

SOUTH AND CENTRAL NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM AGENDA



Wednesday 4 July 2012

at 2.00 am

in Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Hartlepool

MEMBERS: SOUTH AND CENTRAL NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM:

Councillors C Akers-Belcher, S Akers-Belcher, Brash, Cranney, Gibbon, Hall, Hargreaves, James, Lauderdale, A Lilley, G Lilley, Loynes, Morris, Richardson, Simmons, Sirs, Wells and Wilcox.

- 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 North Neighbourhood Consultative Forum meeting held on 15 February 2012.
 - 4.2 Matters arising.
 - 4.3 To confirm the minutes of the Central Neighbourhood Consultative Forum meeting held on 16 February 2012.
 - 4.4 Matters arising.
 - 4.5 To confirm the minutes of the South Neighbourhood Consultative Forum meeting held on 17 February 2012.
 - 4.6 Matters arising.
- 5. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME and WARD ISSUES**

6. ITEMS FOR CONSULTATION

None

7. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND/OR INFORMATION

- 6.1 New Neighbourhood Forums Overview – *Assistant Director, Neighbourhood Services* (Presentation)
- 6.2 Scrutiny Work Programme – *Scrutiny Manager, Corporate Strategy* (Presentation)
- 6.3 Neighbourhood Policing Update – *Hartlepool Neighbourhood Police* (Presentation)

8. ITEMS FOR DECISION

None

9. DATE, TIME AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will take place on Wednesday 3rd October at 10.00am in the Council Chamber.

WARDS

Brus
Dyke House
Hart
St Hilda
Throston

NORTH NEIGHBOURHOOD CONSULTATIVE FORUM

15 February 2012

MINUTES OF THE MEETING



The meeting commenced at 2.00 p.m. in the Throston Grange Community Centre,
Glamorgan Grove, Throston Grange, Hartlepool

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| PRESENT: |
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Chair: Councillor Mary Fleet - Dyke House Ward

Vice Chair: Bob Steel (Resident Representative)

Councillor Mick Fenwick - Brus Ward
Councillor Linda Shields - Dyke House Ward

Resident Representatives: Christine Blakey, John Cambridge, John Maxwell and Joan Noman

Public: Janis Ledger, John Lynch, David Ninn, Alan Vale and Liz Torley

Officers: Denise Ogden, Assistant Director, Neighbourhood Services
Karen Oliver, Neighbourhood Manager, North
Sally Forth, Community Safety Manager
Ann Callaghan, Neighbourhood Development Officer
Garry Jones, Neighbourhood Services Officer
Peter Nixon, Senior Traffic Technician

Police Representatives: Sgt Ali Sah

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| 25. INQUORATE MEETING |
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The Chair highlighted that the meeting was not quorate, however recommendations could be made by those present.

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| 26. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE |
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Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Cook, Griffin, McKenna, Thomas and Wright and Resident Representative Joan Steel.

27. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

28. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 19 OCTOBER 2011

Approved subject to the attendance of Councillor Griffin.

29. MATTERS ARISING

Speed Monitors – A Resident advised that the speed monitor on King Oswy Drive was not working. The Senior Traffic Technician was aware of the problem and confirmed repairs were imminent.

Public Question Time – Park Road Pedestrian Crossing – A Resident thanked the forum for fixing the audible signal at a junction in Park Road.

Vincent Street Steps – The Neighbourhood Services Officer noted that the steps on Vincent Street had been inspected, swept and cleaned down.

The information given was noted.

30. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Trucks and quad bikes on the beach – A Resident reported that during the weekends the beach was being used by quad bikers and the Police had promised this would be addressed. A Police Representative believed the quad bikers were coming into Hartlepool from outside the area. The Police Representative confirmed that they relied on Residents to report incidents and urged them to inform Police of any sightings of off road or quad bikes and of any uninsured bikes they were aware of. A Resident Representative highlighted a reluctance

to report specific instances to the police due to fear of reprisal. The Police Representative suggested that Housing Hartlepool arrange a letter drop in the area.

Dog Fouling – A Resident

Representative raised concerns regarding dog fouling on the North beach and on public footpaths.

The information was noted.

