

NORTH AND COASTAL COMMUNITY FORUM



Wednesday 18th October

at 1.00pm

in Committee Room B, Civic Centre, Hartlepool

MEMBERS: NORTH AND COASTAL COMMUNITY FORUM:

Councillors Beck, Belcher, Black, Cook, Fleming, Harrison, Hind, McLaughlin, Moore, Riddle, Robinson, Springer, Tennant and Thomas

- 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 Neighbourhood Forum meetings held on 5th July 2017
 - 4.2 Matters arising.
- 5. QUESTIONS FOR THE POLICE**
- 6. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME and WARD ISSUES (maximum of 30 minutes)**
- 7. ITEMS FOR CONSULTATION**
 - 7.1 Community Engagement and Cohesion Strategy – Presentation – *Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods*

7.2 Health and Wellbeing Strategy - Presentation – *Scrutiny Manager and Public Health Specialist*

8. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND/OR INFORMATION

No items

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS WHICH THE CHAIR CONSIDERS URGENT

Next meeting – Wednesday 13th December at 10.30am in Committee Room B

NORTH AND COASTAL COMMUNITY FORUM MINUTES 5th July 2017

The meeting commenced at 5th July 2017 in the Civic Centre, Hartlepool

Present:

Chair: Councillor Brenda Harrison - De Bruce

Vice Chair: Councillor Paul Beck - Hart

Councillor Tim Fleming - Headland and Harbour
Councillor Shane Moore - Headland and Harbour
Councillor George Springer - Jesmond
Councillor John Tennant - Jesmond

Public: John Cambridge, Sue Little, John Maxwell, Bob Steel,
Cath Torley, Liz Torley and Alan Vale

Police Representatives: Mal Suggitt

Officers: Clare Clark, Head of Community Safety and Engagement
Phil Hepburn, Parking Services Manager
Rachel Parker, Community Safety Research Officer
Kate Ainger, Projects Officer
Jo Stubbs, Democratic Services Officer

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were submitted by Councillors Tom Hind, Mike McLaughlin and Steve Thomas

2. Declarations of Interest

None

3. Minutes of the meeting held on 22nd March 2017

The minutes were approved

4. Matters Arising

Public Question Time and Ward Issues – North Sands – A member of the public referred to concerns he had raised previously around the continued erosion of the sand dunes and the impact this could have on the former waste tip behind the Brus Tunnel. As promised he had received a response from the Council's Assistant Director for Environment and Neighbourhoods but he felt there had been a misunderstanding as to which waste site he had been referring to. The Parking Services Manager advised that the response had been prepared by the engineering department but if it had failed to provide reassurance he would ask the Principal Engineer to contact him directly. The Chair suggested that he also speak to the Chair of Neighbourhood Services Committee at Policy Chairs Question Time immediately following this meeting.

A resident advised that he had not received notification that the meeting was taking place as was the usual procedure for these forums. He queried whether this was a deliberate attempt to reduce attendance thereby justifying their cancellation in the future. The Head of Community Safety and Engagement acknowledged that on this occasion postal notification to previous attendees had not gone out as early as it should have however the forums had still been advertised on the Council website and in the Hartlepool Mail and Hartbeat. Members had reviewed the forums during the purdah period and decided they still wished to maintain 2 forums albeit with the removal of the 'Ask the Policy Chairs' section. This would now take place over the lunch period between the 2 forums and would be a more informal meeting with no minutes taken. A resident expressed her disappointment at the decision not to minute the policy chairs meeting. The Chair commented that ward surgeries were not minuted but issues which had been brought to the attention of Councillors were then taken further and this would be no different. She indicated that residents could still bring up issues relevant to the policy chairs at these forums as they had previously under ward issues.

5. Update from the Police

Chief Inspector Mal Suggitt was present and invited questions from the public.

Motorbikes – A resident referred to motorbikes being driven erratically along Brenda Road. Chief Inspector Suggitt acknowledged that this was an issue across Hartlepool but was problematic for the police to deal with as there were limited vehicles which could catch motorbikes and specific training and risk assessments were needed for them. He urged anyone with any knowledge of motorbikes being illegally driven to contact the police with names and addresses as this could assist in catching people in the act.

