

SOUTH AND CENTRAL COMMUNITY FORUM



Tuesday 4 December 2018

at 1.00pm

in Committee Room B, Civic Centre, Hartlepool

SOUTH AND CENTRAL COMMUNITY FORUM:

Councillors C Akers-Belcher, S Akers-Belcher, Barclay, Buchan, Cranney, Hall, Hamilton, Hunter, James, Lauderdale, Lindridge, Loynes, Marshall, Morris, C Richardson, T Richardson, Trueman and Young.

- 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**
- 2. TO RECEIVE ANY DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS**
- 3. MINUTES**
 - 3.1 To confirm the minutes of the South and Central Community Forum meetings held on 25th September 2018
 - 3.2 Matters arising.
- 4. QUESTIONS FOR THE POLICE**
- 5. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME and WARD ISSUES (maximum of 30 minutes)**
- 6. ITEMS FOR CONSULTATION**

No items



7. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND/OR INFORMATION

7.1 Seascapes – Tyne to Tees Shores and Seas – *Seascapes Engagement Officer*

7.2 Seaton Regeneration Project - Verbal Update – *Regeneration Team Leader*

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS WHICH THE CHAIR CONSIDERS URGENT

Next meeting – Tuesday 12th March at 10.30am in Committee Room B



SOUTH AND CENTRAL COMMUNITY FORUM MINUTES

25th September 2018

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

Present:

Chair:	Councillor Ann Marshall	- Foggy Furze
	Councillor Christopher Akers-Belcher	- Foggy Furze
	Councillor Kevin Cranney	- Foggy Furze
	Councillor John Lauderdale	- Burn Valley
	Councillor Brenda Loynes	- Rural West
	Councillor Tony Richardson	- Fens and Rossmere

Police Representatives: Chief Inspector Nigel Burnell

Officers: Peter Frost, Highways, Traffic and Transport Manager
Phil Hepburn, Community Safety Operations Manager
Sarah Scarr, Heritage and Countryside Manager
Garry Jones, Team Leader (Operations, Ground Maintenance)
Irene Cross, Community Cohesion Officer
Jo Stubbs, Democratic Services Officer

9. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were submitted by Councillors Stephen Akers-Belcher, Allan Barclay, Bob Buchan, Ged Hall, Jim Lindridge, George Morris, Carl Richardson and Mike Young.

10. Declarations of Interest

None

11. Minutes of the meeting held on 26th June 2018

The minutes were confirmed.

12. Matters Arising

The Community Safety Operations Manager gave a brief update on actions which had been taken following issues raised at the previous meeting.

13. Police Update

Chief Inspector Nigel Burnell advised that there had been a 3% increase in recorded crime in the same 3-month period the previous year. However reports of anti-social behaviour had dropped by 15%. Car theft had also reduced due to a number of arrests. A new Community Safety Team had been set up at the beginning of the year comprising elements from the Police, Fire Brigade and Council's Enforcement Team. Representatives would meet each morning to discuss recent issues and incidents and look at effective ways of prevention and problem solving. As part of this there had been a day of action in the Dent Street area whereby rubbish had been removed and a number of arrests made. A number of other options were also available to the team including Community Protection Warnings which could be used against anti-social individuals and Team Around the Individual, a multi-agency approach to deal with both offenders and victims. They would also continue to work with the Children's Hub and the Community Hubs.

Those present highlighted problems with a lack of police presence on the streets and the attitude of some of the people answering calls to the emergency numbers. Chief Inspector Burnell referred to the complaints process, noting that all calls were recorded. In terms of a lack of presence on the streets he commented that there were less officers now than there had been 10 years ago so there was a greater emphasis on prioritisation meaning officers could not always attend immediately. However they would always attend if the risk was imminent. The Community Safety Team looked at imminent risks and problem areas each morning and would deploy officers and PCSOs accordingly.

A resident referred to a spate of fires in Rossmere Park which PCSOs had been unaware of, saying this was a failing in communication. Chief Inspector Burnell commented that it was not possible for PCSOs to be aware of every incident. The resident also queried whether the statistics quoted on anti-social behaviour included 13 Group properties. Chief Inspector Burnell advised that these statistics were based on phone calls to the police but if this did not include 13 Group incidents they needed to know. The Chair asked if this issue could be picked up by Chief Inspector Burnell.

A resident queried why CCTV cameras were not active in a number of areas as they would have assisted in a number of recent incidents involving machetes and the burning of tyres. He also highlighted a recent incident whereby a Councillor was attacked at a Ward Surgery.

A resident requested action following 2 bad traffic incidents on Park Road caused by vehicles coming out of the South side roads. The Highways, Traffic and Transport Manager was unaware of these but acknowledged that only accidents involving injury were reported to the Highways Department.

A resident queried the deployment of officers across the town, noting that they had recently witnessed 4 officers dealing with 1 town centre incident

when 2 could have done it. She also referred to a previous fire at a club when the police had not attended and roads had not been closed off immediately.

A Councillor acknowledged the concerns expressed by residents. However money was tight due to austerity cuts on all sides and the Council and Police were doing all they could through multiple task teams and by funding community groups to target anti-social behaviour hot spots.

A resident referred to a number of reports she had made regarding a nearby property to the Community Safety Team and the 101 service. She had been told that she had submitted sufficient information however the incidents of anti-social behaviour were still continuing. Chief Inspector Burnell would be happy to discuss the specifics after the meeting.

A Councillor referred a number of fires caused when leaves were being set alight. Residents had been told that youths tended to congregate in areas where there was no police presence. The Community Safety Operations Manager confirmed that a business case was being put together to support the installation of CCTV in different areas.

