

# **SOUTH AND CENTRAL NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM AGENDA**



**Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> October 2012**

**At 10.00am**

**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**

3.1 To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2012

**4. ITEMS FOR CONSULTATION**

4.1 Health & Wellbeing Strategy - Presentation (Public Health Registrar)

4.2 Localisation of Council Tax Reform - Presentation (AD Financial Services)

**5. ITEMS FOR DECISION**

None

**6. DATE, TIME AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will take place on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2013 at 2.00pm in the Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Hartlepool.

**WARDS**

Burn Valley  
Foggy Furze  
Fens and  
Rossmere  
Manor House  
Rural West  
Victoria

***SOUTH AND CENTRAL  
NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM***

**3 October 2012**

***MINUTES OF THE MEETING***



The meeting commenced at 10.00 a.m. in the Civic Centre, Hartlepool

**PRESENT:**

Chair:	Councillor Kevin Cranney	- Foggy Furze
	Councillor Christopher Akers-Belcher	- Foggy Furze
	Councillor Steve Gibbon	- Fens and Rossmere
	Councillor Ged Hall	- Burn Valley
	Councillor Marjorie James	- Manor House
	Councillor John Lauderdale	- Burn Valley
	Councillor Chris Simmons	- Victoria

Also in attendance: Councillors Rob Cook  
Lol Craven, Cleveland Fire Brigade  
Dave Turton, Cleveland Fire Brigade  
Jan Ledger, Housing Hartlepool

Public: Chris Banks, Jo Grylls, Mr Hall, Ted Jackson, Deborah Lake, Sue Little, Ray Pocklington, Julie Rudge, Tom Sant, Frank Sowerby, George Stamper, Mr Stoves, Hillary Thompson, Ray Waller, Mr Williams

Officers: Adele Wilson, Community Regeneration and Development Co-ordinator  
Amanda Whitaker, Principal Democratic Services Officer  
Antony Steinberg, Economic Regeneration Manager  
Clare Clark, Neighbourhood Manager  
Damien Wilson, Assistant Director (Regeneration and Planning)  
Denise Ogden, Assistant Director (Neighbourhood Services)  
Elaine Hind, Scrutiny Support Officer  
Irene Cross, Neighbourhood Development Officer  
James Walsh, Scrutiny Support Officer  
Jon Wright, Senior Neighbourhood Coordinator  
Patrick Wilson, Employment Development Officer  
Rachael White, Democratic Services Officer  
Tara Davison, Neighbourhood Development Officer

Police Representatives: Dave Halliday and Steve Jeremy

## **1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and highlighted that the agenda format had changed to enable greater participation and inclusion of residents attending the forum.

## **2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Angie Wilcox (Vice Chair), Stephen Akers-Belcher, Geoff Lilley, Brenda Loynes, George Morris, Carl Richardson, Kaylee Sirs and Ray Wells.

## **3. DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

None.

## **4.1. MINUTES OF SOUTH AND CENTRAL NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUMS HELD ON 4<sup>TH</sup> JULY AND 19<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2012**

Circulated and confirmed.

## **4.2. MATTERS ARISING**

None.

## **5. PUBLIC QUESTIONS TIME AND WARD ISSUES**

The Chair announced that Residents would be able to ask questions and raise any issues or concerns that they had.

### **Manor House**

A Resident spoke of an issue which had been raised at the previous Neighbourhood Forum regarding speed

restrictions in Masfield Road and parking in Kipling Road. The speed humps in Masfield Road were felt to be too severe and have caused Kipling Road to become a 'rat run'. Residents were informed that the speed limit zones were not monitored as it would not be possible to have specific areas under constant observation. Residents were advised that there was an Action Plan with the minutes of the Forum on the 4<sup>th</sup> July 2012 which highlighted the actions taken. Residents suggested that a chicane could be created to help prevent speeding or that the road could become one way. Residents were advised that the information would be fed back to the highways department.

A Resident raised the issue of the surface of the pathway at Summerhill. In some places the path had worn away and was not always suitable to walk on. The Resident was advised that this would be investigated.

