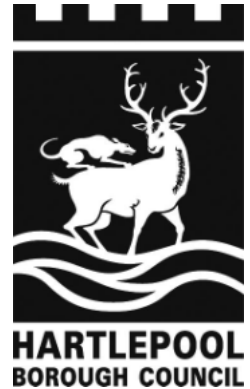


SOUTH AND CENTRAL NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM AGENDA



Wednesday 2nd October 2013

At 10.00am

in Committee Room B, Civic Centre, Hartlepool

MEMBERS: SOUTH AND CENTRAL NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM:

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

- 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 meeting held on 10th July 2013
 - 4.2 Matters arising.
- 5. POLICY COMMITTEE CHAIRS ISSUES**
 - 5.1 Presentation by the Chair of Adult Services Committee
 - 5.2 Public Questions to Policy Committee Chairs
 - a. Councillor C Akers-Belcher as Chair of Finance and Policy Committee
 - b. Councillor Jackson as Chair of Neighbourhood Services Committee
 - c. Councillor Payne as Chair of Regeneration Services Committee
 - d. Councillor Richardson as Chair of Adult Services Committee
 - e. Councillor Simmons as Chair of Children's Services Committee

6. **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME and WARD ISSUES (maximum of 30 minutes)**

7. **ITEMS FOR CONSULTATION**
No items

8. **ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND/OR INFORMATION**
 - 8.1 Neighbourhood Planning Update – *Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods*
 - 8.2 Ward Member Budgets – *Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods*

9. **ITEMS FOR DECISION**
No items

10. **WARD ISSUES**

11. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS WHICH THE CHAIR CONSIDERS URGENT**

12. **DATE, TIME AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING**
11th December 2013 at 2.00pm in Committee Room B, Civic Centre

SOUTH AND CENTRAL NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM MINUTES 10 July 2013

The meeting commenced at 2.00 pm in the Civic Centre, Hartlepool

Present:

Chair: Councillor Kevin Cranney	- Foggy Furze
Councillor Christopher Akers-Belcher	- Foggy Furze
Councillor Stephen Akers-Belcher	- Manor House
Councillor Ged Hall	- Burn Valley
Councillor Marjorie James	- Manor House
Councillor John Lauderdale	- Burn Valley
Councillor Alison Lilley	- Fens and Rossmere
Councillor Geoff Lilley	- Fens and Rossmere
Councillor Carl Richardson	- Victoria
Councillor Chris Simmons	- Victoria
Councillor Kaylee Sirs	- Foggy Furze

Also in attendance: Councillor Peter Jackson (Chair of Neighbourhoods Services Committee)

Public: T Stewart, T Williams, W Hall, S Johnson, G Johnson, C Banks, J Hays, E Leck, J Hays, C Broughton, D Halliday, M West K Hill, C Clark, and G Stamper

Officers: Adele Wilson - Community Regeneration and Development Coordinator
Jon Wright, Neighbourhood Coordinating Manager
Fiona Srogi, Waste Management Team Leader
Irene Cross, Neighbourhood Development Officer (Central)
Tara Davison, Neighbourhood Development Officer (South and Central)
Clare Clark, Neighbourhood Manager (Central)
Joan Stevens, Scrutiny Manager
Alastair Rae, Public Relations Manager
Steve Hilton Public Relations Officer
Jo Stubbs, Democratic Services Officer

S Patton, Cleveland Fire Brigade
Janis Ledger, Housing Hartlepool

1. Apologies for Absence

Councillors Jonathan Brash, Pamela Hargreaves, Brenda Loynes and

George Morris.

2. **Declarations of Interest**

None.

3. **Minutes of the meeting held on 10 April 2013 and Matters Arising**

The minutes were confirmed.

Questions were raised in relation to the barriers preventing access to the Manor House on Marlowe Road and Orwell Walk. The Neighbourhood Coordinating Manager indicated that the situation was complicated by some residents wanting access for vehicles while others wanted the access closed. One resident indicated that a barrier close to their house had been damaged and the officer indicated that he would arrange to visit the site and speak to the resident.

A Councillor referred to a recent meeting with Morgan Street residents which had been productive. There were complaints that not all residents had been able to attend due to work commitments. The Chair indicated that the meeting had been held at 5.00 pm. The issues raised at the meeting would be progressed.

4. **Budget 2014/15 to 2016/17** (*Chair of Finance and Policy Committee*)

The Leader of the Council updated residents on the key issues affecting the Council's financial position over the period 2014/15 to 2016/17 and the implications this has for setting the 2013/2014 budget. Members were provided with the background to the budget process and a budget report that had recently been considered by the Finance and Policy Committee, attached as an appendix to the report. To raise awareness of the Council's budget position and involve residents in the development of the Council's budget proposals the Chair of the Finance and Policy Committee had been invited to the meeting to provide a detailed presentation, drawing out the key issues from the report.

