and Council Officers would be holding a public meeting at 3.30pm on Friday 15th July in Rossmere Youth Centre in relation to the 20s Plenty campaign

13. MINOR WORKS REPORT

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

Members noted the report

14. WARD ISSUES FROM WARD MEMBERS AND RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVES

Queen Street / Victoria Street -Resident Representative Iris advised that the signage had disappeared around the time of the Royal Wedding and had not yet been replaced.

Queen Street / Staincliffe Hotel -Resident Representative Iris Ryder indicated that a rubbish bin in this vicinity had gone missing. This would be bv the investigated Neighbourhood Coordinator.

Queen Street – Resident Representative Iris Ryder reported traffic problems specifically with buses turning and taxis turning at speed. Ms Ryder had requested that the yellow lines be extended during the Tall Ships but this had not happened. She asked if a bollard could be erected at the north end of the green to divert the traffic. The Senior Traffic Technician noted these comments

Catcote Road / Truro Drive - Councillor Alison Lilley expressed her 'disgust' at the ongoing road works in this area particularly when residents where forced to negotiate the temporary pedestrian walkways. This was causing particular problems for mobility scooters leading to people having to go onto the road to get round the barriers. She queried why the work had not been completed in April as promised. The Senior Traffic Technician advised that the work would be completed in 2 weeks time.

Balmoral Road – Councillor Christopher Akers-Belcher noted that taxis were continuing to park along Balmoral Road and littering from their vehicles. He had understood there would be various crime

tackling initiatives in March and requested feedback and statistics. Neighbourhood Manager said this would be brought back to the next Police Forum meeting in the Neighbourhood Inspectors report.

Speed van - Councillor Geoff Lilley reported that a child had recently been hit by a car in Greatham and queried whether the 'speed van' was still being used. This was confirmed. Resident Mary Green advised that it regularly parked near the hospital.

Fens Shops - Councillor Steve Gibbon reported an increase in vans using the disabled bays and asked for an increase in enforcement. The Neighbourhood Manager would speak to the Parking Services Manager on this issue. noted that this was technically private land but the council had agreed to carry out enforcement on behalf of the owners. Councillor Alison Lilley asked if some additional disabled bays could provided near to the doctors surgery. The Neighbourhood Manager to pass this request on to the landowners.

Bus stops - Councillor Marjorie James referred to the enforcement work currently being carried out by the 'camera car'. However she felt it was unfair that people were being fined for stopping in bus stops which were no longer in use and asked that officers rectify this situation as soon as possible. The Neighbourhood Manager requested the Senior Traffic Technician look at this.

The meeting concluded at 11:25am

CHAIR

Report of: Neighbourhood Manager (South)

Subject: MINOR WORKS PROPOSALS

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

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

2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Minor Works Budget remaining for the financial year to 31st March 2012 amounts to £58,000.
- 2.2 A number of schemes are detailed below to address concerns raised by Elected Members, Resident's Representatives and Residents of the South Forum Area.

3. PROPOSALS

3.1 Verge Reinstatement Schemes

The following verges have been selected for re-instatement as a result of concerns raised by residents and Ward Councillors over congestion caused by the narrow width of the roads, damage to verges and the lack of off road parking. Replacing the grass verges with tarmac hard-standing will improve the aesthetics of the area while helping with parking congestion. The below schemes are subject to the appropriate utility checks, highways approval and resident consultation where appropriate.

(i) Rossmere

(a) Barra Grove

£6,470 (Appendix A)

A 2m wide tarmac strip will allow vehicles to fully pull off the road and allow access for other residents and emergency vehicles.

(b) Beath Grove

£4,270

(Appendix B)

This scheme includes tarmaccing a 2m wide strip of verge and dropping the kerbs along the length of the scheme, which will give cars more room to pass each other on an otherwise very narrow road. In addition the cost includes moving a lamp column closer to the footpath in order to maximise the off road space.

(ii) Fens

(a) Inchcape Road

£1,550

(Appendix C)

A section of the verge is to be taramcced in order to alleviate damage to the verge resulting from residents trying not to obstruct an existing driveway.