31. HARTLEPOOL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE STRATEGY

The Community Safety Manager gave a detailed and comprehensive presentation on the Draft Hartlepool Domestic Violence Strategy 2012-2015 which focussed on the following:-

- Definition of Domestic Violence
- Domestic Violence and Abuse - national and local picture
- Local measures and support
 - specialist support services
 - specialist domestic violence courts
 - independent domestic violence advisors
 - independent sexual violence advisors
 - multi-agency risk assessment conferencing
 - sexual assault referral centres
- Perpetrator programmes
- What more could be done
- Strategy aim and objectives
- Strategy consultation

It was reported that following the conclusion of the consultation, the strategy would be presented to Cabinet for adoption. Attendees were encouraged to participate in the strategy consultation, copies of which were available at the meeting.

In the discussion that followed the following issues were raised:-

A Resident Representative asked how information received on sexual violence which was alcohol and drugs related would be dealt with and enquired about what support mechanisms were in place. The Community Safety Manager confirmed that the Victim would have to come forward in order for action to be taken. In terms of additional support, the Police and Harbour were available. The contributory factors to domestic violence and abuse, reporting procedures and support mechanisms were debated.

A Resident Representative informed the forum of abuse that had been witnessed and had taken place in front of children. The Assistant Director, Neighbourhood Services highlighted that although the Council would not be able to work with victims who did not come forward, there may be an opportunity to work with children directly involved. The Community Safety Manager pointed out that the children who were directly involved needed to be taught that domestic violence was not normality. The Chair suggested that the Residents and Resident Representatives liaise with the Community Safety Manager, the Police and Social Services after the meeting with any individual cases they are aware of.

The strategy and comments were noted.

32. RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVE ISSUES

None.

33. WARD MEMBERS AND WARD ISSUES

None.

34. COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT AND ENGAGEMENT UPDATE

The Assistant Director, Neighbourhood Services gave a brief update following the presentation at the last meeting in relation to the review of community involvement and engagement.

It was reported that the decision taken by Cabinet on 18 July had been reaffirmed by Cabinet on 6 February 2012 and details of the background to the decision making process was outlined. It was highlighted that the following changes would be implemented with immediate effect:-

- That the role of resident representatives be disbanded in May 2012 and a new role – Neighbourhood Voice be introduced.
- That a Borough wide Neighbourhood Issues Forum be introduced from May 2012.
- That Neighbourhood Action Plans be refocused onto the 5% most deprived neighbourhoods.
- That the Mayor would meet with Parish Council Chairs twice per year.
- That Police and Community Safety meetings and Parish Liaison meetings be disbanded in May 2012.

A Resident representative shared a number of concerns relating to a range of issues. The Assistant Director,

Neighbourhood Services and the Resident Representative discussed the concerns after the meeting.

A Resident Representative stated that the role of a Resident Representative was voluntary and could not understand the reasons for abolition. The Assistant Director, Neighbourhood Services explained the importance of continual involvement and engagement with Members.

Resident Representative's raised concerns regarding the community involvement and engagement update.

The information given and comments were noted.

35. CCTV – OLD CEMETERY ROAD

The Assistant Director, Neighbourhood Services gave an update on the progress of the proposed replacement of a CCTV camera to monitor the Old Cemetery Road area as a result of the former camera being destroyed. It had previously been agreed at a Forum in June for the replacement CCTV camera to be co-located with north wireless I.T. transmission hub at P.D. Ports which would allow for the connection of the camera to the towns CCTV Monitoring Centre. It was confirmed that the proposed north wireless I.T. transmission hub project had been cancelled as on further examination it had been determined not cost effective and would not result in any financial savings. This was partly due to large yearly rental costs for the use of two lighting columns at P.D. Ports.

The Assistant Director, Neighbourhood Services informed the forum that a review of the towns non-covert, public space CCTV service and its projects had been conducted between August and

December 2011. As a result of this Hartlepool's CCTV Strategy was to be rewritten. It was planned that a draft CCTV Strategy would be completed by April 2012, followed by public consultation between April to June 2012, with the strategy completed by July 2012.