The Chair of the Finance and Policy Committee went on to deliver a detailed and comprehensive presentation in relation to the key financial challenges facing the Council over the next 3 years and focussed on the following:-

- New Governance Arrangements – Budget Setting Process
- Chancellor's June 2013 Spending Review
- More spending cuts in 2015/16
- One-off Resources and Strategy for Use
- Business Rates Risks

- Local Council Tax Support Scheme
- General Fund Revenue Budget – Summary of Government Grant cuts

The Leader commented specifically that: -

- there had been a lot of misinformation about the public question time at Council; it still existed and members of the public could now ask two questions.
- the government's spending review was not expected until November. The Council would be supporting the council tax freeze for the next two years.
- business rates income would be adversely affected if the power station was 'off-line' as it was exempt from paying business rates when not generating power.
- when the government had passed the control of council tax benefits back to the authority it had top-sliced the budget by 10% but indicated that pensioners must be protected.
- the Council's central government grant was £21m less now than in 2010 and would be £25m lower by 2016. Not all of this would be achieved by cuts to services but through significant changes to the way many services were delivered.
- While the provision of a library service was, for example, a statutory service, this could be achieved through the council simply running the Central Library; other neighbourhood libraries could be delivered by other providers.

Following conclusion of the presentation, the Policy Committee Chairs responded to issues raised by the Forum.

The public questioned if there was any way around the power station not paying rates when it was not generating. The Leader indicated that there had been a meeting with government ministers to highlight the situation and the risk Hartlepool faced in relation to income from the power station. They may come back with a solution but at this time the risk was left with the council.

The protection provided through the changes to Council Tax Benefit to pensioners was questioned. The Leader indicated that the government hadn't changed which pensioners qualified for council tax relief only that those pensioners who received council tax benefit would continue to do so to the full amount of their council tax. Those households without that protection now had to pay an element of their council tax even if they qualified for the full benefit.

Recommended

That the Leader, Councillor Christopher Akers-Belcher be thanked for his presentation and that the questions and comments be noted.

5. Public Questions to Policy Committee Chairs / Public Question Time and Ward Issues

Burn Valley Ward

An allotment holder complained of the recent allotment inspections which appeared to be unnecessarily intrusive and unproductive. His plot had now been numbered three times. It was suggested that a specific meeting be called to deal with allotment issues only. The Chair of the Neighbourhood Services Committee considered that one large meeting would not be necessary and some smaller meetings with allotment holders may be more productive. The Fire Brigade representative indicated that they had been working with allotment holders to target some of the issues that had been arising with fires etc. It was highlighted that the Burn Valley site was one of the safest in the town with good cctv coverage.

A resident complained of the state of the Burn Valley roundabout which had been left covered in weeds. The new parking area off Colwyn Road was also criticised as consistently blocked by the same vehicles. The Chair of the Neighbourhood Services Committee indicated that he would ask officers to look into both issues.

A resident indicated that they had been informed that the NHS mental health unit in the town was closing with all the patients being moved to Middlesbrough. The Chair indicated that there was a Health Scrutiny Joint Committee meeting being held in the Civic Centre the following day and he would look to raising the question with one of the members attending that meeting. The Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board indicated that he would also take the issue up.

Manor House Ward

A resident complained that he had had a dropped kerb installed outside home but was constantly having problems with people dropping of children at Rift House School. Ward Councillors indicated that they would follow up the issue.

Victoria Ward

Residents indicated that they understood there were to be improvements made to the traffic flow on Hart Lane through changes to the parking. Officers indicated that a scheme to keep the left hand lane outbound free of parked vehicles by providing parking in rear alleyways was currently being consulted upon with residents.

Fens and Rossmere Ward

Residents commented on the traffic management proposals for Rossmere

Way that had been out to consultation. Officers indicated that the initial proposals had not been well received so an alternative proposal was currently out for consultation. The scheme was to address the congestion problems caused around school times.

Rural West Ward

A representative of Elwick Parish Council thanked the Neighbourhood Team for the work recently carried out in the village. There were still problems with a lay-by near one of the farms that was being used as a chicane by through vehicles.

Questions to Policy Committee Chairs

Members of the public considered that some councillors had taken a u-turn on their stance towards the proposed new hospital at Wynyard. A resident complained that recently he had been travelling through the A19 junction and an accident had caused significant delays and congestion. How were ambulances supposed to get to the new site if a minor accident or breakdown could cause such congestion. The Chair indicated that he was aware that not all councillors supported the new hospital and he understood there may be a question at the next council meeting on the subject. The Chair supported the comments and indicated that the council's stance was that it did not want any services removed from Hartlepool Hospital until the new hospital was ready. The Leader of the Council commented that the people of Hartlepool deserved the best hospital services and they should be at the current site until such times as the new hospital was available. The proposal for the new hospital did include alterations to the A19 junction and at least seven years of free transport to the new hospital site.