(iii) Seaton

(a) Grosmont Road (N°s 45 - 49)

£1,600

(Appendix D)

(b) Grosmont Road (N°s 33-35)

£1,000

(Appendix E)

Tarmaccing of the existing verges in both of the above schemes in Grosmont Road will help alleviate congestion as the road is not wide enough for two cars to pass each other therefore providing areas for off road parking will help keep the road clear for residents and emergency vehicles.

(iv) Owton

(a) Fife Grove

£2,800

(Appendix F)

Fife Grove residents have been struggling for parking space and this, together with a narrow road, has led to issues of congestion and damage to verges therefore a 2m wide strip of tarmac is proposed to alleviate these problems.

(b) Dalkeith Road

£4,800

(Appendix G)

A need to keep vehicles off the road near the junction of Dalkeith Road with Catcote road has lead to the existing verges being heavily damaged. A proposal to tarmac a 2m wide strip will allow vehicles to

park off road without causing damage to the verges while keeping the junction clear.

Total cost of verge schemes

£22,490

3.2 Horticulture Schemes

(i) Fens

It is proposed to replace damaged/removed trees in Thetford Road, Winthorpe Grove and Spalding Field, with Betula utilis 'Jacquemontii' (Birch) 14/16cm girth.

(a)	Thetford Road (outside no 16)	£300
	(1 tree including weldmesh cage)	

(b)	Winthorpe Grove (outside nº16)	£300
	(1 tree including weldmesh cage)	

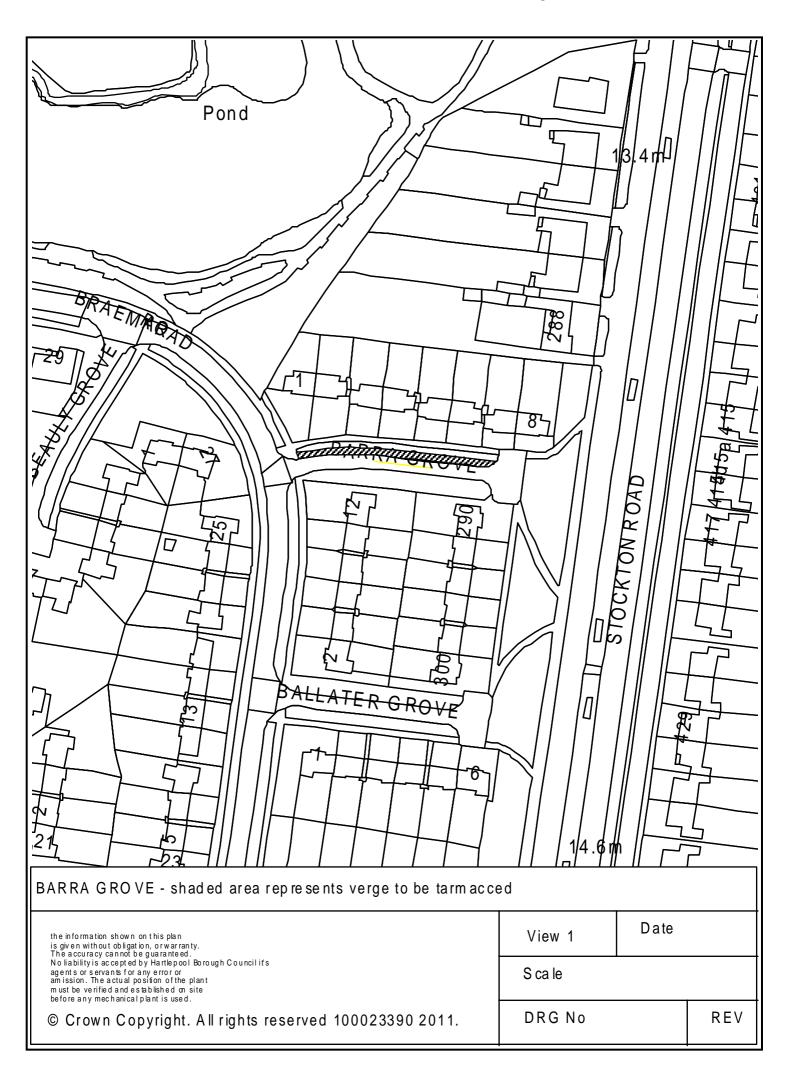
(c)	Spalding Field	£600
	(2 trees including weldmesh cages)	

