

# **SOUTH AND CENTRAL NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM AGENDA**



**Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2013**

**At 2.00pm**

**In Committee Room B, 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 minutes of South & Central Neighbourhood Forum Meeting held 31<sup>st</sup> October 2012
  - 4.2 Matters Arising
- 5. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME & WARD ISSUES**
- 6. ITEMS FOR CONSULTATION**
  - 6.1 Potential for early closure of Public Houses and Clubs in the town centre  
Presentation – *Principal Trading Standards and Licensing Officer*



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

- 7.1 Presentation - Cleveland Police
- 7.2 Ward Members Budgets

**8. ITEMS FOR DECISION**

None

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

The next meeting will take place on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> April 2013 at 10.00am in Committee Room B, Civic Centre, Hartlepool.



**WARDS**

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

**SOUTH AND CENTRAL  
NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM**

**31 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 Steve Gibbon	- Fens and Rossmere
	Councillor Ged Hall	- Burn Valley
	Councillor John Lauderdale	- Burn Valley
	Councillor Alison Lilley	- Fens and Rossmere
	Councillor Geoff Lilley	- Fens and Rossmere
	Councillor Brenda Loynes	- Rural West

Also in attendance: Carl Broughton, Neighbourhood Inspector – Cleveland Police

Public: Chris Banks, Bob Farrow, Elsie Grint, Ted Jackson, Evelyn Leck, Sue Little, Iris Ryder, Hilary Thompson, Ray Waller and Minna West

Officers: Clare Clark, Neighbourhood Manager (Central)  
Jon Wright, Neighbourhood Co-ordinating Manager  
Mike Blair, Highways, Traffic and Transport Manager  
John Morton, Assistant Chief Finance Officer  
Fiona Stanforth, Regeneration Officer  
Liz Cook, Principal Benefits Officer – Appeals and Security  
Carol Purdy, Principal Awards Officer  
Richard Starrs, Strategy and Performance Officer  
Claire Wilson, Neighbourhood Support Officer  
Tracy Rudd, Information Officer (FISH)  
Jo Stubbs, Democratic Services Officer  
Rachael White, Democratic Services Officer

**10. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**11. MINUTES OF SOUTH & CENTRAL  
NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM HELD  
ON 3<sup>rd</sup> OCTOBER 2012**

Approved

**Public Question Time and Ward Issues  
– Rural West – A resident felt that the**

reference to issues regarding bus services to the villages was too vague and did not reflect her comments at the meeting specifically her suggestion that ward councillors donate part of their budget to fund bus services. The Chair agreed that this had been discussed and it had been clarified that ward councillors' budgets could contribute toward transport costs as there had been uncertainty as to whether this was the case.

Members were also informed that bus services had been secured to the end of March 2013 rather than April as stated in the minutes

## **12. MATTERS ARISING**

None

## **13. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Christopher Akers-Belcher, Stephen Akers-Belcher, George Morris, Kaylee Sirs, Ray Wells and Angie Wilcox

## **14. DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

None.

## **15. HEALTH AND WELLBEING STRATEGY**

The Strategy and Performance Officer gave an overview of the Hartlepool Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy. Under NHS reforms local authorities are required to work with partner agencies, including the NHS, to develop aims and objectives for a joint health and wellbeing strategy. It is intended to focus on protecting and improving the health of the population. Public consultation on the strategic aims and objectives to be included within the strategy had been undertaken through a face the public

event and online survey and the results were currently being prioritised by the Local Authority and partners. The initial stage of the consultation had identified the following three priorities: give every child the best start in life; a healthy standard of living for all; fair employment. The final strategy would be accompanied by a work programme giving details of how the objectives would be delivered.

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

Better parenting and working with families with complex needs; the provision of job opportunities; and access to good jobs were identified by the majority of residents in attendance as important factors when taking forward the Health and Well Being Strategy.

A Councillor referred to the massive changes which would result from the Local Authority taking responsibility for public health. He noted that consultation had shown the public felt employment was a priority and highlighted an ongoing investigation into employment being undertaken by the Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum.

The Chair thanked the Strategy and Performance Officer for attending the meeting.

## **16. LOCALISATION OF COUNCIL TAX REFORM**

The Assistant Chief Finance Officer gave a presentation on proposed changes to the Council Tax Benefit system. These had come about as a result of the June 2010 Emergency Coalition Budget and the October 2010 Comprehensive Spending Review wherein a commitment had been made to save £0.5 billion from Council Tax benefit. By April 2013 Local

Authorities are required to define their own local schemes for providing council tax support. Pensioners would be exempt from any changes. A fixed grant would be paid by Central Government to help support Local Authorities but calculations showed that at existing claimant levels there would be a funding shortfall of £1.6 million rising to £2.7 million per year over the next 4 years.