### **Foggy Furze**

A Resident spoke of the issues raised at Council in June regarding the lack of bus services in the town and how businesses were being affected by this. The Resident expressed concern that she had not received a response to the issues which she had raised. It was asked whether the Council could provide a service using Council vehicles. The Assistant Director (Neighbourhood Services) informed that the Council could not legally provide a bus service. The subsidy provided for public transport had been reduced and as a result services had been cut. The Assistant Director (Transportation & Engineering) had been looking to try and resume some services and would be informed of the concerns raised.

### **Rural West**

A Resident raised concerns regarding speeding through Elwick Village. The Police had set up a speed camera on several occasions however the timing of the operation were not always considered appropriate. The Resident also asked if more support could be given by the Police. Police Representatives confirmed that Elwick had been introduced to the Community Speed Watch scheme and using the scheme six vehicles had been observed exceeding the speed limit and drivers had been contacted as a result. Police are continuing to monitor the situation. However the Police could not provide any extra support but arrangements would be made to have the speed camera set up at different times. The local Police Officer would continue to work with the Parish Council. The Chair advised that the concerns had been noted and would be fed back to the highways department and a meeting to be arranged with Residents.

Residents spoke of issues regarding the bus services to the villages. Funding had been secured and bus services had been provided but only until the end of April 2013. It was suggested that Residents speak to their Ward Councillors to suggest funding through the Ward Member Budgets to provide further subsidy. Residents also raised the issue of the road surface around the Dalton Piercy area. Residents were assured that the matter would be explored.

### **Burn Valley**

A Resident queried the progress on the plans for one way streets in the Park Road area. The Assistant Director (Neighbourhood Services) reported that the area had been fully consulted with two objections received. The Resident disputed this stating that he was aware of a lot more than the 2 objections and details could be provided. Residents were advised that even though Ward

Councillors were aware of there being more objections, only two written objections had been submitted. Officers agreed to discuss this issue further with the Resident at the end of the meeting.

### **Victoria**

A Resident reported that a meeting had taken place with Police and Friends of North Cemetery Residents Group where dog fouling in the area and the penalties associated had been discussed. However Residents were informed that North Cemetery was not included in dog control orders. Following discussions, Councillor Richardson had been advised that the Residents Group had objected to the control orders. The Resident expressed concern and requested a copy of appropriate minutes. It had been asked that North Cemetery become included in the control orders.

Concern was raised also regarding the issue of alcohol being consumed within the Cemetery as this was a major issue. Friends of North Cemetery suggested that stickers could be used as part of the enforcement as remains of previous signage could be seen in the grounds.

### **Fens and Rossmere**

On behalf of local residents, the Chair advised the Forum of concerns which had been raised regarding speeding traffic on Rossmere Way. Residents were advised that this had been investigated. Police reported that once they were given the authority to do so, a Community Speed Watch scheme would be set up. A Resident had also reported that some of the road signs had worn away and suggested that they be replaced.

## **6. ITEMS FOR CONSULTATION**

The two items for consultation were as follows:

### **6.1 Scrutiny Investigation:-**

Regeneration and Planning Services  
Scrutiny Forum – Employment  
Presentation

The Chair of the Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum introduced the presentation giving an overview of the Scrutiny Forums and the remit they have within the Council. It was highlighted that the Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum would be looking at Employment over the coming year.

The Economic Regeneration Manager provided a detailed and comprehensive presentation which detailed the objectives of the Council's Economic Regeneration Strategy and the links to the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment. A number of key issues were identified along with the level of need in Hartlepool. The presentation concluded by examining who was at risk if continued support and investment was not provided to businesses, including new start up businesses.

A Resident expressed concern that when 'The Range' was being refurbished, people from outside of Hartlepool were employed to carry out the work. It was questioned why residents of Hartlepool were not employed. The Employment Development Officer reported that Job Centre Plus had worked closely with the company when dealing with employment and a number of Hartlepool residents were employed as a result. The Assistant Director (Regeneration and Planning) informed Residents of legal considerations which prevented the Council from imposing a requirement to

have a company employ local people. However the department was looking at encouraging companies to do so more in the future.