The new strategy would include a means of ensuring that an annual review of CCTV locations was undertaken as required by the Information Commissioners CCTV Code of Practice, introduced in 2008. It was confirmed that no new CCTV cameras would be located until the evidential review had been completed to ensure an equal evidential basis for all CCTV locations.

A member of the public asked if funding which had previously been secured would be available once a decision was made. The Assistant Director, Neighbourhood Services confirmed this funding was allocated to the North of the town and although suggestions may be made on how it could be used, the funding would remain with the North of the town.

A Resident Representative questioned if CCTV cameras were to be taken out of commission, would that area be informed. The Assistant Director, Neighbourhood Services reassured the forum that if a CCTV camera was taken out of commission a full consultation would be carried out.

The update was noted.

36. NORTH NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM MINOR WORKS PROPOSALS

The Neighbourhood Manager reported that the remaining Minor Works budget for the current financial year to 31 March 2012 amounted to £11,000. The Forum were asked to consider the following minor works schemes, details of which

were set out in the report to address concerns raised by Elected Members, Resident Representatives and Residents of the North Forum :-

West View Road Environmental Improvements – £3,400 to improve open grassed area between house numbers 76 – 108. It was proposed that trees, pampas grasses and New Zealand flax be planted. A Resident aired concerns regarding rubbish from a nearby fish shop. The Neighbourhood Manager reassured the forum that the plants were not prickly and should not catch the litter.

Raby Road, Dyke House School Traffic Calming Scheme - £5,000 to implement an advisory 20 mph speed limit with flashing signs to indicate that the limit was in operation. The advisory 20 mph speed limit would apply on Raby Road between Chester Road and Powlett Road, during school arrival and leaving times. A Resident Representative highlighted that there was no tactile crossing outside of Dyke House School. The Senior Traffic Technician confirmed he would look into this.

Dropped Crossing in the Throston Ward - £2,400 to implement dropped crossing within the Throston Ward.

Total cost of all Proposed Minor Works £10,800, leaving £200. It was suggested that the £200 be used to install tactile paving at the crossing outside of Dyke House School. Following discussion the forum supported this suggestion.

Recommendation

- (i) That the minor works scheme, as outlined above, be approved.

- (ii) That the forum recommended that the remaining £200 from the Minor Works Budget be used to install tactile paving at the crossing outside of Dyke House School.

As had been highlighted the meeting was inquorate and the recommendations would be forwarded to the Assistant Director, Neighbourhood Services for approval in accordance with delegated powers.

37. ANNOUNCEMENT

The Neighbourhood Manager, stated that this would be the last meeting of the North Forum in its current form following the Community Involvement and Engagement Review and delivered a presentation on the improvements made within the Northern area of the town. Thanks were expressed to all participants for their contribution to the success of the Forum over the past ten years.

The meeting concluded at 4.10 pm.

WARDS

Burn Valley
Elwick
Foggy Furze
Grange
Park
Rift House
Stranton

CENTRAL NEIGHBOURHOOD CONSULTATIVE FORUM

16 February 2012

MINUTES OF THE MEETING



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

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| PRESENT: |
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Chair: Councillor Kevin Cranney - Foggy Furze Ward

Vice-Chair: Evelyn Leck (Resident Representative)

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| Councillor Jonathan Brash | - Burn Valley Ward |
| Councillor Gerald Hall | - Burn Valley Ward |
| Councillor John Lauderdale | - Burn Valley Ward |
| Councillor Brenda Loynes | - Park Ward |
| Councillor Carl Richardson | - Grange Ward |
| Councillor Jane Shaw | - Stranton Ward |
| Councillor Chris Simmons | - Grange Ward |
| Councillor Sylvia Tempest | - Rift House Ward |
| Councillor Hilary Thompson | - Elwick Ward |
| Councillor Ray Wells | - Park Ward |

Resident Representatives: Bob Farrow, Ted Jackson and Brian McBean

Public: Millie Allan, Chris Banks, Hannah Bew, A Bostock, Beryl Clark, K Champion, J Davison, Marjorie Hughes, B Jackson, Gordon Johnston, Stella Johnston, Gordon Larkin, Janis Ledger, Robyn Reid, Tom Sant, Eileen Thompson, Juliet Ward, Mary Wilkinson and K Williams

Officers: Denise Ogden, Assistant Director, Neighbourhood Services
Jon Wright, Neighbourhood Co-ordinating Manager
Adele Wilson, Senior Regeneration Officer
Irene Cross, Neighbourhood Development Officer
Vicky Bosley, Democratic Services Officer

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| 24. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE |
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Apologies for absence were received

from Councillors Ingham, Maness and Dr Morris and Resident Representatives Julie Rudge and Steven Mailen.

25. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

**26. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD
ON 20 OCTOBER 2011**

Approved.

27. MATTERS ARISING

Selective Licensing – Councillor Brash confirmed a number of concerns had been raised as part of a selective licensing review and the ambition was that it would happen, but there would be a twelve month delay in order to address the issues raised.

20's Plenty – Councillor Brash confirmed that Tarnston Road was in hand.

Burn Valley - A Resident Representative raised concerns regarding the importance of the need for works to be carried out in order to widen the footpath. Councillor Brash confirmed that this work was planned to commence.

Windermere Road – A Resident Representative highlighted that repairs to a pothole had been carried out, however were to an unsatisfactory standard. The Neighbourhood Co-ordinating Manager confirmed that a temporary repair had been carried out until the housing development was complete.

Salt Bins – Councillor Loynes highlighted that there was no voluntary groups within the Park Ward to assist with snow and ice removal. The Cold Weather Plan, voluntary organisations and the issue of 200 shovels were debated. The Assistant Director, Neighbourhood Services confirmed that Alastair Smith was the contact for queries.

Garage Site, Eamont Gardens –

Councillor Hall confirmed that this item was to be heard at Councillor Payne's Finance and Procurement Portfolio in the near future.

The information given was noted.

28. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**Foggy Furze**

A Resident Representative questioned if the road around the new development would be restored. The Neighbourhood Co-ordinating Manager confirmed that it would, once the development had been completed.

A Resident Representative raised concerns regarding the dog fouling in the area. The Assistant Director, Neighbourhood Services informed the Forum that due to cuts the number of Enforcement Officers had been reduced from twelve down to four. Councillor Wells questioned if Elected Members hold a Criminal Records Bureau, could they be empowered to issue fixed penalty notices. It was felt that this would have a positive impact on the dog fouling within the community as the number of Enforcement Officers would increase from four to thirty seven. The Chair thought this was a good idea and that the suggestion should be made to the Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods.

A member of the public requested a salt bin be placed on Sydenham Road, before the Post Office. The Assistant Director, Neighbourhood Services confirmed this would not be possible as the location would not meet Council criteria for siting salt bins.

Grange

A Resident Representative raised concerns regarding the number of boarded up houses in Stephen Street and a fire in one of the houses. It was confirmed that a number of Resident Representatives had approached Ian Wright with these issues. Councillor Brash noted the comments and confirmed that he would raise Stephen Street as a particular issue if and when the budget had been passed, to tackle empty homes.

A Resident Representative informed the Forum that it was thought that rats in Hart Lane had escalated from one house in particular and open top recycle bins maybe the cause. The Neighbourhood Development Officer confirmed that Residents can contact Public Protection regarding their own addresses only. The Chair requested a letter drop be carried out.

A Resident Representative highlighted that the dog foul bins in the Duke Street area were not sufficient. The Assistant Director, Neighbourhood Services confirmed that no budget had been allocated to dog foul bins, however the request would be looked at to see how the Council could accommodate the request.

Park

A Resident Representative raised speeding issues particularly on the bend on Park Avenue North. The Chair confirmed he would inform the Traffic police.

Councillor Loynes questioned if the rubbish at the Golden Lion Pub, Dunston Road could be addressed. The Neighbourhood Co-ordinating Manager confirmed the land was not Council owned and that the owner would be contacted regarding the concerns raised.

Councillor Loynes informed the Forum that the first barrier on Egerton Road had no chevron. Councillor Wells added that overgrown trees on land that was not Council owned, were covering the warning sign on the blind bend at High Tunstall School, making it unsafe. The comments were noted.

