

NORTH AND COASTAL COMMUNITY FORUM



Tuesday 4 December 2018

at 10.30am

in Committee Room B, Civic Centre, Hartlepool

NORTH AND COASTAL COMMUNITY FORUM:

Councillors Belcher, Black, Brewer, Brown, Cassidy, Cook, Fleming, Harrison, Little, McLaughlin, Moore, Robinson, Smith, Tennant and Thomas

- 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**
- 2. TO RECEIVE ANY DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS**
- 3. MINUTES**
 - 3.1 To confirm the minutes of the Neighbourhood 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*
- 7.3 Sea Defences – Verbal Update – *Principal Engineer (Construction)*

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS WHICH THE CHAIR CONSIDERS URGENT

Next meeting – Tuesday 12th March at 1.00pm in Committee Room B



NORTH AND COASTAL COMMUNITY FORUM MINUTES

25th September 2018

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

Present:

Chair: Councillor Brenda Harrison - De Bruce

Councillor James Black - Seaton
Councillor Tom Cassidy - Hart
Councillor Rob Cook - De Bruce
Councillor Sue Little - Seaton
Councillor John Tennant - Jesmond
Councillor Stephen Thomas - De Bruce

Police Representatives: Chief Inspector Nigel Burnell

Fire Brigade Representative: Darren Lane

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

8. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were submitted by Councillors Tim Fleming, Marjorie James, Mike McLaughlin, Shane Moore, Jean Robinson and Leisa Smith.

9. Declarations of Interest

None

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

The minutes were confirmed

11. Matters Arising

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

advised that a member of the planning team would provide an update on the town plan later in the meeting.

12. 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.

A resident noted that PCSOs were no longer as visible as they had been previously and asked what the options were for contacting them, particularly as many people were reluctant to put issues or allegations in writing. Chief Inspector Burnell suggested that people use the Community Safety email or Crimestoppers if they wished to remain anonymous. A resident highlighted that a lot of elderly people did not use email so an email address was useless to them. In terms of attending community meetings and ward surgeries Chief Inspector Burnell advised that police representatives were based in the Community hubs but there did not seem to be any public awareness of this so this may need to be rethought. He acknowledged the importance of community engagement and confirmed he would look at officers and PCSOs attending more public meetings even if only for a brief period. In terms of the hubs the Chair felt there needed to be more public awareness of the work being carried out there. A Councillor confirmed that he had spoken to the Assistant Director for Preventative and Community Based Services around making the hubs more accessible to the wider communities and improving publicity.

A Councillor referred to a recent issue at a ward surgery which had led to an emergency call and asked whether PCSOs or Enforcement Officers could attend such meetings in the future. Chief Inspector Burnell acknowledged these concerns but felt that it was no longer possible for police to be automatically in attendance given the number of meetings and cuts in the police force. It was all about prioritisation and most times there would be no requirement for a police presence. A Councillor highlighted the murder of MP Jo Cox and the fact that Council officers would not attend a known 'problem' residence on their own whereas Councillors often would. Chief Inspector Burnell commented that this was a national concern and

suggested that some thought be given to potential situations before they arose maybe including the agreement of certain tolerance levels. There would inevitably be some delay when calling the emergency number so this should not be the fallback position. If potential issues were flagged up in advance officers could mitigate against them.

A Councillor queried how successful a recent off-road bike enforcement operation had been. Chief Inspector Burnell confirmed that 2 vehicles had been seized and a number of others reported. A section 59 warning notice had also been issued. He urged residents to keep reporting these incidents as police relied on this information to seize what they could within the appropriate legislation.

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

13. Fire Service Update

Darren Lane, Community Liaison Officer for Cleveland Fire Brigade, that in the last 3 months there had been 17 F1 (monetary value) fires across Hartlepool and 192 F3 (non-monetary value) fires, 121 of which took place in the North and Coastal area. 40 of these had taken place in Seaton Carew which was now classed as a main hotspot primarily due to the hot weather and school leavers burning their books. 13 home visits had also been undertaken. In terms of bonfire night they were adopting a more low key approach with no planned advertising on social media. Residents were urged to only attend organised display and refrain from letting off fireworks in gardens. Fire officers would patrol areas in the weeks before and any pile of refuse of potential bonfires would be removed.