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

14. Fire Service Update

The Chair advised those present that nobody from the Fire Service was available to attend.

15. Public Question Time and Ward Issues

Rural West

A Councillor advised there had been a report of drug dealing at the children's play area in Greatham on Saturday and Sunday evenings. Chief Inspector Burnell asked that any witnesses report the incident to the police or (if they wished to remain anonymous) Crimestoppers. Residents referred to a lack of trust between residents and police and also concerns that police cars would be sent to witnesses properties

Fens and Rossmere

A ramp and lamp in Braemar Road were in need of repair. The Highway, Traffic and Transport Manager advised that this was outstanding due to annual leave. However both would be repaired this week

Debris was building up under benches in Rossmere Park. A resident queried why leaves were blown onto the sidewalks rather than removed. The Team Leader for Operations and Ground Maintenance advised that council operatives did as much as they could but could never remove all the leaves.

Burn Valley

Problems in Burn Valley Gardens caused by anti-social behaviour meaning residents were scared to go in.

Lack of children's play equipment in that area and bad smells.

Problems caused by cars parked during school run in Elwick Road. One child has already been knocked down. The Highways, Traffic and Transport Manager confirmed that this area was included in the traffic enforcement programme due to its proximity to Eldon Grange Academy.

Drivers using Stockton Road and Blakelock Gardens as a racetrack.

Blakelock Gardens' residents had requested residents only parking due to business users parking outside their properties.

Gullies near Burn Valley roundabout need to be cleaned out as rain water was currently lying on top of the debris. The Highways, Traffic and Transport Manager noted this.

Could road sweepers be deployed the day after bin collections rather than day before which had previously been the case? The Team Leader for Operations and Ground Maintenance confirmed that this was the usual practice however this schedule could be changed due to a customer request or report of fly tipping

Problems with landlords on Oxford Road. A Councillor advised that regeneration of the area was being looked at particularly in terms of the Council purchasing empty properties in affected areas to prevent more 'problem' tenants being moved in. Resources were limited but regeneration of this kind was a priority.

Victoria

Problems with Friday bin collections. Bins were being tipped up, searched through and removed from the back streets. Unfair that residents were being asked to pay £25 for a replacement. The Community Safety Operations Manager confirmed that there were a number of active cases relating to this and legislation would be used. He advised that part of the problem was new tenants did not always have bins but it was up to the landlords to provide them.

16. Rossmere Park – Verbal Update *(Heritage and Countryside Manager)*

The Heritage and Countryside Manager advised those present that the tender process had started on the first phase of the park regeneration. This was based on the 2015 master plan and included the provision of a new main play area, a toddler play area, a car park within the park and a new events area. Bids had been submitted and were currently being considered.

A Councillor commented that residents had been promised a further consultation on the plans prior to the tender process commencing. The

Heritage and Countryside Manager indicated that an information session would take place when the successful contractor had been chosen in order to discuss the proposals in an open forum. The Councillor reported that 2 benches had already been removed for the existing play area. The Team Leader for Operations and Ground Maintenance suggested these may have been removed for safety reasons however the Councillor commented that they were brand new.

A resident referred to concerns at the placement of a car park within the park due to concerns around paedophilia. A Councillor commented that he understood more people had been in support of the car park than had been against as they felt it would be safer in terms of taking young children there. The Council's Safeguarding Team had been consulted and had raised no objections. The resident reiterated the previous comments that a consultation was needed as the plans had been amended since 2015 when the previous consultation had taken place. A Councillor indicated that he had contacted the person responsible for the provision of the grant monies but they had been unable to help. The Chair suggested that the Councillor should ask the officers for a copy of the plans.

17. Any Other Business which the Chair Considers Urgent

The Chair 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.

The Team Leader for Operations and Ground Maintenance gave a brief overview on the deep cleansing work which was currently underway in the De Brus and Foggy Furze Wards and how it will be rolled out across all wards in Hartlepool. Following concerns which had been raised by residents and ward members funding had been acquired for the temporary employment of 8 additional environmental operatives to spend approximately a month deep cleaning in each ward within Hartlepool. This would involve the digging out of gutters strimming weeds and basic attention to detail which was not always possible given the limited resources available within the department. He highlighted that there were currently 55 members of permanent staff and 8 casual staff tasked to all general cleaning and maintenance of the whole town including marking out and cutting 32 football pitches, maintaining 9 bowling greens, 4 cemeteries, cutting back of shrubs and trees, cutting all grassed areas and litter/dog bin servicing, beach cleansing, responding to customer and ward members queries. The equipment available to do this consisted of 2 large mechanical sweepers, 4 small mechanical sweepers, 8 ride-on mowers and 2 tractors. He acknowledged that there would always be some litter on the streets at some point but it was never on the ground for long and he felt that the standard of cleanliness and grounds maintenance in Hartlepool was very good when compared to other places

A Councillor asked whether officers visited schools to educate children on these matters. The Team Leader for Operations and Ground Maintenance confirmed that they did.

A resident queried whether fly tipping had increased following the introduction of charges at the Household Waste Recycling Centre. The Team Leader for Operations and Ground Maintenance advised that this varied day by day while a Councillor clarified that residents could still take all rubbish apart from rubble to the recycling centre free of charge. The Charges had been introduced to prevent small businesses using the facility for free.

A resident asked if action could be taken to prevent children riding their bikes on pavements. The Team Leader for Operations and Ground Maintenance indicated that this was a police enforcement matter.

The Chair thanked the Team Leader for Operations and Ground Maintenance for attending the meeting and answering questions.

The meeting concluded at 11.55am.

CHAIR