Rift House

Councillor Tempest enquired about the condition of a building on Masefield Road. The Neighbourhood Development Officer confirmed that an order for the windows to be cleaned had been requested.

Stranton

Councillor Shaw was concerned that no fixed penalty notices had been issued by PCSO's in the Stranton area for dog fouling within the ward.

Councillor Shaw was impressed with the assistance available for people entering the Civic Centre, while works to the forecourt were carried out.

Councillor Shaw raised issues regarding broken glass on the Victoria Square ramp, which leads up to the shopping centre. The machine was not being used and the worker had been seen using a mobile phone. The Neighbourhood Co-ordinating Manager was disappointed regarding the issues raised and confirmed he would investigate.

Councillor Shaw questioned the new bus stop at the Clansman and the need for taxi signs to be kept up to date. The Neighbourhood Co-ordinating Manager confirmed that the Council had not paid for the bus stop and that it had been paid for by a private company. The issue on the taxi signs would be followed up after the meeting.

Burn Valley

A Resident Representative raised a number of issues within the Burn Valley area which included:

Overflowing dog foul bins at the bottom of Burn Valley Gardens – The Neighbourhood Co-ordinating Manager confirmed he would follow up this issue with the Horticultural Department.

Roundabout, York Road and congestion – The Neighbourhood Co-ordinating Manager informed the Forum that replacing the roundabout with traffic lights was not feasible due to the financial implications. The Chair suggested that a more detailed response should be supplied from the Traffic Team Leader.

Baden Street boarded up – Councillor Brash confirmed the majority of the landlords were signed up to the Good Tenants Scheme and that the Council needed to work closely with the residents and landlords and that continuous support was required.

Intentions for Caroline Street – Councillor Brash confirmed this was not a Council responsibility and that the building was to be demolished by the PCT. Planning permission would be required for any new development.

Blue badges price increase from £2 to £10 – Councillor Wells indicated that he understood that new anti fraud measures were now included within the badge which may have led to the increase.

Councillor Brash congratulated the Neighbourhood Co-ordinating Manager, Central Neighbourhood Manager and Police on the Joint Action Group improvements and praised everyone involved.

Councillor Brash had written a letter to Councillor Hill regarding the allotment price increase, as allotments were a key part of the community and did not want to see anyone priced out of the market. The Assistant Director, Neighbourhood Services confirmed that the price increase was diminutive at 75 pence per week. A Resident Representative was concerned that two Allotment Associations were unrecognised. The Assistant Director, Neighbourhood Services confirmed that a review into the introduction of Devolved Management was currently being undertaken.

Elwick

Councillor Thompson raised concerns regarding poor road conditions into Dalton Piercy, four potholes on Creswell Drive, chevrons that had not been replaced outside of Elwick and potholes which had been filled with dolomite on A179 and Worset Lane, causing them to be dangerous. The Neighbourhood Co-ordinating Manager confirmed that the concerns raised would be passed to the Highways, Traffic and Transport Manager.

Councillor Thompson informed the Forum that ten of the fifteen oak tubs belonging to Newton Bewley, which had been grant funded had gone missing. It had been reported in a Newton Bewley Parish meeting that it was witnessed that a Hartlepool Borough Council vehicle had taken them away. The Regeneration and Neighbourhoods Department had confirmed that no one had been authorised to do so and suggested they may have been stolen. Councillor Thompson requested that this be investigated. The Chair suggested that the South Neighbourhood Manager may be able to assist.

29. HARTLEPOOL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE STRATEGY

The Assistant Director, Neighbourhood Services gave a detailed and comprehensive presentation on the Draft Hartlepool Domestic Violence Strategy 2012-2015 which focussed on the following:-

- Definition of Domestic Violence
- Domestic Violence and Abuse - national and local picture
- Local measures and support
 - specialist support services
 - specialist domestic violence courts
 - independent domestic violence advisors
 - independent sexual violence advisors
 - multi-agency risk assessment conferencing
 - sexual assault referral centres
- Perpetrator programmes
- What more could be done
- Strategy aim and objectives
- Strategy consultation

It was reported that following the conclusion of the consultation, the strategy would be presented to Cabinet for adoption. Attendees were encouraged to participate in the strategy consultation, copies of which were available at the meeting.