Other Councillors were sceptical that the new site would transpire at all due to the problems the Trust was having in gaining finance. The concern was that all the major services would be centralised at North Tees Hospital. Residents were concerned that the issue had been dragging on for nine years and it was no further forward.

The Chair reminded the meeting of the Health Scrutiny Joint Committee which was to be held on 11 July at 9.30 am and was open to the public to attend.

Recommended

That the comments be noted.

6. Ward Member Budgets (*Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods*)

A report was submitted updating the forum on the current position in relation to Ward Member Budgets in the South and Central Neighbourhood Forum area.

Recommended

That the report be noted.

7. Any Other Items which the Chairman Considers are Urgent

The Chairman ruled that the following items 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.

Evening Meeting

It was suggested at the North and Coastal Forum meeting earlier in the day that a joint meeting held in the early evening should be considered to allow a better attendance from the public. There were concerns expressed around the availability of public transport, much of which ceased in the early evening. There were also concerns expressed that holding meeting on an evening had been tried in the past and only the same people attended.

Some residents suggested that a joint meeting would be useful to discuss the issues around the potential location of a gypsy traveller's site in the town. Members commented that the need for a site was being driven by the Planning Inspector who was currently inspecting the Council's proposed Local Plan and a report on potential sites would be considered by the Finance and Policy Committee in early August to fit in with the Inspectors timetable. The meeting would be open to the public to attend.

The Chair indicated that he would consult with the Chair of the North and Coastal Forum with a view to holding an early evening meeting in September.

The Chair reminded residents that a public consultation meeting on the former Brierton School site was to be held on 23 July commencing at 4.30pm.

The meeting concluded at 3.20pm

CHAIR

South & Central Neighbourhood Forum

On Wednesday 10 July 2013
Committee Room B Civic Centre

Issues raised and follow-ups requested from Neighbourhood Services Policy Committee Chair

<u>Issue Details</u>	<u>Action</u>	<u>Officer</u>
Manor House Mr Stamper - access to field and request for barriers on Marlowe Road and Orwell Walk – JW informed that previous consultation showed a difference of opinion among residents on whether the barriers should be removed or not	JW to undertake a site visit to clarify position and check any previous consultation (or consult if not done) and install barrier/bollard or communicate to residents that the majority want it left out and the decision has been made.	Jon Wright – following a site visit it became apparent that the previous consultation was in relation to another site and having looked at the site referred to by Mr Stamper it has been agreed to install bollards to prevent access by motor vehicles. This work will be undertaken within the next couple of weeks.
Burn Valley John Hayes – BV allotments JH had another warning from allotment team informing he had too much wood and too many winter frames concerns that allotment holders are only allowed storage on allotment for up to 6 months. Allotment holders have been given 3 gate numbers (68) and this is a waste of money	Allotment team to answer Mr Hays questions and arrange a series of meetings with allotment holders (for individual allotment sites rather than a public meeting as requested)	Helen Beaman / Craig Thelwell Representatives of both Burn Valley groups are already on the allotment focus group and have the opportunity to express their views – Mr Hays is always invited. Rules regarding the storage of materials are to prevent the mis-use of plots by jobbing builders/gardeners and the illegal

Allotment team are taking photographs annually without warning and JH has concerns they are photographing children (JH's grandson was photographed)
Inspection of cabins on allotments by the allotment team is out of order
Notice boards have been put up on the perimeter of the fences showing a plan of the gardens - £30k of tools are kept there and JH has concerns about security because of this.
Composting is a good idea but told that mares tail shouldn't be disposed of at landfill – but how can allotment holders get rid of this when gardens are full of it.
Requested public meeting for allotments – also expressed the view that the allotment site should be self-managed without interference from the Council.

storage of waste materials. These rules are made on the recommendations of the Fire Service and Pest Control. Following Mr Hays conversation with Craig Thelwell, it is confirmed the storing of cold frames is permitted.

Allotment holders were each sent one plot number at the request of the Fire Service. This was part of a review of emergency procedures on allotments. If any plot holder received more than one number then it is likely to be an isolated clerical error for which we apologise.

As part of the inspection regime (as stated in the rules and regulations) officers take a photograph of every allotment plot. This is generally carried out by officers looking over the allotment fence, as it would not be feasible to arrange individual appointments with plot holders. The photographs are taken of the plot only and do not include the tenant. The allotment team categorically denies having taken photographs of Mr Hays grandson and having checked the allotment photographs it can be confirmed that pictures only show Mr Hays plot.

