

# **SOUTH AND CENTRAL COMMUNITY FORUM**



**Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December**

**at 1.00pm**

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

**MEMBERS: SOUTH AND CENTRAL COMMUNITY FORUM:**

Councillors C Akers-Belcher, S Akers-Belcher, Barclay, Buchan, Clark, Cranney, Hall, Hamilton, Hunter, James, Lauderdale, Lindridge, Loynes, Martin-Wells, Morris, Richardson, Sirs and Trueman.

- 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 18<sup>th</sup> October 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**

No items

8. **ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND/OR INFORMATION**

8.1 Update from Tees Valley Rural Community Council

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

**Next meeting** – Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> February at 10.30am in Committee Room B

## **SOUTH AND CENTRAL COMMUNITY FORUM MINUTES**

18<sup>th</sup> October 2017

The meeting commenced at 10.30am in the Civic Centre, Hartlepool

### **Present:**

- |             |  |                     |
|-------------|--|---------------------|
| Chair:      | Councillor Carl Richardson   | - Victoria          |
| Vice Chair: | Councillor Jim Lindridge   | - Fens and Rossmere |
|             | Councillor Bob Buchan  | - Fens and Rossmere |
|             | Councillor Alan Clark  | - Fens and Rossmere |
|             | Councillor Ged Hall  | - Burn Valley       |
|             | Councillor Marjorie James  | - Manor House       |
|             | Councillor John Lauderdale   | - Burn Valley       |
| Public:     | W R Hall, Gordon Johnson, Stella Johnson, Evelyn Leck, Sue Little, Phil Matthews, Ray Pocklington, Eric Porritt, Tony Richardson, Julie Rudge, Joanne Shaw, Frank Sowerby and Tom Stewart  |                     |
| Officers:   | Clare Clark, Community Safety and Engagement Manager<br>Peter Frost, Highways, Traffic and Transport Team Leader<br>Phil Hepburn, Team Leader (Enforcement Services)<br>Rachel Parker, Community Safety Team Leader<br>Tara Davison, Community Cohesion Officer<br>Esther Mireku, Acting Consultant in Public Health<br>Jo Stubbs, Democratic Services Officer |                     |

Police Representatives: Mal Suggitt

### **8. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were submitted by Councillors Christopher Akers-Belcher, Stephen Akers-Belcher, Allan Barclay, Kevin Cranney, Lesley Hamilton, Brenda Loynes, Ray Martin-Wells and George Morris.

### **9. Declarations of Interest**

None

## **10. Minutes of the meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> July 2017**

Minutes approved

## **11. Matters Arising**

No items

## **12. Questions for the Police**

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

**CCTV** – A resident referred to a large number of cameras in the Meadowpark Road area and asked why they had been located there. Chief Inspector Suggitt and the Community Safety and Engagement Manager were both unaware of these cameras having been installed and suggested residents might be responsible. Cameras could not be officially installed anywhere in the public domain. The Chair suggested that the matter be discussed further after the meeting.

**Car thefts** – A resident asked what was being done to combat thefts from vehicles. Chief Inspector Suggitt advised any victims to contact the police. He also urged car owners to ensure their cars were locked and garaged if possible.

**Rossmere** – A resident referred to ongoing problems being experienced by the owner of a shop on Rossmere Way including young people throwing fireworks and carrying knives. Chief Inspector Suggitt confirmed that police were aware of these issues and were focusing on that area in conjunction with the community centre and skate park. Prosecutions had also been forthcoming in terms of being equipped with a knife.

**PCSOs** – A resident queried what powers the PCSOs had. Chief Inspector Suggitt advised that their role was to engage with the community thereby providing knowledge which could be used in the investigation of crime and/or suspects. They could help disperse anti-social behaviour but could not arrest anybody.

**Policing** - A resident requested details of the number of Police officers patrolling Hartlepool between 11pm and 7am. Chief Inspector Suggitt was unable to divulge specific staffing numbers but estimated around 30-35 officers were available in the North area of the constabulary, which included Hartlepool, Stockton, Thornaby and Yarm. Calls made to the police were prioritised and officers despatched across the area according to need so no specific officers were allocated solely to Hartlepool.

