

# **NORTH AND COASTAL NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM AGENDA**



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

**At 2.00 pm**

**In Committee Room B, Civic Centre, Hartlepool**

MEMBERS: NORTH AND COASTAL NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM:

Councillors Ainslie, Beck, Cook, Dawkins, Fisher, Fleet, Griffin, Hill, Jackson, Payne, Robinson, Shields, Tempest and Thompson.

**1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

**2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

**3. TO RECEIVE ANY DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS**

**4. MINUTES**

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

**5. ITEMS FOR CONSULTATION**

- 5.1. Health & Wellbeing Strategy – Presentation – *Public Health Registrar*
- 5.2. Localisation of Council Tax Reform – Presentation – *Assistant Chief Financial Officer*

**6. ITEMS FOR DECISION**

None.

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

The next Forum meeting will take place on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2013 at 10am in Committee Room B, Civic Centre.

**WARDS**

De Bruce  
Hart  
Headland and  
Harbour  
Jesmond  
Seaton

***NORTH AND COASTAL  
NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM***

**3 October 2012**

***MINUTES OF THE MEETING***



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

**PRESENT:**

- |             |                           |                        |
|-------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Chair:      | Councillor Mary Fleet     | - Jesmond              |
| Vice Chair: | Councillor Rob Cook       | - De Bruce             |
|             | Councillor Jim Ainslie    | - Headland and Harbour |
|             | Councillor Paul Beck      | - Hart                 |
|             | Councillor Sheila Griffin | - De Bruce             |
|             | Councillor Robbie Payne   | - Headland and Harbour |
|             | Councillor Linda Shields  | - Jesmond              |
- Also in attendance: Councillors Ged Hall  
Lol Craven, Cleveland Fire Brigade  
Dave Turton, Cleveland Fire Brigade  
Jan Ledger, Housing Hartlepool
- Public: Rueben Atkinson, Sacha Bedding, P.J. Buckler, John Cambridge, S  
Grasby, Mrs J Holman, Ann Marshall, John Maxwell, Jean Norman,  
Norman Pinkney, Jane Shaw, Ian Stewart, Ruth Stoddard, Cath Torley,  
Liz Torley, Alan Vale, Denis Wilson
- Officers: Adele Wilson, Community Regeneration and Development Co-ordinator  
Ann Callaghan, Neighbourhood Development Officer  
Antony Steinberg, Economic Regeneration Manager  
David Frame, Neighbourhood Manager  
Denise Ogden, Assistant Director (Neighbourhood Services)  
Denise Wimpenny, Principal Democratic Services Officer  
Elaine Hind, Scrutiny Support Officer  
Garry Jones, Neighbourhood Services Officer  
James Walsh, Scrutiny Support Officer  
Julie Hetherington, Neighbourhood Support Officer  
Patrick Wilson, Employment Development Officer  
Rachael White, Democratic Services Officer  
Sue McBride, Neighbourhood Development Officer

Police Representatives: Chief Inspector Steve Jermy and Inspector Paul Haytack

**1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Tempest.

**3. DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

None.

**4.1. MINUTES OF NORTH AND COASTAL NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUMS HELD ON 4<sup>TH</sup> JULY AND 19<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2012**

The minutes of the meeting for the 4<sup>th</sup> July 2012 were confirmed subject to the inclusion of Councillor Robbie Payne's apologies for absence.

The minutes of the meeting held on the 19<sup>th</sup> July 2012 were also confirmed.

**4.2. MATTERS ARISING**

None.

**5. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME AND WARD ISSUES**

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

**De Bruce**

A Resident spoke of an issue which had been raised at the previous Neighbourhood Forum regarding West View Cemetery and asked if there had been any progress on the matter of

alcohol consumption within the grounds. The Resident was informed that action had been taken regarding the issue. The Resident also expressed concern in relation to grass cutting on the former Brus Pub site. Residents had previously been informed that the grass was cut via a Community Payback Scheme. However it was queried whether the scheme still operated as the grass had become long and unsightly. The Resident was informed that the Community Payback Scheme was still in operation and the comments had been noted.

A Resident informed the Forum that he had reported the condition of the coastal walk way by the Brus tunnel at the Civic Centre and was told that an officer would be in contact to gain further details. After 3 months of having received no contact the Resident contacted his Ward Councillor Sheila Griffin. As a result he received a phone call from an officer who informed him that the issue would be dealt with. However this had still not been resolved. The Neighbourhood Services Officer informed the Resident that officers would investigate the issues raised. The Resident queried whether the department had enough officers to carry out the work rather than employing other agencies. The Neighbourhood Manager advised that there was sufficient resources to carry out the work and that the department would try to utilise the workforce in the most efficient way. The reasons as to why a response had not been provided would be investigated.

A Resident commented on the need for a shuttle bus service from Kensington Court to Winterbottom Avenue bus stop to assist elderly residents and suggested that funding be sought through the Ward Member budgets to provide the service. Councillor Cook advised the Resident that the Ward Members had spoken to the Assistant Director (Transportation and Engineering) and the Traffic Team Leader

who had been in discussion with the bus companies and hoped to have a response shortly.

It was asked by a Resident that officers explore the possibility of blue badge holders temporarily being able to park on both sides of Holdforth Road while the roundabout was closed. The Resident was advised that this option would be explored.

### **Hart**

Officers from the North Neighbourhood Management Team were thanked for the improvements that had been made to Bishop Cuthbert. Those thanks had also been expressed by Iain Wright MP.