The plans at the site entrances have been installed at the request of the emergency services in order for them to improve response times when dealing with incidences on allotments. They do not give

<p>Burn Valley roundabout, and Colwyn Road - Evelyn Leck – state of roundabout and weeds on land at Colwyn Road where car parking area installed.</p>	<p>Area needs to be tidied up after the works at the roundabout and land on Colwyn Road where car parking area installed – also need to ensure burn valley gardens and beck cleansed from top to bottom</p>	<p>any specific plot details other than a number. The police and the allotment team would not advise that any tenant keeps items of high value on their plot given the isolated nature of the sites.</p> <p>The allotment team has taken on board the comments with regard to pernicious weed disposal and will advise tenants in due course.</p> <p>Mr Hays and the Burn Valley Security group have requested they be considered as the lead group for this site for the purpose of self management. All the relevant information and application procedures have been sent out to the group but to date the allotment team has not received any details/requests back from the group.</p> <p>Chris Wenlock – Burn Valley roundabout has been sprayed to kill roots/ rhizomes of weeds and then allow cultivation of soil. Ground prep to be followed with planting through weed suppressing membrane of a band of heathers 1 meter deep around road edge, set off with decorative gravel. Structural conifers in central area planted through membrane again set of with gravel. Rest of the area covered with weed suppressing membrane and decorative gravel. Works ongoing with likely completion week of 29th July. Car parking</p>
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		<p>area sprayed to kill weeds and allow cultivation and subsequent re-seeding with grass. Burn Valley Gardens beck due to be litter picked.</p> <p>18/09/2013 update: Burn Valley Roundabout refurbishment complete, site around parking bays reseeded. Beck was litter picked in July.</p>
<p>Manor House</p> <p>School Parking near Rift House school – blocking drive way and access via dropped kerb –</p>	<p>Police and HBC Wardens need to monitor and check at school times taking appropriate action</p>	<p>Inspector Carl Broughton: The locality was patrolled by staff who spoke with school crossing patrols. Two houses were pointed out that occasionally suffer from parking issues. One household finds that vehicles park either side of the drive which potentially hinders their progress, but does not actually stop them getting on or off the drive. The second area is in relation to a drop kerb that does not have a driveway associated with it. There are no parking restrictions in force at this location. My staff will continue to monitor at the appropriate times.</p> <p>Phil Hepbum - Additional parking enforcement visits have been scheduled to take place at this location by the HBC officers. The Obstruction of driveways would however be a Police matter to resolve.</p>

<p>Victoria Ward</p> <p>Hart Lane traffic scheme –what is happening with it?</p> <p>Problem with 516 bus service (frequency/route?) – feed into transport group /could possibly get membership of transport group.</p>	<p>Provide an update with where we are on consultation, outcome, and timescales for implementation</p> <p>Update on hierarchy re Transport Group – provide information to enable feedback to resident with possibility of this particular resident joining new resident and business transport group.</p>	<p>Peter Frost – 1st public consultation meeting has been held. Residents comments are currently being investigated with a view to a further meeting being held in the next few weeks. Should the scheme be approved then works will be completed by the end of March '14. . Further meeting to take place late September/ early October.</p> <p>Alastair Smith – the residents details have been received and he will be invited to join the Transport Champions Group.</p>
<p>Fens and Rossmere</p> <p>Tom Stewart - Consultation on Rossmere Way traffic scheme - where are we with the second option that was being proposed? Concerns with traffic jams at top of Rossmere Way when schools come out. Cllr Lilley informed second option was likely to go ahead because only 1 objection had been received.</p>	<p>Update on progress with consultation and timescales to enable feedback to resident</p>	<p>Peter Frost – Following the 2nd phase of consultation, the scheme is now being reported to Neighbourhood Services Committee for approval on 9th August. Scheme approved at Committee. Virgin Media diversions to take place shortly, and it is hoped the scheme will be complete before Christmas</p>
<p>Rural West</p> <p>Chris Banks – 2 potholes outside farm – accident waiting to happen –</p>	<p>Emergency repair</p> <p>Resurfacing works approved when will they take place?</p>	<p>Jon Wright/Mike Blair- Tenders being opened for surface dressing and micro asphalt waorks 19th July. Works expected to take place August/September. Surface dressing works now completed micro</p>

		asphalt works programmed to start w/c 14 th October
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SOUTH & CENTRAL NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM

2 October 2013



Report of: Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods

Subject: NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING UPDATE

1. TYPE OF DECISION/APPLICABLE CATEGORY

1.1 Non key decision. For information only.

2. PURPOSE OF REPORT

2.1 The purpose of the report is to update the South and Central Neighbourhood Forum of progress made to date on Neighbourhood Planning in Hartlepool.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Neighbourhood Planning is central to the Coalition Government's Localism Act 2011. It is intended to give local people greater ownership of plans and policies that affect their local area, and to provide communities with the opportunity to develop a community-led framework for guiding the future development, regeneration and conservation of an area.
- 3.2 Once adopted a Neighbourhood Plan will become part of the formal planning process and must be in general conformity with national planning policy and the Local Authority's Development Plan (currently the Hartlepool Local Plan 2006, which will be superseded by the Hartlepool Local Plan post adoption, now expected in early 2014).
- 3.3 Nationally there are 685 Neighbourhood Planning Areas, over half of which have been formally designated. To date, two Neighbourhood Plans have completed the process and have been formally adopted after a simple majority vote at referendum to become part of local planning legislation.
- 3.4 The Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG) ran five waves of un-ringfenced grant applications for potential Neighbourhood Plan areas to apply for Front Runner status in order to test the principles of Neighbourhood Planning with the support of LPAs; which the Hartlepool rural area was successful in securing in 2011. This was alongside four key support organisations (The Prince's Foundation, CPRE / NALC, Locality and

Planning Aid) delivering direct support and training to those developing Neighbourhood Plans. This source of funding / resource ceased in 2011 and 2013 respectively and a further, revised support fund of £9.5 million was announced in early 2013 (The Supporting Communities and Neighbourhoods in Planning Programme delivered by Locality in partnership with Planning Aid England), comprising the following elements:

- *Direct Support:* advice and support delivered by Planning Aid England, with an average value equivalent to £9,500. The package is tailored to meet the needs of supported neighbourhoods and is assessed via an online application process.
- *Grant Payments:* up to £7,000 per Neighbourhood Plan area, to contribute to costs incurred by the group preparing a Neighbourhood Plan or Order. This is also assessed via an online application process.

3.5 There are currently four Neighbourhood Plans being developed in Hartlepool, including:

- Hartlepool Rural Plan (South and Central)
- Headland Neighbourhood Plan (North and Coastal)
- Wynyard Neighbourhood Plan (South and Central)
- Park Neighbourhood Plan (South and Central)

Updates on the progress made to date on each of the Neighbourhood Plans are detailed in Sections 4 to 7 of this report.

4. HARTLEPOOL RURAL PLAN

4.1 In May 2011, Hartlepool was successful in securing £20,000 from the Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG) to develop and produce a Neighbourhood Plan for the rural area of Hartlepool.

4.2 The Hartlepool Rural Plan Working Group publicly consulted on their Neighbourhood Plan boundary in October / November 2012 in line with the statutory requirements as outlined within the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations (General) adopted in April 2012. No written representations or objections were submitted to the LPA as part of this consultation process and the boundary was formally designated in November 2012.

4.3 Supported by the Neighbourhood Management and Planning Policy Teams, the Hartlepool Rural Plan Working Group undertook their first phase of consultation in summer 2012 after securing resources from Design Council CABE. This included a series of community events and village walkabouts, in addition to an extensive household survey of those living and working within the Plan boundary. The Working Group has recently secured a Direct Support package through the Supporting Communities in Neighbourhood Planning Programme which is administered by Locality in partnership with Planning Aid England. This will entitle them to 26 days support from a Planning Aid advisor, particularly focusing on engagement and consultation,

collating evidence bases and policy writing. The Group anticipates that this will allow them to develop their Neighbourhood Planning policies ready for consultation in late 2013.

- 4.4 The Hartlepool Rural Plan Working Group is now a constituted group and has expanded their remit to take on other areas of work; for example campaigning and assisting with funding bid evidence for rural broadband in partnership with Tees Valley Rural Community Council (TVRCC).

5. THE HEADLAND NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

- 5.1 In November 2011, the Headland Parish Council approached Hartlepool Borough Council demonstrating an interest in developing a Neighbourhood Plan. Whilst not successful in securing Front Runner status, the Parish Council secured alternative support packages from The Prince's Foundation and Planning Aid as part of the Communities and Neighbourhoods in Planning programme for the initial stages of developing a Neighbourhood Plan.
- 5.2 The Headland Neighbourhood Plan Working Group publicly consulted on their Neighbourhood Plan boundary in January / February 2013 in line with the statutory requirements as outlined within the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations (General) adopted in April 2012. No written representations or objections were submitted to the LPA as part of this consultation process and the boundary was formally designated in February 2013.
- 5.3 The Headland Neighbourhood Plan Working Group delivered a three day collaborative planning workshop in partnership with The Prince's Foundation in March 2013. A report was produced which outlines some of the key features of the area, issues that the Headland is facing and potential actions to address these issues; the Working Group are now exploring the themes of the report in more detail to ascertain their key policy areas. Copies of the report are available from the Headland Neighbourhood Plan Working Group or can be viewed at www.hartlepool.gov.uk/neighbourhoodplanning.
- 5.4 The Group have recently secured £7,000 through the Supporting Communities in Neighbourhood Planning Programme which is administered by Locality to assist them with delivering events and raise awareness about Neighbourhood Planning but also to commission some consultancy support to develop their Neighbourhood Planning policies.