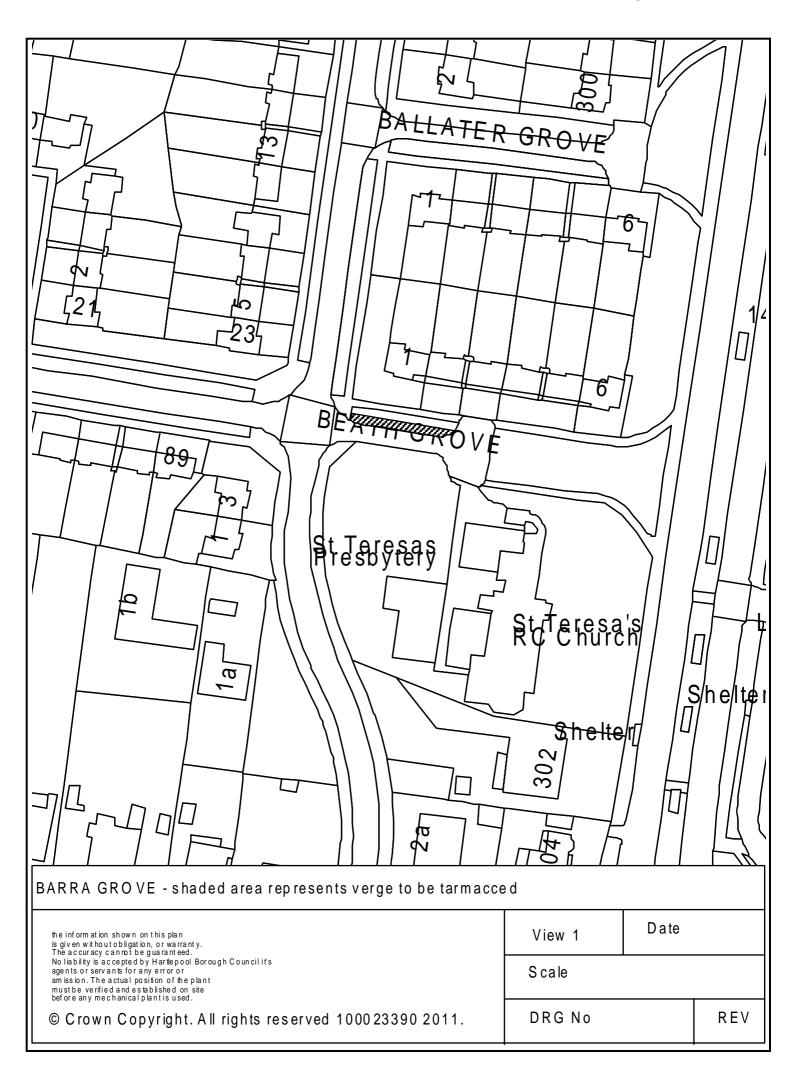
Total cost of horticulture schemes	£1,200
Total minor works cost to forum	£23,690