In the discussion that followed the following issues were raised:-

The Chair referred to the Scrutiny investigation into this area and queried if the recommendations of the investigation had been included. The Assistant Director, Neighbourhood Services confirmed that they had.

Councillor Wells highlighted that the photograph utilised in the promotion was

unsuitable as the Domestic Violence Strategy was equally important to males as it was to females and the photograph did not portray this. The Assistant Director, Neighbourhood Services confirmed this photo would be replaced.

Councillor Brash questioned if the perpetrator could be removed from the family and support be offered to the victim and children. The Assistant Director, Neighbourhood Services stressed that each case is complex and highlighted the importance of keeping the family together where appropriate to avoid further issues within the family unit.

Councillor Thompson highlighted that the children involved required support to raise awareness that domestic violence is not acceptable, in order to avoid them being an abuser of the future.

The strategy and comments were noted.

30. HARTLEPOOL RURAL PLAN

The Senior Regeneration Officer gave a detailed and comprehensive presentation on the Hartlepool Rural Plan, which focused on the following:

- Neighbourhood Planning and the Process
- Neighbourhood Planning in Hartlepool
- Hartlepool Rural Plan Working Group
- Hartlepool Rural Plan: Work to Date
- Hartlepool Rural Plan Boundary

In the discussion that followed the following issues were raised:-

The Chair questioned how colleagues directly involved had found the process of the development of the plan. The Chair of the Working Group informed the Forum

that although the Government had not specifically outlined the process, the direction of the plan became clearer as time went on. It was highlighted that the Hartlepool Rural Plan could also help developers in the future.

Councillor Hall pointed out the importance of saying yes rather than no to development processes to encourage growth. The Chair of the Hartlepool Rural Plan Working Group confirmed that Neighbourhood Plans can only encourage development, and must be in general accordance with the Core Strategy which will be adopted in Autumn 2012.

Councillor Loynes queried Councillor representation on the Hartlepool Rural Plan Working Group, in light of the imminent ward boundary changes. The Senior Regeneration Officer responded that the original project outline had been submitted prior to the Electoral Review and was based on the current wards of Elwick and Greatham. It was explained that the Terms of Reference were developed in accordance with the original outline, and that the Group may wish to review them after the ward boundary changes had come into effect. It was noted that Councillors sit on the Working Group in an advisory capacity only.

The plan and comments were noted.

31. COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT AND ENGAGEMENT UPDATE

The Assistant Director, Neighbourhood Services gave a brief update following the presentation at the last meeting in relation to the review of community involvement and engagement.

It was reported that the decision taken by Cabinet on 18 July had been reaffirmed by Cabinet on 6 February 2012 and

details of the background to the decision making process was outlined. It was highlighted that the following changes would be implemented with immediate effect:-

- That the role of resident representatives be disbanded in May 2012 and a new role – Neighbourhood Voice be introduced.
- That a Borough wide Neighbourhood Issues Forum be introduced from May 2012.
- That Neighbourhood Action Plans be refocused onto the 5% most deprived neighbourhoods.
- That the Mayor would meet with Parish Council Chairs twice per year.
- That Police and Community Safety meetings and Parish Liaison meetings be disbanded in May 2012.

Resident Representative's raised concerns regarding the community involvement and engagement update. Councillor Richardson welcomed views from Resident Representatives and residents and urged them to utilise the Scrutiny Forums. Councillor Wells suggested questions from members of the public could be asked at Council meetings where open debates could take place. The Assistant Director, Neighbourhood Services highlighted we should not lose sight of good work undertaken by Elected Members, Resident Representatives and residents working together, to make improvements within the community and this should not come to an end.

Thanks were expressed to all participants for their contribution to the success of the Central Forum over the years.

The information given and comments were noted.

32. CENTRAL NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM MINOR WORKS PROPOSALS

The meeting concluded at 4.20 pm

The Neighbourhood Co-ordinating Manager reported that the total available to spend on minor works schemes 2011/12 was £58,000. The total committed spend to date was £54,429, which left a balance of £3,571.