6. WYNYARD NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

- 6.1 In May 2013, Grindon Parish Council began partnership working with Wynyard Residents Association (WRA) to develop a Neighbourhood Plan for the Wynyard area. The aspiration of both parties is to provide a joined-up approach to the planning of their area, in particular developing community

facilities and appropriate housing whilst protecting the valuable characteristics and design of the neighbourhood.

- 6.2 Wynyard Neighbourhood Plan Working Group was set up as a sub-committee of the WRA to oversee the development of the Neighbourhood Plan for Wynyard. The proposed Wynyard Neighbourhood Area has been submitted to both Hartlepool Borough Council and Stockton Borough Council as the Wynyard Neighbourhood Area incorporates parts of both Grindon (within Stockton Borough) and Elwick Parishes, (within Hartlepool Borough); the resulting Neighbourhood Area is therefore is a cross-Parish and cross-Local Authority entity. The deadline for the consultation on the boundary designation is Friday 25th October 2013; details can be viewed at www.hartlepool.gov.uk/neighbourhoodplanning.
- 6.3 Grindon Parish Council has secured £3000 from the Supporting Communities in Neighbourhood Planning Programme to support the initial stages of the plan developments. This is in addition to securing the time of a planning consultant work to assist in the development of the Neighbourhood Plan boundary prior to submission.

7. PARK NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

- 7.1 The Park Neighbourhood Planning Forum was established in August 2013 and represents the communities living within the proposed Park Neighbourhood Plan area. As the proposed boundary is a non-parished area, the Plan is being developed by a Forum which has been established in adherence with the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations (General) adopted in April 2012. Therefore in addition to consultation on the designation of the boundary, the Neighbourhood Forum also has to be designated as the responsible body to develop the Plan, which is subject to a formal consultation process.
- 7.2 The Park Neighbourhood Planning Forum has submitted their designation for the proposed boundary and forum; this is currently out to consultation with a deadline of Friday 25th October 2013. Details can be viewed at www.hartlepool.gov.uk/neighbourhoodplanning.

8. RISK IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 There are no risk implications for the attention of the South and Central Neighbourhood Forum.

9. FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

- 8.1 There are no financial considerations for the Forum's attention, aside from the funding and support assistance available as outlined in Section 2.4.

10. LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

- 10.1 Neighbourhood Planning Regulations (General and Referendum) came in to force on 6 April 2012 and 3 August 2012 respectively, and are now law. As outlined in Section 2.2, the Local Authority will have a duty to adopt the Neighbourhood Plan should a simple majority vote be gained at referendum; this will require an amendment to part of Hartlepool Borough Council's Budget and Policy Framework (as the Plan will supersede the Local Plan) and once adopted, the Neighbourhood Plan will have legal status.

11. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY CONSIDERATIONS

- 11.1 Equality and diversity have been considered in the development of the consultation frameworks as appropriate and an Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) will be completed prior to the statutory public consultation period on the first draft of Neighbourhood Plans.

12. STAFF CONSIDERATIONS

- 12.1 There are no staff considerations for the attention of the South and Central Neighbourhood Forum.

13. SECTION 17 OF THE CRIME AND DISORDER ACT 1998 CONSIDERATIONS

- 13.1 There are no Section 17 implications in this instance.

14. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 14.1 It is requested that the South and Central Neighbourhood Forum note the contents of the report.

15. CONTACT OFFICERS

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SOUTH AND CENTRAL NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM

2 October 2013



Report of: Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods

Subject: WARD MEMBER BUDGETS

1. TYPE OF DECISION/APPLICABLE CATEGORY

1.1 Non key decision; for information only.

2. PURPOSE OF REPORT

2.1 To inform the Forum of the current position in relation to Ward Member Budgets in the South and Central Neighbourhood Forum area, encompassing Burn Valley, Fens and Rossmere, Foggy Furze, Manor House, Rural West and Victoria wards.

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 On 30 April 2012, Ward Member Budgets and the associated application and approval framework were approved by Cabinet. Ward Members were allocated £5,500 each to be used for the wider and discernable community benefits of their ward, with a further allocation of £5,000 per Ward Member agreed by Council in February 2013.

3.2 It is assumed that the budgets are not available for individuals, or intended to be expended on services provided by the Local Authority or other public agencies, unless the purpose is to enhance or supplement what is being delivered. Ward Members are expected to consult each other to ensure that there is no duplication in expenditure and projects supported must be lawful, and cannot undermine the Council or partners' priorities or service delivery.

3.3 Procedural arrangements have been implemented to ensure accountability and transparency, with all Ward Member Budget submissions being subject to an approval process under delegated authority of the Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods (in conjunction with Legal and Finance Departments). Progress on Ward Member Budgets is reported on a quarterly basis to the Neighbourhood Forums and is published online. In addition to this, an annual report will be taken to Neighbourhoods Committee for information.