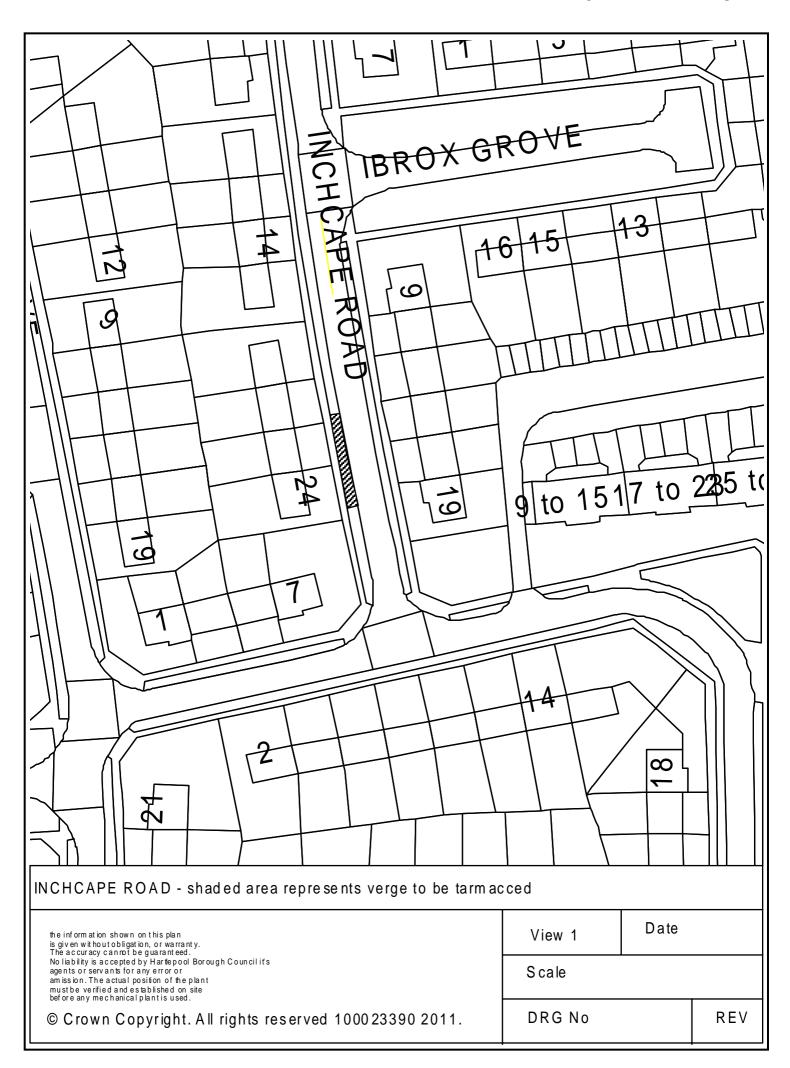
4 RECOMMENDATION

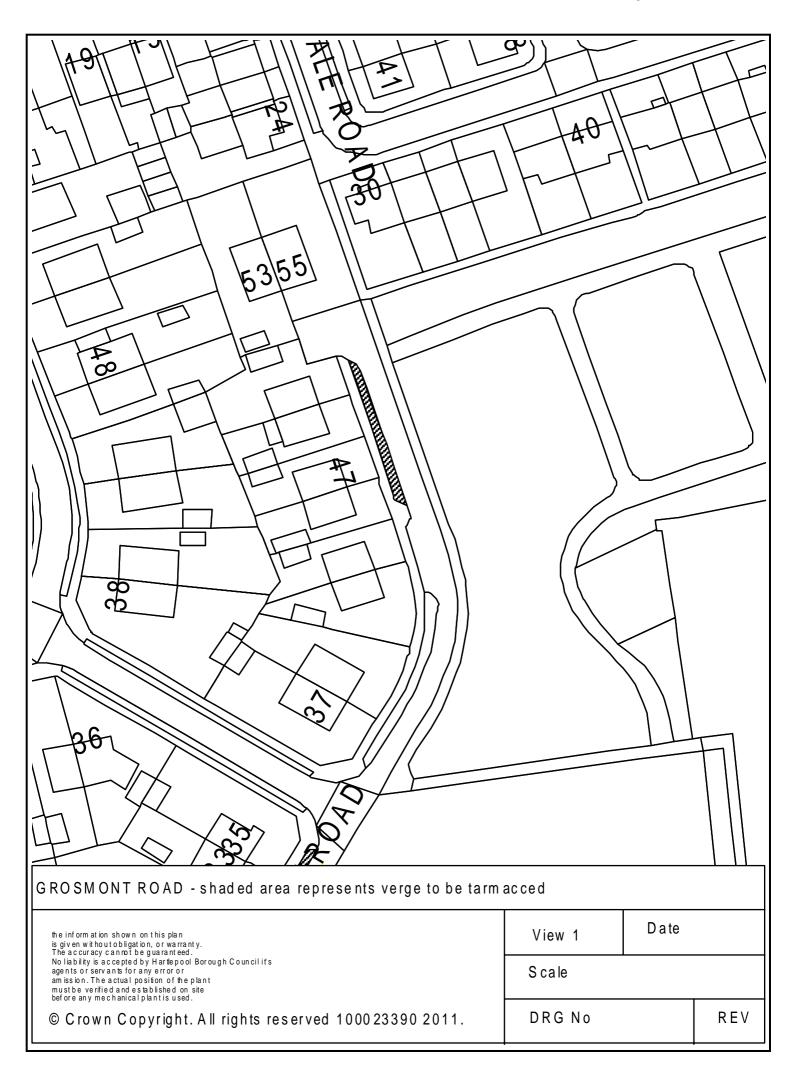
4.1 The Forum is asked to consider the above schemes for approval. Approved schemes will need to be presented to the Neighbourhoods and Communities Portfolio for information.