A draft Local Council Tax Scheme had been approved by Cabinet in September 2012 and public consultation was currently underway (due to end 9 November 2012). Consultation was based around the following 6 principles:

- Every working age household should pay something towards council tax
- Everyone in the household should make a contribution
- Benefits should not be paid to people with large amounts of savings
- People should be encouraged to work
- The scheme should be easier for people to understand
- War widows and war pensioners should be protected

Members of the public were encouraged to take part in an interactive question and answer session on matters relating to the presentation and these 6 principles. During the discussion which followed the following points were raised:

- It would be preferable to reduce support by 20% from the start rather than introduce a gradual reduction of 15% in the first year as this would only have a detrimental impact upon other council services and be of limited benefit to those affected.

- Everyone living in a household should contribute toward the council tax. However it was also noted that the homeowner would be the one liable for council tax and any family disputes or refusals by working age children to make a contribution from their income were irrelevant.
- A cut off point of £10,000 savings was felt appropriate provided certain payments such as compensation payouts were disregarded. Deliberate deprivation of capital to gain benefit would not be permitted.
- Only the savings of the claimant and their partner would be taken into account, the savings of adult children would be exempt. This would mean that they would still have the opportunity to save for a mortgage deposit without being penalised.
- It was proposed that those in employment would be allowed to keep the increased amount of their earnings before council tax benefit calculations were undertaken. The Benefits Agency were urged to consider taking a similar stance, however this would be a decision for the Department for Work and Pensions.
- The second adult rebate should be removed
- Reducing the backdating available from 6 months to 4 weeks might have a detrimental impact on the elderly and those suffering with dementia. Forms might also be lost in the post. However the Assistant Chief Finance Officer advised that backdating would apply from the date the application

form was completed irrespective of how long the claim took to process.

- An extreme hardship fund should be made available to temporarily reduce the effect of these changes to those households in most need

The Chair thanked the Assistant Chief Finance Officer for attending the meeting and answering questions.

<b>17. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING</b>
--

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

The meeting concluded at 11.20am

## SOUTH & CENTRAL NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM (January 2013)

**Report of:** NEIGHBOURHOOD MANAGER

**Subject:** WARD MEMBER BUDGETS

### 1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To inform the Forum of the current position in relation to Ward Member Budgets in the South and Central Neighbourhood Forum area.

### 2. BACKGROUND

As agreed by Cabinet on 30 April 2012, Ward Members have been allocated £5,500 each to be used for the wider and discernable community benefits of their ward.

### 3. APPROVED SCHEMES

The following table provides a breakdown of current spend to date in relation to each of the Ward Members' budgets. Attached at Appendix B is the current running total for each Ward Member and their remaining budgets.

Ward Councillor	Nature of Scheme	Date Approved	Funding Approved
<b>Burn Valley</b>			
Councillor Jonathan Brash	St Matthew's Hall (Car Parking)	29/08/12	<b>£5,367</b>
Councillor Ged Hall	St Matthew's Hall (Car Parking)	29/08/12	<b>£5,367</b>
	Environmental Apprentice Scheme	21/12/12	<b>£133</b>
Councillor John Lauderdale	St Matthew's Hall (Car Parking)	29/08/12	<b>£5,366</b>
	Boys Brigade Contribution	16/10/12	<b>£134</b>
<b>Fens and Rossmere</b>			
Councillor Steve Gibbon	Police Bikes	13/12/12	<b>£66.66</b>
	Environmental Apprentice Scheme	21/12/12	<b>£500</b>
Councillor Alison Lilley	Police Bikes	13/12/12	<b>£66.67</b>
	Environmental Apprentice Scheme	21/12/12	<b>£500</b>
Councillor Geoff Lilley	Police Bikes	13/12/12	<b>£66.67</b>
	Environmental Apprentice Scheme	21/12/12	<b>£500</b>