### **Headland and Harbour**

On behalf of a resident, a Member queried why the speed survey at Schooner Court was being carried out during the day. The Assistant Director (Neighbourhood Services) advised the Member that the survey should be a 24 hour electronic survey.

Concern was also expressed by Residents regarding the condition of the steps to the Pier. The Neighbourhood Services Officer provided assurances that the area had been investigated and was being monitored.

A Resident raised concerns regarding speeding traffic on King Oswy Drive in the evening and was advised that the situation would be investigated.

Residents spoke of the Safer Hartlepool Partnership Face the Public Event meeting that had taken place recently and that they had raised concerns in respect of lighting on Old Cemetery Road as there were several lights which were damaged and not working. The Assistant Director (Neighbourhood Services)

advised that the Public Lighting Manager was dealing with the issue and would be informed of the concerns raised.

### **Jesmond**

On behalf of the Friends of North Cemetery Residents Group, concern was expressed that whilst the group had been informed that they would be consulted on the issue of dog control orders, none had been brought to the group's attention. The group requested that enforcement of dog control orders include the Cemetery. The Residents Group also had concerns regarding the grass cutting method as some damage had occurred. The Neighbourhood Manager advised that the concerns would be fed back to the relevant department.

### **Seaton**

A Resident raised concerns in relation to landscaping of the Jutland Road play area in certain areas and suggested that this should be tidied. The Neighbourhood Manager advised that the issue would be dealt with.

## **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.

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

A Resident expressed concern regarding the number of young people leaving school without sufficient grades to gain a place in higher education and the difficulty of them finding a job. The Employment Development Officer reported that work was being carried out with Child and Adult Services and partners and programmes were hoped to be introduced to help try and prevent this happening. Members expressed concern regarding the emphasis on qualifications. It was highlighted that more needed to be done to help the less academically minded individuals especially in the time leading up to them leaving school.

In response to a query from a Resident, the Employment Development Officer informed the Forum of the facts and statistics of poverty levels in Hartlepool.

During the question and answer session of the presentation, discussion took place regarding the plans for Oakesway Business Park, Jacksons Landing and the future of the Power Station. The Economic Regeneration Manager informed the Forum that the opportunities available in the areas would be beneficial to Hartlepool and could create business

opportunities and jobs for the unemployed.

## **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.

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

During the presentation a Resident queried why water pollution checks had been carried out at Seaton Carew and were there any other areas that could be checked. The Assistant Director (Neighbourhood Services) reported that only beaches classified under the EU regulations by the Environment Agency as 'bathing beaches' were checked. The Resident was advised that the query would be fed back to the Scrutiny Forum.

In response to some concerns regarding noise pollution, the Assistant Director advised that if anyone was to have an issue they needed to report the problem so that it could be investigated. If the problem was out of office hours, there was an out of hour's phone number to ring on the Hartlepool Borough Council Website.

A Resident spoke of an issue regarding residents in Bishop Cuthbert putting their recycling bins and bags out the day before collection as this had often resulted in rubbish being blown around the streets. The Assistant Director (Neighbourhood Services) advised the Resident that the Council could not

enforce people to only put their recycling out on the day of collection, but did encourage this. The Resident also queried whether there would be an option for battery collection in the future. The Assistant Director reported that the department had been looking into battery collection however no decision had been made on the matter. Until a decision was made residents were advised to dispose of batteries at the Household Waste Recycling Centre on Burn Road. The issue of residents not being able to travel to the recycling centre was noted.

A Resident informed the Forum that when a recycling box or bag had been misplaced, residents were able to obtain a replacement without out charge. However if a wheeled bin were to go missing they would have to pay. Some concern was expressed regarding the fairness of this arrangement. The Assistant Director (Neighbourhood Services) advised that the Council had previously spent thousands on replacing recycling bins and as a result a charge had been introduced. The Forum was advised that the contract for the collection of dry recyclable waste had gone out to tender and was due back within a few days. Efficiency of the service would be reviewed as part of the process.

In response to further questioning of the recycling service, the Assistant Director informed the Forum that there was an assistive scheme in place to collect recycling bins for the elderly/disabled. If a resident was having a problem putting the bins out for collection, they needed to ring to find out whether they would be eligible for the scheme.

## **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. This examined how many 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. Residents were informed that if they had any issues that they felt needed reporting to inform their Neighbourhood Manager.

During the presentation Mr Turton's colleague Lol Craven gave a detailed report on the arson statistics for Hartlepool highlighting the main areas of concern, community activities and an overview of the Stay Safe and Warm campaign. It was noted that there had been a significant reduction in the number of incidents of arson in the town.

A Member spoke of the issue of hoax calls as it had previously been a big 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.

A Member spoke of the service that was being provided where residents could have locks placed on their letter boxes which could prevent potential arson attacks. The Member had received very positive feedback from residents who had received the service and felt that the service should be publicised more especially in the lead up to Bonfire Night.

In response to concern expressed regarding carbon monoxide poisoning, Mr Turton advised the Forum that the Fire Brigade could loan out carbon monoxide detectors to residents. However with the detectors being so expensive, the Fire Brigade could not afford to provide the same service as they provided for smoke alarms.

Residents and Members thanked Cleveland Fire Brigade for the work they did in the town and also the work within the community.

## **7.2 Ward Member Budgets**

The North and Coastal Neighbourhood Manager reported that all Ward Members had been allocated £5,500. 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 2.00pm in Committee Room B.

The next full meeting will be held on 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2013 at 10.00am in the Committee Room B.

The meeting concluded at 4.20 pm.