8.1 APPENDIX A

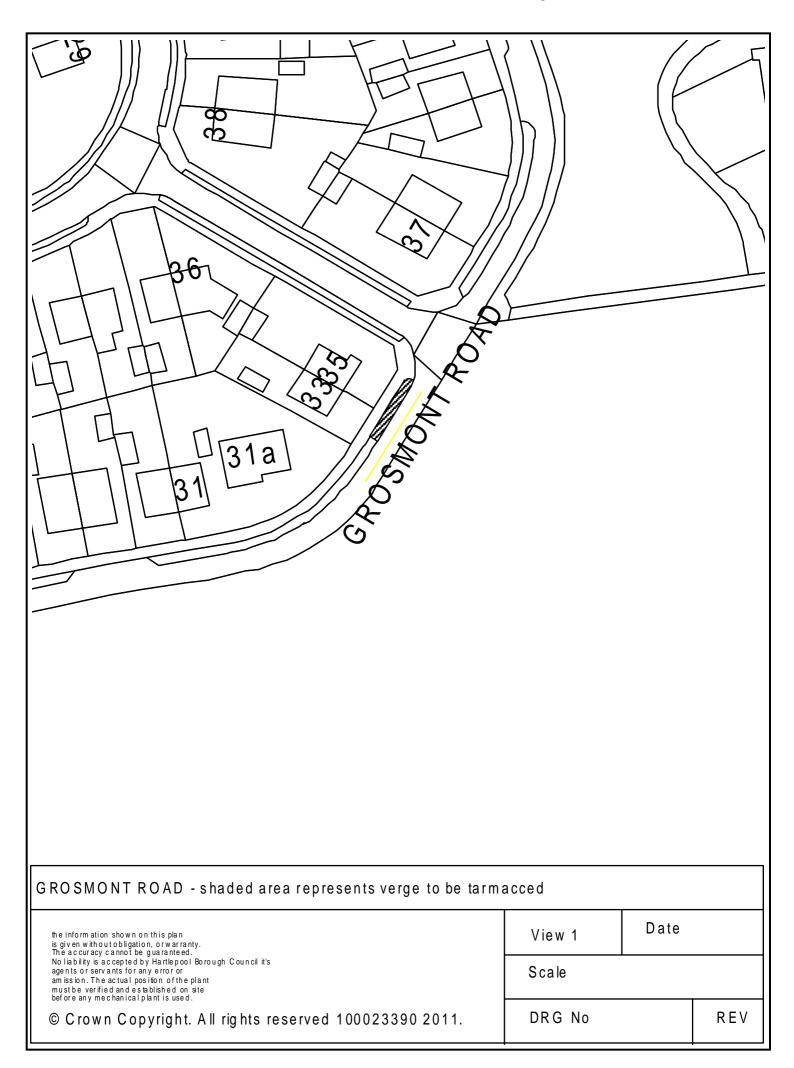


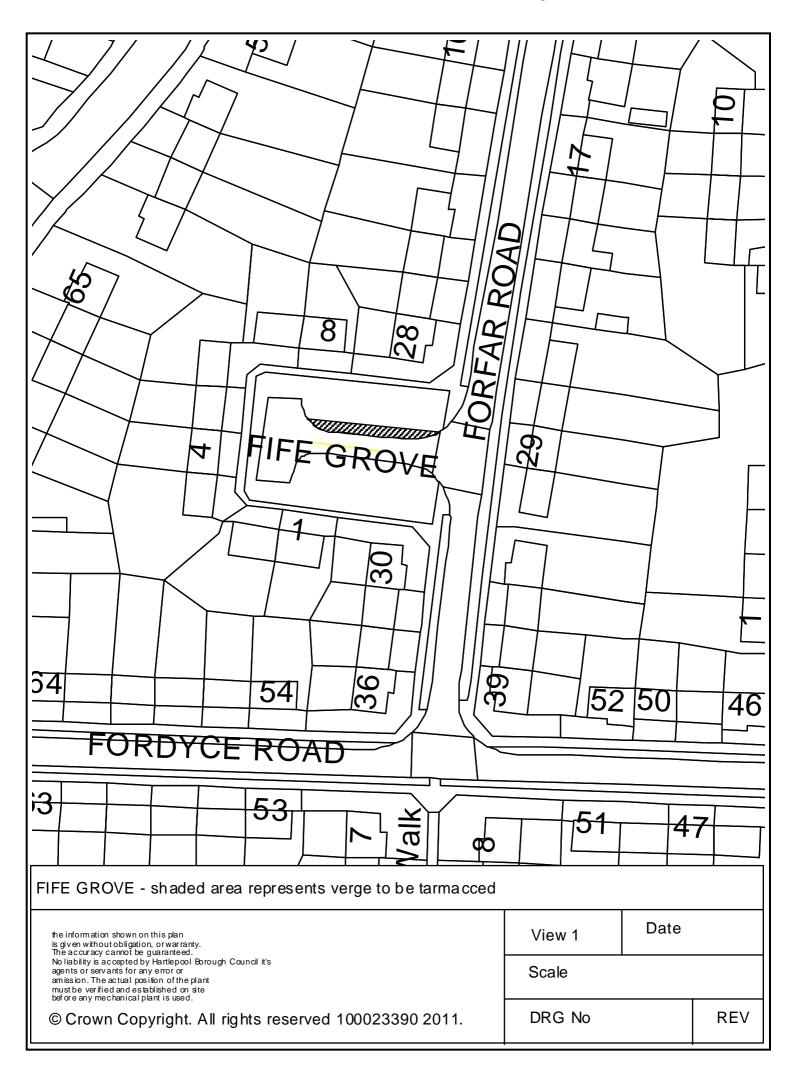


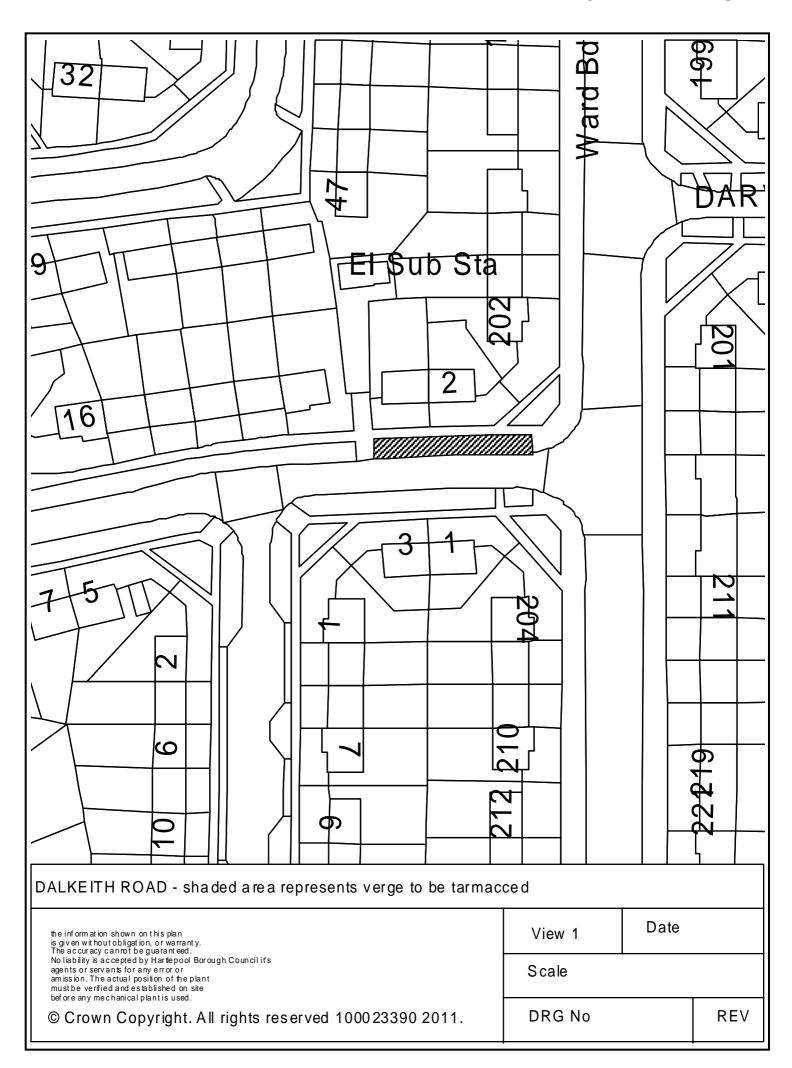




8.1 APPENDIX E







South Neighbourhood Consultative Forum

21 October 2011



Report of: Assistant Director (Transportation and

Engineering)

Subject: WARRIOR DRIVE – PROPOSED TRAFFIC

CALMING

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To inform the South Neighbourhood Consultative Forum of a proposed scheme to implement traffic calming on Warrior Drive and to request partial funding for the proposals.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 During the 20's plenty consultation a significant number of residents requested the implementation of a 20mph speed limit and other traffic calming measures on Warrior Drive.
- 2.2 Speed surveys indicate an 85th percentile speed of 35mph, this would indicate that there's a moderate level of speeding traffic.
- 2.3 There have been no recorded injury accidents on Warrior Drive in the in the last full 3 year period.
- 3.4 Attempts have been made to reduce vehicle speeds in the past by introducing slow markings mounted on red surfacing at various strategic points along the road.

2.4 **OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

