

NORTH AND COASTAL COMMUNITY FORUM



Tuesday 12 March 2019

at 1.00pm

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 4th December 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 Stagecoach – Presentation

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

7.3 Headland Sea Defences – Verbal Update – *Principal Engineer (Construction)*

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS WHICH THE CHAIR CONSIDERS URGENT

Next meeting – to be confirmed



NORTH AND COASTAL COMMUNITY FORUM MINUTES

4th December 2018

The meeting commenced at 10.00am in the Civic Centre, Hartlepool

Present:

Chair: Councillor Shane Moore - Headland and Harbour
Councillor James Brewer - Hart
Councillor Tom Cassidy - Hart
Councillor Rob Cook - De Bruce
Councillor Brenda Harrison - De Bruce
Councillor Sue Little - Seaton

Police Representatives: Chief Inspector Nigel Burnell

Fire Brigade Representative: Darren Lane

Officers: Phil Hepburn, Community Safety Operations Manager
Irene Cross, Community Cohesion Officer
Deborah Hannaby, Seascapes Engagement Officer
Jo Stubbs, Democratic Services Officer

17. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were submitted by Councillors Tim Fleming, Jean Robinson, John Tennant and Steve Thomas.

18. Declarations of Interest

None

19. Minutes of the meeting held on 25th September 2018

The minutes were confirmed

20. Matters Arising

A resident queried when an update on the town plan would be provided. The Community Safety Operations Manager advised that the officers had previously been unable to attend. However they were due to give an update on the Seaton Regeneration Project later in the meeting.

21. Police Update

Chief Inspector Nigel Burnell gave a brief update on the work carried out by the Community Safety Team. This included several days of action, arrests, a closure order on a premises in Wynyard Mews, enforcement patrols, a week of work in Rossmere Park, litter and dog fouling enforcement, the issuing of a criminal behaviour order and a harassment injunction, fixed penalty notices and work with trading standards to stop illegal taxis. Over 35 anti-social behaviour orders had also been issued.

A Councillor referred to a recent BBC report regarding evening policing. Chief Inspector Burnell acknowledged the concerns which had been raised in relation to the broadcast but clarified that reporters had only been working with the response unit which was a small part of the overall service provided by the police. The reports were accurate in terms of the number of officers that had been available during that shift but this showed the challenges faced by the police with limited resources at their disposal. A Councillor suggested that the police should be emphasising the number of officers outside of the response unit including CID and neighbourhood officers as the impression given was that there were 10 police officers in the whole of Hartlepool. A resident referred to concerns around the public becoming involved but Chief Inspector Burnell clarified that without public assistance and support the job of the police would be even more difficult. He also noted that Stockton officers would often assist in Hartlepool at peak times.

A resident noted that all the action days referred to had taken place in the Central and South areas despite there also being problems in the North. Chief Inspector Burnell acknowledged this but advised that the localities for action days were prioritised based on community intelligence. Day to day policing continued to take place across the town. Following comments at the previous community forums efforts were being made by the police to attend more public meetings and ward surgeries and moves were ongoing to dedicate PCSOs to specific areas to build up community links. Concerns were raised however that no one officer would be physically able to attend all the public meetings across one ward. A Councillor queried whether services would be further cut to pay for dedicated PCSOs but Chief Inspector Burnell confirmed that existing resources would be utilised.

A Councillor highlighted problems with children breaking windows on Seaton Lane. Chief Inspector Burnell was not aware of any reports regarding this but he was aware that the public were often reluctant to report such matters to the police particularly if unable to remain anonymous. He suggested that anyone wishing to remain anonymous contact Crimestoppers who would pass information on to the police.

22. Fire Service Update

Darren Lane, Community Liaison Officer for Cleveland Fire Brigade, that there had been a 14% increase in deliberate fires between April and October, mainly involving rubbish and grassland fires. However there had been a decrease in accidental dwelling fires. Work was ongoing to reduce fires resulting from anti-social behaviour, particularly focussing on Headland and Harbour, De Bruce and Seaton wards. Problems had also been noted in the field near the former Saxon pub. Fire officers were working with schools, attending assemblies to advise of the potential consequences of rubbish fires. Residents were also being urged to remove wheelie bins after their rubbish had been collected thereby reducing the temptation.