<b>Foggy Furze</b>			
Councillor Christopher Akers-Belcher	Fencing Provision (XI Form College/Dickens Grove)	28/08/12	<b>£1,000</b>
	Match funding contribution to Waverly Terrace Community Garden NCS Project	28/08/12	<b>£500</b>
Councillors Kevin Cranney & Kaylee Sirs	Police Bikes	13/12/12	<b>£300</b>
All (Community Fund Allocations)	Belle Vue Youth Club	17/10/12	<b>£950</b>
	Kingsley Family Centre Workshop	17/10/12	<b>£1,210</b>
	St Cuthbert's RA Activities	17/10/12	<b>£1,846.50</b>
	Belle Vue Christmas Party	13/12/12	<b>£516</b>
	Queen's Meadow Residential Group Activities	13/12/12	<b>£412</b>
	Stockton Road RA Activities	13/12/12	<b>£150</b>
	Environmental Apprentice Scheme	21/12/12	<b>£1,500</b>
	NDC Trust Training Scheme	13/12/12	<b>£3,750</b>
<b>Manor House</b>			
Councillor Stephen Akers-Belcher	Apprenticeship Pilot Scheme	03/08/12	<b>£750</b>
	Police Bikes	10/10/12	<b>£300</b>
	Environmental Apprentice Scheme	21/12/12	<b>£500</b>
Councillor Marjorie James	Apprenticeship Pilot Scheme	03/08/12	<b>£750</b>
	Environmental Apprentice Scheme	21/12/12	<b>£500</b>
Councillor Angie Wilcox	Police Bikes	10/10/12	<b>£300</b>
	Environmental Apprentice Scheme	21/12/12	<b>£500</b>
	Rifty Youth Worker	16/10/12	<b>£1,703</b>
<b>Rural West</b>			
Councillor Brenda Loynes	Police Bikes	16/12/12	<b>£100</b>
	Rural Transport	27/11/12	<b>£666.66</b>
	Environmental Apprentice Scheme	21/12/12	<b>£500</b>



Councillor George Morris	Rural Transport	27/11/12	<b>£666.67</b>
	Environmental Apprentice Scheme	21/12/12	<b>£500</b>
Councillor Ray Wells	Rural Transport	27/11/12	<b>£666.67</b>
	Environmental Apprentice Scheme	21/12/12	<b>£500</b>
<b>Victoria</b>			
All (Community Fund Allocations)	Cobden Area RA Activities	23/10/12	<b>£650</b>
	St Lukes Infant Welfare Mothers Club - Christmas Lunch	23/10/12	<b>£385</b>
	ABC Residents Activities	23/10/12	<b>£375</b>
	Dent Derwent Residents Association	23/10/12	<b>£300</b>
	Salaam Centre Bus Trip	23/10/12	<b>£600</b>
	Credit Union Workshops	23/10/12	<b>£800</b>
	St Joseph's Court Activities	23/10/12	<b>£528</b>
	HAG Equipment	23/10/12	<b>£200</b>
	Grays Friendship Group	25/10/12	<b>£200</b>
	Welfare Athletic Football Club	25/10/12	<b>£300</b>
	Hartlepool Swimming Club	20/11/12	<b>£750</b>
	Thornton Street Event	25/10/12	<b>£500</b>
	Hartlepool Chinese Association	28/11/12	<b>£250</b>
	Police Bikes	28/11/12	<b>£300</b>
	Environmental Apprentice Scheme	21/12/12	<b>£1,500</b>
	Rural Transport	19/12/12	<b>£300</b>

Ward Members in the Foggy Furze and Victoria Wards have allocated a proportion of their Ward Budgets to establish a community fund for local voluntary and community groups to access.

**4. UNAPPROVED SCHEMES**

Scheme	Amount
TOTAL	

**4. RECOMMENDATION**

The South and Central Neighbourhood Forum is asked to note the contents of the report outlining Ward Member Budget spend to date.

**Appendix B****SOUTH & CENTRAL NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM – WARD MEMBER BUDGETS**

<b>Ward Councillor</b>	<b>Funding Available</b>	<b>Funding Approved</b>	<b>Funding Remaining</b>
<b>Burn Valley</b>			
Councillor Jonathan Brash	£5,500	£5,367	£133
Councillor Ged Hall	£5,500	£5,500	-
Councillor John Lauderdale	£5,500	£5,500	-
<b>Fens &amp; Rossmere</b>			
Councillor Steve Gibbon	£5,500	£566.66	£4,933.34
Councillor Alison Lilley	£5,500	£566.67	£4,933.33
Councillor Geoff Lilley	£5,500	£566.67	£4,933.33
<b>Foggy Furze</b>			
Councillor Christopher Akers-Belcher	£5,500	£4,944.83	£555.17
Councillor Kevin Cranney	£5,500	£3,594.83	£1,905.17
Councillor Kaylee Sirs	£5,500	£3,594.84	£1,905.16
<b>Manor House</b>			
Councillor Stephen Akers-Belcher	£5,500	£1,550	£3,950
Councillor Marjorie James	£5,500	£1,250	£4,250
Councillor Angie Wilcox	£5,500	£2,503	£2,997
<b>Rural West</b>			
Councillor Brenda Loynes	£5,500	£1,266.66	£4,233.34
Councillor George Morris	£5,500	£1,166.67	£4,333.33
Councillor Ray Wells	£5,500	£1,166.67	£4,333.33
<b>Victoria</b>			
Councillor Pam Hargreaves	£5,500	£2,646	£2,854
Councillor Carl Richardson	£5,500	£2,645.99	£2,854.01
Councillor Chris Simmons	£5,500	£2,646.01	£2,853.99