A resident asked whether charges could be brought against people setting fire to the sand dunes. The Community Liaison Officer said it was an issue of identification as CCTV coverage did not stretch that far. It was important that the public provide descriptions which could be used with existing CCTV to identify the culprits. He urged the public not to try to tackle such fire themselves. Plans were in place to attend schools before Summer 2019 to highlight the dangers and potential consequences of starting fires.

A resident reported that vandals were starting to target Admiral Court on the Central Estate which had been empty for 2 years. Mr Lane confirmed that the fire brigade were aware of this and had recently carried out an arson audit inspection. Efforts were being made to find the owner.

A Councillor referred to a spate of recent fires on Tees Bay and suggested that nearby businesses be asked to provide CCTV footage to aid identification. Mr Lane would inform his fire crews of this suggestion.

A Councillor queried how many fires had occurred outside of the agreed times at the allotments near Jesmond Garden as it was affecting the washing of those living nearby. Mr Lane would find out

A Councillor thanked fire officers for their work with home inspections as it had previously helped to identify vulnerable people living in dangerous conditions.

14. 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

The Chair noted that as part of the deep cleansing programme Councillors had been asked to make a list of high priority areas in their wards. However she had witnessed areas being cleaned that had not been on that list. The Team Leader for Operations and Ground Maintenance commented that he had not been given a copy of this list.

A resident asked that the area under the railway bridge at Headland and Harbour be looked at due to large amounts of weeds, fly tipped goods and discarded needles.

A Councillor suggested that more be done to publicise how much work was done by the cleansing department using small amounts of resources and limited staff. He also felt residents needed to be informed that the weed killers currently in use would only work for a limited time. The Team Leader for Operations and Ground Maintenance acknowledged this but said the more potent weed killers could not be used as they were not

environmentally friendly.

A Councillor highlighted problems with wasps near the big belly bins in Seaton Carew. The Team Leader for Operations and Ground Maintenance advised that this would always be a problem but the bins had recently been cleaned out and disinfected.

15. Public Question Time and Ward Issues

Problems raised around motorists driving into West View Cemetery, causing damage to turf and damaging/parking on graves. The Chair acknowledged this was a problem in West View and Stranton Cemeteries. She felt the signage needed to be clearer and enforcement carried out.

Bollard missing on the public walkway from Joyce Road to West View Road causing drivers to use it as a rat run. The Community Safety Operations Manager noted this.

What were the results of the recent consultation regarding dogs being on leads on the North Sands? The Community Safety Operations Manager advised that this was due to finish on 30th September with a report to Neighbourhood Services Committee at the end of the year or early the following year. The results would also come back to this meeting.

Had Councillors undertaken a site visit to the coastal walkway as had previously been promised? The Community Safety Operations Manager confirmed Councillors had met with the Footpaths Officer.

Could a missing gate at the Community Garden on Burbank Street be replaced? The Community Cohesion Officer advised that these gates had originally been funded by 3 Rivers Housing. The Chair asked officers to look into a possible replacement.

Could the policy of dogs on leads be revisited as children were becoming scared by unrestrained dogs? There also needed to be more enforcement around dog fouling. The Community Safety Operations Manager highlighted proposals to make it an offence if a dog owner did not have dog foul bags with them when walking their dog. In terms of a requirement for dog leads he was not aware of any byelaws apart from possibly Seaton Carew promenade. A resident understood there was legislation requiring dogs in a public place to be on a lead.

16. Seaton Regeneration Project – Verbal Update *(Regeneration Team Leader)*

This item was deferred to the next meeting.

The meeting concluded at 2:15pm.

CHAIR