The Vice-Chair queried whether youngsters starting these fires had been identified. The Community Liason Officer confirmed that CCTV was available in Summerhill however identification was an issue.

A resident noted a number of fires and flytipping had taken place at Clavering Skate Park but the CCTV was too far away to pick anything up.

A Councillor praised the work of the Fire Authority and Fire Brigade considering the cuts they had faced in recent years. He also stated that anyone attacking fire officers carrying out their duties should be imprisoned.

23. Public Question Time and Ward Issues

What were the results of the recent consultation regarding dogs being on leads on the North Sands? The Community Safety Operations Manager advised that the results were currently being assessed and due to be reported to Neighbourhood Services Committee in February 2019.

How much had been raised from the recycling charges and did it cover the costs resulting from increases in flytipping? The Community Safety Operations Manager was unable to give an exact breakdown of costs. The Chair and Vice-Chair both clarified that there was still no charge for the disposal of household waste and that the charges had been brought in to prevent builders charging customers for free disposal. The Community Safety Operations Manager urged the public to be vigilant but a resident advised that flytippers tended to remove all references to their identity before disposing of their rubbish. A Councillor referred to pollution problems caused by burning tyres and praised officers for prosecuting flytippers were possible

A resident noted a lack of information regarding the deep cleansing project locations. The Community Safety Operations Manager indicated that areas had been prioritised but he was unclear how flexible this was. Details of the timetable would be made available should they be requested.

With reference to the proposed new parking areas in Seaton a Councillor queried if these would include additional bins and street cleaning provision.

She also asked if consideration had been given to the seafront being made pedestrian only. The Community Safety Operations Manager advised that the plans were still at the design stage however it had been suggested that there be additional electric vehicle points, extra disabled bays and additional CCTV and lighting. Links would also be provided to existing cycle routes. The Councillor referred to complaints from businesses on The Front at the lack of public toilet provision and asked that signage be provided. The Community Safety Operations Manager would take these comments back to the designers.

A resident highlighted that a fence on Firby Close was in need of repair. There were also issues with weeds growing among the paving slabs and water flooding onto the path and making it slippery, a problem given the number of elderly residents in that area.

24. Seascapes – Tyne to Tees Shores and Seas (*Seascapes Engagement Officer*)

The Seascapes Engagement Officer gave an update on Seascapes is a Landscape Partnership Scheme funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund which would deliver over 25 special projects throughout the area. As well as improving public access to beaches Seascapes would explore the heritage hidden beneath the waves, offering many opportunities for local people to become involved. The themes of the project were Seascape Over Time, Revealing Hidden Heritage, Accessing the Sea and Coastal Champions. The programme was due to last from 2020 to 2024 and plans were already in place to involve local schools and the community via social media. A questionnaire was available online and she urged those present to complete it and give their details in order to get more involved.

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

This item was deferred as the officers were unavailable. A member noted that this was the second time this item had been deferred. The Chair asked that the officers be contacted regarding this.

26. Sea Defences – Verbal Engineer (*Principal Engineer (Construction)*)

This item was deferred. It was noted that the officers had informed the Chair that they would be unable to attend in advance of the meeting.

A resident referred to problems with the new sea defences and queried if the work had been stopped due to a lack of funding. The Chair indicated that he had been informed that the funding was fixed but additional issues around the Heugh end of the works had pushed the cost up. The decision

had therefore been taken to leave the wall from Thorpe Street to the end of Marine Drive as this was felt to be in better condition and simply blend the new wall into the existing wall in that area. The Chair had been approached multiple times with queries around these works which was the reason he had asked the officers to attend this meeting.

27. Next meeting

It was highlighted that the information regarding the next meeting on the agenda was incorrect. The next meeting would take place on Tuesday 12th March at 1pm.

The meeting concluded at 12 noon.

CHAIR