2.5 A) 20 Mph speed Limit

Warrior Drive was considered inappropriate for the introduction of a 20mph speed limit during the original 20's plenty consultation. This is because it was considered that motorists would consider the limit unrealistic and would result in a high non compliance rate.

2.6 **B) Road Humps**

Since Warrior Drive is a bus route the road humps would have to be the speed cushion variety that allows large vehicles to pass over them unhindered. In order to comply with the Department of Transport Regulations cushions need to be positioned within 150 metres of each other. This would therefore require 10 sets of cushions to cover the full length, although in terms of speed reduction these features would achieve the greatest results the large number of cushions required would cause undue discomfort to motorists and passengers and potentially increase response times for emergency vehicles.

2.3 C) Pinch Points (Appendix A)

Six sets of strategically placed pinch points will require vehicles from a specified direction to give way to oncoming traffic, therefore slowing traffic approaching these features. It is anticipated that these features will be able to keep general traffic speeds within the 30mph speed limit without causing any undue discomfort to motorists. This would be the preferred option.

2.4 D) Do nothing

The current accident record at this site indicates that residents are aware of the potential dangers of this road and have adapted their level of concentration to suit the conditions. However, the recorded 85th percentile speeds increases the risk of a serious/ fatal accident occurring.

3 Recommendations

3.1 It is recommended that option C is implemented, this will require a full consultation with residents and Ward councillors and approval from the Transport and Neighbourhoods Portfolio holder.

3.2 Cost Implications

- 3.3 The cost of providing the pinch point scheme is estimated to cost £30, 000, the bulk of this would be funded by the Local transport Plan budget.
- 3.4 A contribution of £5,000 is also being sought from the South Neighbourhood Consultative Forum with a view to implementing the scheme this financial year subject to consultation.

3. CONTACT OFFICER

Peter Nixon (Traffic and Transportation Planning Technician) Regeneration and Neighbourhoods (Transportation and Engineering) Hartlepool Borough Council

Telephone Number 01429 523244 Email: peter.nixon@hartlepool.gov.uk