A Resident spoke of the impact of transport on employment within the town. Residents were informed that the Transport Working Group, a sub group of the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee, was looking into whether the Council could provide low cost travel arrangements for residents. For example someone could lease a bicycle or a small vehicle as a means of transport. No decision had been made. However the Committee would appreciate the support of residents in exploring the options. The Chair suggested writing out to residents for feedback after the meeting.

Members of the public were encouraged to take part in an interactive question and answer session on matters relating to presentation.

### **6.2 Scrutiny Investigation: -**

Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Forum  
– Environment Presentation

The Assistant Director (Neighbourhood Services) provided a detailed and comprehensive presentation which examined the key issues, risks and level of need in relation to climate change, noise pollution, air and water quality and cleanliness.

A Resident queried whether grass cutting was included in cleanliness for the town and how and when the cuttings were collected. The Assistant Director (Neighbourhood Service) reported that due to the bad weather experienced throughout the year it had not been possible to keep the grass cutting to the standards the department would like.

Residents spoke of the issue of litter and expressed concerns that on many

occasions litter bins had been found to be overflowing. The Assistant Director (Neighbourhood Services) informed Residents that the department needed feedback so that it could investigate issues of this sort. In relation to the particular example quoted at the meeting of the litter bin outside of the Grand Hotel, the Neighbourhood Coordinating Manager undertook to deal with the issue. It was highlighted that some businesses were known to dispose of their rubbish in public litter bins. However they had been advised not to do so but the issues would be investigated.

The issue of the blue bag used to recycle paper was raised by one resident stating that they did not use the bag due to paper being blown about in the street when it was windy. It was suggested that a bag be provided with a seal similar to the recycling white bag to avoid this. The Assistant Director (Neighbourhood Services) reported that the contract for recycling services had gone out to tender and was due back within a few days.

Members of the public were encouraged to take part in an interactive question and answer session on matters relating to presentation.

## **7. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND/OR INFORMATION**

The two items for discussion/and or information were as follows:

### **7.1 Presentation – Cleveland Fire Brigade**

Dave Turton, the District Manager for Cleveland Fire Brigade, provided a detailed and comprehensive presentation. The presentation examined how many fire related incidents had occurred since 2007/08, the number of Home Fire Safety Visits that had taken place and also the community activities the Fire Brigade had

been involved in. Residents were informed that the Headland Fire Station was to be demolished and views of Residents on the rebuild of the station would be sought. Mr Turton undertook to take on board the concerns expressed earlier in the meeting regarding the employment of Hartlepool residents.

During the presentation Mr Turton's colleague Lol Craven gave a presentation which included a report on the arson statistics for Hartlepool. The main areas of concern, community activities and an overview of the Stay Safe and Warm campaign were presented to the Forum.

A Member spoke of the issue of hoax calls as it had previously been a problem. Mr Turton advised that the number of hoax calls had decreased and the Fire Brigade were tracing phone calls received through working with phone companies. If a hoax call was to be made, the phone line traced would be cut off as a result.

The issue of deliberate fires and the cost of putting the fires out was also raised by Members. The Officer informed the group that there was a cost to dealing with deliberate fires. However the latest campaign had been advertising that a sentence of 5 years could be served if caught setting a deliberate fire and this seemed to be having the desired effect.

Mr Turton responded to a Resident who sought the views of the Fire Brigade in relation to the speed humps on Masefield Road mentioned earlier in the meeting.

It was suggested by Members that Cleveland Fire Brigade should link in with the health and wellbeing strategies within the Council in order to publicise services offered to the community.

### **7.2 Ward Member Budgets**

The South and Central Neighbourhood Manager reported that all Ward Members had been allocated £5,500 and that budget reports would regularly be brought to the Neighbourhood Forum. There was a process to be followed when applying for the use of the funding and the Neighbourhood Management Team was available to help with applications. The report included a table which provided a breakdown of current spend to date in relation to each of the Ward Members budgets. Appended to the report was a schedule that set out the current running total for each Ward Member and their remaining budgets.

#### **8. ITEMS FOR DECISION**

There were no items for decision.

#### **9. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

A Special Meeting would be held on 31<sup>st</sup> October 2012 at 10.00am in Committee Room B.

The next full meeting will be held on 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2013 at 2.00pm in the Council Chamber.

The meeting concluded at 12.20 am