It was confirmed that after further consultation the parking scheme previously agreed by the Forum for Manor Close, Elwick Village had been withdrawn, the commitment of £2,400 was added to balance, leaving £5,971 available to spend.

The Forum were asked to consider the following minor works schemes, details of which were set out in the report to address concerns raised by Elected Members, Resident Representatives and Residents of the Central Forum :-

Rift House – Waverley Terrace – £2,600 for the edge deterioration of the carriage way in Waverley Terrace.

Stranton – Lowthian Road - £250 for pedestrian guard rail to be painted at the junction of Lowthian Road and York Road

Stranton – Church Street - £3,121 to support the Night Time Economy Group Taxi Marshalling Scheme, assisting in reducing violence and anti-social behaviour linked to the night time economy in Hartlepool

Decision

That the minor works scheme, as outlined above, be approved.

33. WARD ISSUES

None.

WARDS

Fens
Greatham
Owton
Rossmere
Seaton

SOUTH NEIGHBOURHOOD CONSULTATIVE FORUM

17 February 2012

MINUTES OF THE MEETING



The meeting commenced at 2.00 pm at Owton Manor Community Centre,
Wynyard Road, Hartlepool

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| PRESENT: |
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| Chair: | Councillor Ann Marshall | - | Rossmere Ward |
| | Councillor Christopher Akers-Belcher | - | Rossmere Ward |
| | Councillor Steve Gibbon | - | Fens Ward |
| | Councillor Marjorie James | - | Owton Ward |
| | Councillor Trisha Lawton | - | Rossmere Ward |
| | Councillor Alison Lilley | - | Fens Ward |
| | Councillor Geoff Lilley | - | Greatham Ward |
| | Councillor Michael Turner | - | Seaton Ward |
| | Councillor Angie Wilcox | - | Owton Ward |

Resident Representatives: Iris Ryder and Michael Unwin

Public: C M Gibbon

Officers: Denise Ogden, Assistant Director, Neighbourhood Management
David Frame, Neighbourhood Manager (South)
Sue McBride, Neighbourhood Development Officer (South)
Julie Hetherington, Community Support Officer
Denise Wimpenny, Democratic Services Team

Also Present: Helen Iveson, Housing Hartlepool
Sergeant Haworth, Police Representative

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| 25. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE |
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Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Preece and P Thompson.

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| 26. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST |
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None.

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| 27. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 21 OCTOBER 2011 |
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Approved.

28. MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

29. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no public questions submitted.

30. SOUTH NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM MINOR WORKS PROPOSALS 2011/12

The Neighbourhood Manager reported that the remaining Minor Works budget for the current financial year to 31 March 2012 amounted to £34,310. The Forum were asked to consider the following minor works schemes, details of which were set out in the report to address concerns raised by Elected Members, Resident Representatives and Residents of the South Forum :-

Verge Reinstatement Schemes

- 1.Owton - Kilsyth Grove – Tarmac verges on the side of the Grove to alleviate parking problems - £4,710
- 2.Greatham – The Grove – Extend the existing tarmac areas to relieve congestion and prevent damage to central grassed area - £8,800

Street Lighting Schemes

- 3.Fens – Newark Road – Existing columns to be replaced with 2 modern columns - £2,000
- 4.Fens – Witham Grove – Existing dated street lighting to be replaced with 5 new columns - £5,000
- 5.Fens – Upton Walk – Existing street lighting to be replaced with 2 new columns - £2,000

- 6.Seaton – Edgton Road – Existing old concrete columns to be replaced with 5 new columns.

Other Highway Works

7. Seaton – Warrior Drive, Pedestrian Crossing - £1,200
- 8.Seaton – Warrior Drive, Local Safety Scheme - £3,000
- 9.Greatham – Saltaire Terrace – resurfacing - £2,600

Total cost of all Proposed Minor Works £34,310.

A Member commented on previous decisions to replace damaged/removed trees and was of the view that in the event trees were damaged as a result of vandalism they should not be replaced.

Decision

That the minor works schemes, as outlined above, be approved.