Residents referred to reductions in government funding and concurrent increases in crime. Council tax contributions to the police force had consistently increased over the years yet funding was being cut and services reduced. Chief Inspector Suggitt advised that was a political query and not something he felt able to comment on. However he gave assurances that despite staffing reductions his team were doing all they could. Funding reductions were an issue across the whole country. In terms of Cleveland Police all incidents were risk assessed and those deemed highest risk were dealt with first. Depending on what was taking place incidents deemed lower risk might not be investigated until after the fact but they would be dealt with eventually and to the best of the officers' ability. The Vice-Chair indicated that he had discussed this matter with the Police and Crime Commissioner and any increase in patrols needed to be based on evidence. It was vital therefore to report all crimes in order to provide this evidence base.

A resident highlighted a recent incident of vigilantism following a perceived lack of response by police to a vehicle break-in. Chief Inspector Suggitt criticised this course of action saying it caused a greater strain on the community, and was a more serious crime, than the original theft.

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

### **13. Public Question Time and Ward Issues**

#### **Victoria**

Back street cleansing – A resident highlighted problems being caused by the delay between the fortnightly bin collection and the subsequent cleansing of backstreets, in particular individuals leaving waste in the back street. The Team Leader for Enforcement Services noted this issue and advised that as part of a new strategy cleansing and enforcement would be working together more closely.

#### **Manor House**

20mph zones – A resident advised that the signage near Rift House had recently been taken down. The Team Leader for Enforcement Services confirmed that Burns Road, Kipling Road and Masefield Road should all have signage. A resident indicated that there was none at the top end of the road. The new housing estate was causing an increase in traffic speeding and the speed humps were inadequate. The Chair asked officers to investigate.

Owton Manor Lane – Problems with double parking were highlighted particularly at peak school times.

Bins - A resident asked whether it would be possible for her elderly in-laws to have a larger bin as it tended to get full with external waste

Hub – A resident praised the staff at the South Hub but asked whether it would be possible for a new window to be installed to make it more inviting.

Road layout near Baptist Church – a resident asked whether a traffic island could be included in the new 3-lane system to aid pedestrians when crossing. The Team Leader for Enforcement Services would look at this but if an island was put in it would take out a lane thereby causing traffic congestion which the new system had been specifically designed to prevent. A safety order had been carried prior to implementation of the new layout.

### **Burn Valley**

Rats – These had been observed in the area in the previous month.

Cleansing – A resident complained that the gutters were not being cleaned adequately which was causing problems with flooding and smells coming from the Burn Valley. The Chair of Regeneration Services Committee had previously promised that Northumbria Water would be contacted regarding these issues but nothing had happened so far.

### **Fens and Rossmere**

Rossmere Park – This was becoming a no-go area on an evening due to anti-social behaviour by youngsters. The Vice-Chair advised that a meeting was due to take place to consider these issues but highlighted that resources were limited. A resident commented that part of the reason for the problems was the lack of a park-keeper. A resident asked whether it would be possible for the owner of a shop near the park to install mesh on the side of the park fence to prevent leaves blowing near his shop.

Ardrossan Court – A resident asked who was responsible for a rat infestation. The Chair advised that as private housing this was something for 13.

Ward Member Budgets – A resident asked why this was no longer on the agenda. The Community Safety and Engagement Manager advised that this had only ever been included for information. An annual report on ward member budget spends went to Neighbourhood Services Committee and the information was available online. A resident queried whether members could donate their ward budget outside their ward. The Community Safety and Engagement Manager advised that it was for the benefit of ward residents and did not necessarily have to be located in their ward

## **14. Presentation - Community Engagement and Cohesion Strategy**

The Community Safety and Engagement Leader gave a brief presentation on the consultation process for the draft Community Engagement and

Cohesion Strategy 2018-2021. Details were given of the vision and priorities of the strategy which had been developed in response to the views expressed through the Your Say, Our Future events and the recent Voluntary and Community Sector Survey.

The priorities of the strategy were to involve and listen to communities, to support community action and to build strong and inclusive communities. It included a commitment to continue with Community Forums and the possible formation of a multi-agency strategy team comprising the Leader of the Council and representatives from the Police and Fire services. The consultation would run until November 2017. A final draft version would then be taken to the January Finance and Policy Committee before further consultation. The final version would be considered by Council in 2018.