4. APPROVED SCHEMES

4.1 Attached at **Appendix A** is a breakdown of current spend to date in relation to each of the Ward Members Budgets in 2013/14. **Please note that a number of projects are currently being developed and will be reported at a future Neighbourhood Forum meeting.**

Attached at **Appendix C** is the current running total for each Ward Member and their remaining budgets.

4.2 In the Fens and Rossmere, Foggy Furze and Victoria wards, Ward Members have allocated a proportion of their Ward Budgets to establish a community fund for local voluntary and community groups to access.

5. UNAPPROVED SCHEMES

5.1 One unapproved scheme has been received to date, details of which can be found at **Appendix B**.

6. RISK IMPLICATIONS

6.1 Through the implementation of the application and approval framework, a robust and transparent process has been put in place to ensure that the expenditure of Ward Member Budgets is for the purpose for which it is intended. In addition to this, consultation with other Ward Members, the community, and key partners is required through the application process to guarantee that monies are not used adversely and that projects and / or schemes are responding to local need.

6.2 In addition to quarterly reporting to the Neighbourhood Forums, an annual report is taken to Neighbourhoods Committee for information. All expenditure related information associated with Ward Member Budgets is also available online.

7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

7.1 Within the original Cabinet decision on 30 April 2012 to approve Ward Member Budgets, it was agreed that a delegation of powers to the Assistant Director (Neighbourhood Services)¹ be awarded; this was facilitated through 'executive arrangements' outlined within the Local Government Act 2000 which enables decision making powers to be delegated by the executive, individual Portfolio Holders, or through an Officer.

7.2 Ward Member Budgets must be used for purposes which originally fell within the 'well-being powers' enshrined in the Local Government Act 2000. The well being powers as far as they relate to England have now been repealed

¹ From December 2012, this power has fallen to the Director of Regeneration & Neighbourhoods.

under Schedule 1 of the Localism Act 2011 which provides for the broader 'general power of competence'. This gives local authorities an explicit freedom to act in the best interests of the community, unless the local authority is prevented from taking that action by the common law, specific legislation or statutory guidance. As such, the new power of competence can be applied to working in the best interests of Hartlepool Borough Council's Ward Member Budgets and also Ward Profiles which were endorsed by Cabinet in October 2012.

8. FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

- 8.1 On 14 February 2013, Council approved a recommendation from Cabinet (4 February 2013) allocating a total of £165,000 for 2013/2014 for Ward Member Budgets, equating to £5,000 per Elected Member. As part of this decision, it was also outlined that any underspend remaining from the 2012/2013 allocation will be carried forward by each individual Ward Councillor for their use in the new financial year. This also applies to any unspent funds in 2013/2014, which can be carried forward by individual Ward Members in to the following financial year (2014/2015).

9. STAFF CONSIDERATIONS

- 9.1 There are no staff considerations for the Forum's attention in this case.

10. ASSET MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

- 10.1 There are no asset management considerations.

11. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY CONSIDERATIONS

- 11.1 There are no equality or diversity implications.

12. SECTION 17 OF THE CRIME AND DISORDER ACT 1998 CONSIDERATIONS

- 12.1 There are no Section 17 implications.

13. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 13.1 The South and Central Neighbourhood Forum is asked to note the contents of the report outlining Ward Member Budget spend to date in 2013/14.

14. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 14.1 On 30 April 2012, Ward Member Budgets and the association application framework were approved by Cabinet. As part of this decision, it was agreed that expenditure be reported to the relevant Neighbourhood Forum on a quarterly basis.

15. CONTACT OFFICER

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APPENDIX A

Ward Member Budget Spend 2013/14

Ward Councillor	Nature of Scheme	Date Approved	Funding Approved
Burn Valley			
All Ward Councillors	Fourth Hartlepool Boys Brigade Contribution	04/07/13	£1,100
Councillor Ged Hall & John Lauderdale	The ORB Centre Youth Project	04/07/13	£275
	Friends of North Cemetery Donation	04/07/13	£300
	Stranton Senior Group Donation	04/07/13	£300
Fens and Rossmere			
All Ward Councillors	Brightsparks Group Donation (Play Equipment)	22/05/13	£500
	Fens Monday Club Donation	22/05/13	£300
	Friday Club Group Donation	22/05/13	£400
	Hartlepool Table Tennis Club Donation	30/07/13	£500
	Rossmere Craft & Social Group Donation	30/07/13	£300
Foggy Furze			
All Ward Councillors	St Cuthbert's RA Donation	07/05/13	£225
	Queens Meadow RG Donation	21/05/13	£295
	Foggy Furze Fun Day	21/05/13	£1,500
	Westbrooke Avenue Fencing	10/06/13	£1,500
	Browning Avenue Baptist Church Equipment Donation	14/06/13	£941.92
	Wildlife Foundations Allotment Fencing	14/06/13	£850
	The ORB Centre Youth Project	09/07/13	£400
	Belle Vue Residents' Association Donation	13/08/13	£440
	Allot a Love Allotment Refurbishment Donation	13/08/13	£600
	Chinese Association Donation	13/08/13	£300
	St Cuthbert Friendship Group Donation	13/08/13	£450
	St Cuthbert's Residents' Association Donation	13/08/13	£550
Councillor Christopher Akers-Belcher	Frensham Drive Horticultural Works	19/08/13	£1,200
	Rift House Recreational Ground Improvement Works	20/08/13	£785
Councillor Kevin Cranney	Refugee / Asylum Seekers Donation	27/07/13	£300
Manor House			
Councillor Stephen Akers-Belcher	Hartlepool Table Tennis Club Donation	21/08/13	£250