31. ANY OTHER ITEMS WHICH THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS ARE URGENT

The Chairman ruled that the following item of business should be considered by the Committee as a matter of urgency in accordance with the provisions of Section 100(B) (4)(b) of the Local Government Act 1972 in order that the matter could be dealt with without delay.

32. ANY OTHER BUSINESS - POLICE UPDATE

A representative from the police provided an update in relation to the following crime related incidents for Hartlepool:-

- burglaries had reduced by 33%,

- violent crime statistics had reduced by 8.2%,
- other thefts had reduced by 43%
- drug related crime reduced by almost 25%
- criminal damage reduced by 7.3%
- overall reduction of 26% in all crime related incidents.

A Member commented on the importance of ensuring active policing particularly in vulnerable estates to address concerns relating to the fear of crime and to ensure the reduction in crime figures continued. The Forum discussed the issue of hardship and the potential impact on crime, the importance of a police presence at ward surgery meetings as well as the benefits of a multi-agency approach to address crime and anti-social behaviour problems.

The information given was noted.

33. HARTLEPOOL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE STRATEGY 2012-2015

The Assistant Director (Neighbourhood Management) gave a detailed and comprehensive presentation on the Draft Hartlepool Domestic Violence Strategy 2012-2015 which focussed on the following:-

- Definition of Domestic Violence
- Domestic Violence and Abuse - national and local picture
- Local measures and support
 - specialist support services
 - specialist domestic violence courts
 - independent domestic violence advisors
 - independent sexual violence advisors
 - multi-agency risk assessment conferencing
 - sexual assault referral centres
- Perpetrator programmes

- What more could be done
- Strategy aim and objectives
- Strategy consultation

It was reported that following the conclusion of the consultation, the strategy would be presented to Cabinet for adoption. Attendees were encouraged to participate in the strategy consultation, copies of which were available at the meeting.

In the discussion that followed the following issues were raised:-

A Member commented on the benefits of the Safer Hartlepool Partnership working with the Northern Rock Foundation and all Tees Valley partners to develop a Domestic Violence Strategy for the Lesbian Gay and Bisexual, Transgender (LGBT) community and suggested that this be pursued.

The Forum discussed the national and local picture statistics and concerns were raised that Hartlepool had the second highest domestic incident rate in the Cleveland force area and women suffered on average 35 incidents of domestic violence before reporting it. The contributory factors to domestic violence and abuse, reporting procedures, the benefits of support mechanisms as well as the financial implications of provision was debated.

Following clarification relating to support mechanisms in place, Members were pleased to note the various support arrangements and the multi-agency intervention to assist victims of domestic violence. A Member expressed concern regarding the level of unreported incidents and a query was raised as to how this could be addressed. The Assistant Director advised that the strategy focussed on the importance of raising awareness on the various support

mechanisms available with a view to encouraging reporting such incidents.

It was highlighted that there was also a need for perpetrators to acknowledge their problems.

The strategy was noted.

34. COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT AND ENGAGEMENT VERBAL UPDATE

The Assistant Director (Neighbourhood Management) gave a brief update following the presentation at the last meeting in relation to the review of community involvement and engagement.

It was reported that the decision taken by Cabinet on 18 July had been reaffirmed by Cabinet on 6 February 2012 and details of the background to the decision making process was outlined. It was highlighted that the following changes would be implemented with immediate effect:-

- That the role of resident representatives be disbanded in May 2012 and a new role – Neighbourhood Voice be introduced.
- That a Borough wide Neighbourhood Issues Forum be introduced from May 2012.
- That Neighbourhood Action Plans be refocused onto the 5% most deprived neighbourhoods.
- That the Mayor would meet with Parish Council Chairs twice per year.
- That Police and Community Safety meetings and Parish Liaison meetings be disbanded in May 2012.

The Chair stated that comments/views in relation to this issue had been raised and would be considered by the appropriate committee/forum.

The information given was noted.

35. WARD ISSUES

There were no ward issues.

36. ANNOUNCEMENT

The Chair stated that this would be the last meeting of the South Forum in its current form following the Community Involvement and Engagement Review. Thanks were expressed to all participants and, in particular, to the South Neighbourhood Manager for his hard work and contribution to the success of the Forum over the years.

The meeting concluded at 3.10 pm.