

SOUTH AND CENTRAL COMMUNITY FORUM



Wednesday 28 February 2018

at 10.30am

in Committee Room B, Civic Centre, Hartlepool

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 13 December 2017.
 - 4.2 Matters arising.
- 5. QUESTIONS FOR THE POLICE**
- 6. FIRE SERVICE UPDATE**
- 7. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME and WARD ISSUES (maximum of 30 minutes)**
- 8. ITEMS FOR CONSULTATION**

No items



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

No items.

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

Next meeting – To be confirmed



SOUTH AND CENTRAL COMMUNITY FORUM MINUTES

13th December 2017

The meeting commenced at 1.00pm in the Civic Centre, Hartlepool

Present:

Chair: Councillor Jim Lindridge - Fens and Rossmere

Councillor Christopher Akers-Belcher - Foggy Furze
Councillor Bob Buchan - Fens and Rossmere
Councillor Kevin Cranney - Foggy Furze
Councillor John Lauderdale - Burn Valley

Public: Gordon and Stella Johnson, Peter Joyce, Ray Pocklington, Tony Richardson, G Stamper and Stephen Taylor

Officers: Clare Clark, Community Safety and Engagement Manager
Peter Frost, Highways, Traffic and Transport Team Leader
Phil Hepburn, Team Leader (Enforcement Services)
Rachel Parker, Community Safety Team Leader
Kate Ainger, Projects Officer
Jo Stubbs, Democratic Services Officer

Police Representatives: Chief Inspector Mal Suggitt

16. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were submitted by Councillors Stephen Akers-Belcher, Alan Clark, Ged Hall, Marjorie James, George Morris and Carl Richardson

17. Declarations of Interest

None

18. Minutes of the meeting held on 18th October 2017

The minutes were confirmed subject to the addition of a member of the public who had been missed off the list of attendees.

19. Questions for the Police

Chief Inspector Mal Suggitt was present. A Councillor queried whether car crime was targeted on specific areas. Chief Inspector Suggitt advised that it was a problem across the borough, mainly due to cars being left open or valuables being left in vehicles and/or on display. Electronic devices which could open cars without a key were available but so far had never been used in Hartlepool. He urged all owners to ensure their vehicles were locked at night and any valuable items removed.

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

20. Public Question Time and Ward Issues

Road sweepings in Burn Valley – A resident referred to a previous request for more road sweepings to coincide with the cessation of garden waste collections. The Community Safety and Engagement Manager advised that a deep cleanse pilot was currently underway in the Victoria Ward. Resources would then be assessed with a view to rolling this out across Hartlepool.

Rossmere Park – A resident referred to a recent walkabout involving councillors and officers during which he had raised a number of issues including damage to benches. He asked why nothing appeared to have been done to put right these problems. The Chair acknowledged a number of problems had been highlighted but he had understood that these issues had been dealt with. The Enforcement Services Team Leader confirmed that problems with enforcement and leaves being left in front of local shops had been dealt with however the resident noted that problems with broken benches had not been addressed and these could lead to children being injured. He advised that he had painted the benches himself (and been chastised for doing so) and would be happy to perform the repairs also as he felt that the Council had not done a good enough job. The Chair indicated he would request a report on the progress of all the issues raised and feed this back personally to the resident and his ward councillor. The Enforcement Services Team Leader further noted that investigations into additional parking areas were ongoing. He would ensure this was included in the update.

Ask the Policy Chairs – A resident referred to a lack of advertising around the Ask the Policy Chair meeting which had taken place immediately prior to this meeting. He also noted that Policy Committee Chairs were often not in attendance. The Chair noted that in their absence the Vice-Chairs should be present and he asked that officers ensure that both Chairs and Vice-Chairs were invited to these meetings.

Recycling – A resident requested information on whether various items could be recycled as follows:

- Envelopes –general waste
- Egg boxes – general waste
- Plastics bottles or cartons – recyclable
- Plastic bottle or tops – general waste

Utility road repairs – A resident queried whether utility companies could be fined for failure to fill in holes following repairs. The Highways, Traffic and Transport Team Leader confirmed fines could be issued for failure to adhere to work completion dates. However it was not common for utility companies to leave holes unfilled as they were responsible for the cost of any temporary traffic lights.

Tractor purchase – A resident referred to the purchase and subsequent sale of 2 tractors which he felt had been carried out incorrectly. The Chair confirmed that he had raised this issue with the Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods who had advised that everything had been above board. The issue was therefore closed. The resident signalled his intention to take this to a public meeting with the support of councillors as he felt something was being hidden. He queried how the Council could claim they could not afford to spend money on work in Rossmere Park and yet could find the money to buy 2 new tractors. The Chair requested that the resident note down all his queries and he would pass them on to the Director for her attention.

Park spend – A resident queried the discrepancy in spending between Ward Jackson Park and Rossmere Park. The Chair confirmed he would raise issues around staffing and allocation of resources with the Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods. The resident queried why there was nobody present from the department to answer these questions, noting that he had previously been called vexatious for asking these questions. The Chair of Regeneration Services Committee urged any residents with issues to contact their ward councillors direct rather than wait for these meetings. Residents requested that email addresses of all councillors be made available prior to the next meeting although members noted that this information was already publically available via the Council's website. Residents queried what could be done if Councillors failed to respond to emails. The Chair suggested if this was the case residents should lodge a complaint with the Council as Councillors were there to serve the public and should be approachable. A resident reiterated that he wished the Chair or Vice-Chair of Neighbourhood Services Committee to be present at the next meeting in order to address some of the issues he had raised.

21. Update from Tees Valley Rural Community Council

This item had been removed from the agenda as nobody from the organisation was available to attend

The meeting concluded at 1.40pm.

CHAIR