Councillor Marjorie James	Hartlepool Table Tennis Club Donation	21/08/13	£250
	Manor House Child Poverty Project (School Uniform)	17/09/13	£2,000
Councillor Angela Wilcox*	The Rifty Room Hire	05/07/13	£1,500
Rural West			
All Ward Councillors	Ward Jackson Park Fountain Refurbishment	17/04/13	£1,500
	Rural Community Transport Scheme	23/04/13	£1,600
	Friends of Victory Square Donation	19/06/13	£200
	Junior Football Team Contribution	15/07/13	£600
	Greatham Community Centre Renovation Fund	16/08/13	£300
Councillor Brenda Loynes	Dalton Piercy Tree Planting	20/06/13	£100
Councillor George Morris	Dalton Piercy Tree Planting	20/06/13	£100
Victoria			
All Ward Councillors	Cobden Area RA Donation	12/04/13	£500
	Hartlepool Art Club Donation	12/04/13	£100
	St Lukes Infant Welfare Mothers Club Donation	12/04/13	£200
	Hartlepool Chinese Association Donation	22/04/13	£358
	Grange Road Friendship Club Donation	22/04/13	£400
	Friends of Victory Square Donation	22/04/13	£30
	Hart Gables Donation	19/06/13	£130
	Salaam Centre Donation	19/06/13	£1,200
	Park Residents Association – Fountain Donation	19/06/13	£300
	Asylum Seeker & Refugee Group Donation	19/06/13	£500
	ABC Residents Donation	19/06/13	£300
	Grange Road Living Skills Group Donation	03/09/13	£450
	Grange Road Methodist Church Donation	03/09/13	£192

*Succeeded by Councillor Allan Barclay on 15 August 2013.

Please note that a number of projects are currently being developed and will be reported at a future Neighbourhood Forum meeting.

APPENDIX B

Ward Member Budget Unapproved Schemes 2013/14

Ward Councillor	Nature of Scheme	Funding Requested
Manor House		
Councillor Angela Wilcox*	Funding contribution to Manor Residents' Association Summer Playscheme	£3,500

*Succeeded by Councillor Allan Barclay on 15 August 2013.

APPENDIX C

Ward Member Budget Overview 2013/14

Ward Councillor	Carryover from 12/13	Funding Available 13/14	Funding Approved 13/14	Total Funding Remaining
Burn Valley				
Councillor Jonathan Brash	£113	£5,000	£750	£4,363
Councillor Ged Hall	-	£5,000	£425	£4,575
Councillor John Lauderdale	-	£5,000	£800	£4,200
Fens and Rossmere				
Councillor Steve Gibbon	£965	£5,000	£667	£5,298
Councillor Alison Lilley	£960	£5,000	£667	£5,293
Councillor Geoff Lilley	£960	£5,000	£667	£5,293
Foggy Furze				
Councillor Christopher Akers-Belcher	£169	£5,000	£4,669	£500
Councillor Kevin Cranney	£1,374	£5,000	£2,984	£3,390
Councillor Kaylee Sirs	£1,373	£5,000	£2,684	£3,689
Manor House				
Councillor Stephen Akers-Belcher	£2,950	£5,000	£2,250	£5,700
Councillor Marjorie James	£4,250	£5,000	£2,250	£7,000
Councillor Angie Wilcox*	-	£5,000	£1,500	-
Councillor Allan Barclay		£3,500	-	£3,500
Rural West				
Councillor George Morris	£3,745	£5,000	£1,500	£7,245
Councillor Brenda Loynes	£3,665	£5,000	£1,500	£7,165
Councillor Ray Wells	£3,995	£5,000	£1,400	£7,595
Victoria				
Councillor Pamela Hargreaves	£1,084	£5,000	£1,553	£4,531
Councillor Carl Richardson	£1,084	£5,000	£1,553	£4,531

Councillor Chris Simmons	£1,084	£5,000	£1,553	£4,531
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*Succeeded by Councillor Allan Barclay on 15 August 2013. Remaining funds re-allocated to Councillor Barclay.