Parking on pavements – A resident highlighted a problem with cars parking on the pavements in Seaview Terrace. Chief Inspector Suggitt advised that parking on the pavement was not an offence unless there were yellow lines. There was an offence of causing an unnecessary obstruction but this was left at the discretion of police and enforcement officers to decide what an unnecessary obstruction was. If it was a problem a polite notice could be left on the windscreen but no more than that unless police deemed an offence was being committed. A resident referred to a large vehicle which was permanently parked on the bend at the King Oswy Pub during the day and asked if anything could be done. Chief Inspector Suggitt reiterated that this was not an offence as there were no yellow lines. The Chair noted that discussions were ongoing regarding the possibility of installing double yellow lines on that piece of road although it was acknowledged that this could move the problem elsewhere.

The Chair thanked Chief Inspector Suggitt for attending the meeting and answering questions.

6. Public Question Time and Ward Issues

Refuse collection – A resident referred to rubbish falling out of bins during refuse collection and not being picked up by operatives. He highlighted that bins were being left some distance from their original pickup point or in inconvenient places such as driveways, referring to an elderly neighbour on the assisted collection scheme whose bin had not been returned to her property. The Head of Community Safety and Engagement would inform the Councils refuse section. Another resident commented that operatives did a difficult job in difficult circumstances highlighting how they would dispose of bins where the lid was not shut by placing the excess waste in another bin.

Brus Tunnel – A resident asked that the land to the East of the Brus Tunnel be properly maintained as it was falling into disrepair. The Parking Services Manager would speak to the owner of the land regarding their plans for the site. Another resident noted that there was a bench on the other side of the tunnel.

A resident referred to the loss of access from the tunnel onto the beach and the dangers this posed. The Parking Services Manager noted that the area was currently under development but would contact the developer to ensure they were meeting their obligations in terms of retaining access while keeping the site safe.

Former Brus Pub site – A resident requested an update. The Parking Services Manager advised that planning approval had been granted for the site however a Councillor noted that the land had recently gone back on the market suggesting that the planning application had fallen through. The

Chair requested that officers follow this up.

Weeds on pavements – A resident highlighted this as a problem on the Central Estate and asked that something more permanent be done as rain was causing pavements to become slippery. The Parking Services Manager advised that the current maintenance programme included spraying of weed killer in Spring and Autumn. The Chair asked that details of exactly where the problem was occurring be given to the officers.

Catcote Road Garage – Traffic was constantly parked on both sides of the road churning up the grass. The Chair noted that this was an item for the South and Central Forum which started at 1pm.

Brompton Walk – The central grass verge was overgrown and needed cutting back due to the amount of elderly people living in that area.

Bins on sea front – Problems with bins overflowing particularly during weekends. The Parking Services Manager advised that new bins had been purchased which would compress the rubbish more efficiently. A resident queried whether cleaners could be allotted to Seaton on weekends in light of the recent decision to charge for parking there.

Seagulls on Central Estate – a resident was regularly feeding the seagulls in the early hours of the morning disturbing everyone else and resulting in a rat infestation. Representative from 13 Group had contacted her to no avail. The Chair asked that officers look into the possibility of taking action for causing a nuisance.

West View Road The cycle path between the Rugby Club and Nursing Home was overgrown with grass and weeds.