A resident queried how the commitments in the strategy could be met given the staffing reductions across Neighbourhood Services. The Community Safety and Engagement Leader acknowledged reductions in resources were an issue but this was Council strategy designed to help residents and would recognise the role played by the voluntary sector.

A resident commented that some areas of the town were thinking of employing private security firms and asked whether the Council would pay for this. The Chair cautioned against this saying there would be no accountability if things went wrong.

## **15. Presentation - Health and Wellbeing Strategy**

The Acting Consultant in Public Health gave a brief presentation on the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2018-2025. The Health and Social Care Act 2012 established Health and Wellbeing Boards as statutory bodies and required them to develop a joint strategy for their area. The current strategy was due for revision in 2018. Following consultation the priorities for the new strategy had been identified as:

- Starting well
- Working well
- Ageing well
- Living well
- Dying well

Key issues had been identified as follows:

- Mental health and emotional well-being
- Drug misuse and alcohol related harm
- Health inequalities (with a particular focus on domestic abuse and poverty)
- Dying well

A resident gave details of a recent incident whereby he had been taken

from the University Hospital of Hartlepool to North Tees Hospital against his will only to be discharged almost immediately with no way of returning. This had caused upset and inconvenience to himself and his wife who was unable to walk and had been left behind at Hartlepool Hospital alone. The Acting Consultant in Public Health advised he contact the Trust and Healthwatch regarding this.

A resident asked whether the closure of Sandwell Park was imminent. The Acting Consultant in Public Health was not aware of this but noted that the Council would not have responsibility.

A resident queried who had made the decision to admit a member of her family to the Friarage for an operation where he had been unable to receive visitors for 2 nights due to the remote location. The Acting Consultant in Public Health indicated that ordinarily patients would be given a choice as to where their operation would take place. However depending on the severity of the patient's condition and the urgency of the operation a choice of venue might not be possible. However she could not comment on specific cases.

The Chair thanked the Acting Consultant in Public Health for attending the meeting and answering questions.

The meeting concluded at 12:10pm.

CHAIR

Ward	Reported problem/ concern	Referred to (officer)	Response	Actioned / resolved	Comment
Rural West	Meadowgate Drive - resident made reference to CCTV camera's which had been erected in the area. Asked for clarification on ownership / purpose	PH	Police / HBC confirm that cameras are not either's ownership.	Mal	CCTV cameras to be removed from HBC street furniture.
Manor House	Signage in and around Burns Road, Kipling and Masefield had been taken down and was now confusing and unclear.	PF	Highways officers have now resolved this issue	Y	No further action
	Vehicles parking over the grass fields and footpath to park near houses in Huxley Walk. Potentially dangerous on school collection times	PF	Highways evaluating potential options to stop access onto the grass area.	N	PF to discuss potential design options with Ward Councillors
	Residents concerned that speed humps in Gladys Worthy to low and in Masefield to severe.	PF	Highways have checked the level of chamfer which in both cases are within tolerance allowance.		Can not replace immediately but as and when required will replace for rubber humps.
	Problem with double parking on Owton Manor	PH	Reported to enforcement for further investigation / action		
	Can larger bins be installed to cope with demand at Owton Manor Shops	GJ	Request made to Cleansing for further consideration		
	Can consideration be given to changing the appearance of the library - Its not very appealing / inviting?	CB	Reported concerns which will be considered as and when improvements are due.		
	Road layout near Baptist Church - now difficult to cross	PF	Improvements were made to address previous complaints / issues with vehicle congestion.		Highways to look at pedestrian concerns as part of safety audit.

Burn Valley	Still an issue with rats. In the area	PH	Pest control have carried out visits		
			but issue and concerns reported for follow up visit / action.		
Fens & Ross	Park was becoming a no go area on an evening. Resident believes this due to lack of park attendant	PH	Park walk about meeting planned with residents to consider issues		Detailed action plan prepared
	Leave blowing through fence and collecting outside Park Shop which were becoming a hazard	GJ	Mesh guard to be installed inside park fence.		Complete