7. **Presentation – Community Safety Plan** (*Community Safety Research Officer*)

The Community Safety Research Officer gave a brief presentation on the current consultation on the 3 year Community Safety Plan. Figures showed that recorded crime at increase in Hartlepool since 2014 with violence against the person particularly on the increase and drug dependency at twice the national average. Anti-social behaviour had reduced slightly. Details were given of vulnerable localities within the borough. A public consultation had shown most respondents wanted to reduce crime and repeat victimisation while creating confident, strong and safe communities. As a result of this consultation the following strategic objectives for the plan

had been identified:

- Reduce crime and repeat victimisation
- Reduce the harm caused by drug and alcohol misuse
- Create confident, cohesive and safe communities
- Reduce offending and re-offending

Key activities had been identified as partnership working, crime prevention, anti-social behaviour and community cohesion and engagement. The consultation would run until Monday 24th July. Responses could be submitted via the HBC website at www.hartlepool.gov.uk/community-safety-plan

A resident commented that crime was on the increase due to cuts in police budgets meaning that the objectives contained within the plan would be difficult to achieve. Officers acknowledged this saying it meant that there needed to be a greater focus on priorities and a co-ordinated approach. The importance of working with schools and youth groups was also noted.

A resident queried whether a pop up shop could be put into the Middleton Grange Centre offering advice and items such as bag bells and security lights to the elderly who did not tend to come to Council meetings. The Head of Community Safety and Engagement acknowledged this was a good idea and referred to other public engagement sessions across Hartlepool at the library and community hubs. These had all been advertised in Hartbeat. It was also suggested that information be made available at school parents' evenings.

The Chair thanked the Community Safety Research Officer for attending the meeting and answering questions.

The meeting concluded at 11:15am

CHAIR

MATTERS ARISING FROM NORTH AND COASTAL COMMUNITY FORUM ON 5th JULY 2017
4.2

Ward	Reported problem/ concern	Referred to (officer)	Response	Actioned / resolved	Comment
De Brus	Letter of explanation with regard to Dunes erosion and potential impact this could have on contaminated land fill was not explained to the satisfaction of resident.	KB	Coastal defence Engineer has agreed to meet and discuss the issues with the resident concerned		Meeting to be arranged to discuss concerns
	King Owsy Drive - Problems with illegally parked vehicles at school collection times.	PF			Highways in the process of introducing additional TRO's
	Some of the assisted bin collections not returning bins to the correct address. Left in street often well away from location.	Paul H	matter reported to Cleansing team		Agreed to raise the issues with bin crews. The bins should be returned to or near original location
	Land to the East of Brus Tunnel - was initially grassed but now needs maintaining - over run	PH /GJ	NWA dug up land as part of drainage improvement works. Reinstatement of grassed area took time to recover.		Cleansing were initially unable to cut and maintain area due to potential damage to machinery but it is now being maintained as part regular maint.programme
	Brus Pub site - planning update required - some suggestion this site went back up for sale. any start date ?	Planning	Planning permission H/2016/0461 approved to erect 4 semi detached bungalows with detached garages.		Developer has 3 years to carry out development exp. Feb 2020.
	Concern with regard to the temporary access from Brus Tunnel along Beach to Headland. Access provided by the developer near sand dunes is unacceptable	Chris Scaife	Officer has visited the site and suggested joint meeting with resident to discuss the individual concerns raised		CS to arrange meeting with resident potentially coincide with coastal erosion site visit
	Central Estate - Weeds on paths. The weed killing treatment on the footpaths is not considered to be effective. Has there been any regulation changes to type of weed killer now used ?	GJ	Summer weather conditions have seen unusual growth of grass / weeds		Officers currently carrying out spot herbicidal treatment to areas badly affected along with strimming work

Seaton	Hindpool Close - Moss on the cobbled areas are dangerous.	PF	Highway inspector visited	Work commissioned to carry out herbicidal treatment.
	Bilsdale Walk - Grass verge edge needs cutting back as grass overgrown onto walkway. Has Highway inspector visited recently ?	PF	Summer weather conditions have seen unusual growth of grass / weeds	Officers currently carrying out spot herbicidal treatment to areas badly affected along with strimming work
	Bins in Seaton need to meet demand	PH	New compact bins installed as part of Seagull campaign under Cleaner Greener Strategy commitment	
H&H	Complaint of resident feeding seagulls -	PH	This was reported to the land lord to take appropriate action	Arrangements have been made to cut back all vegetation over the winter period.
	West View Road - Cycle way and footpath over grown and needs attention.	PF	Passed to Highway inspector	