

SOUTH AND CENTRAL COMMUNITY FORUM AGENDA



Tuesday 25th June

at 1.00pm

in Committee Room B, Civic Centre, Hartlepool

MEMBERS: SOUTH AND CENTRAL COMMUNITY FORUM:

Councillors C Akers-Belcher, S Akers-Belcher, Buchan, Cartwright, Hall, Hamilton, Howson, Hunter, James, Lauderdale, Lindridge, Loynes, Marshall, Mincher, C Richardson, T Richardson, Stokell 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 meeting held on 12th March 2019
 - 3.2 Matters arising.
- 4. QUESTIONS FOR THE POLICE**
- 5. QUESTIONS FOR THE FIRE BRIGADE**
- 6. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME and WARD ISSUES (maximum of 30 minutes)**
- 7. ITEMS FOR CONSULTATION**



8. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND/OR INFORMATION

8.1 Rossmere Park – verbal update – *Coast, Countryside and Heritage Manager*

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS WHICH THE CHAIR CONSIDERS URGENT

Next meeting –

Tuesday 24th September at 10.30am in Committee Room B



SOUTH AND CENTRAL COMMUNITY FORUM MINUTES

12 March 2019

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 Bob Buchan	- Fens and Rossmere
	Councillor Kevin Cranney	- Foggy Furze
	Councillor Ged Hall	- Burn Valley
	Councillor John Lauderdale	- Burn Valley
	Councillor Brenda Loynes	- Rural West
	Councillor Tony Richardson	- Fens and Rossmere

Officers: Phil Hepburn, Community Safety Operations Manager
Peter Frost, Highways, Traffic and Transport Team Leader
Matthew King, Planning Policy Team Leader
Rob Smith, Regeneration Team Leader
Jo Stubbs, Democratic Services Officer

Police Representatives: Chief Inspector Nigel Burnell and Inspector Darren Bainbridge

Fire Brigade Representative: Darren Lane

Stagecoach Representatives: Shaun Anderson and Nathan Stanislawski

27. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were submitted by Councillors Stephen Akers-Belcher, Allan Barclay, Marjorie James, Jim Lindridge, George Morris, Carl Richardson and Mike Young.

28. Chair

The Chair advised that she may be unable to stay for the full duration of the meeting due to a prior commitment and requested that in the absence of the Vice-Chair that a chair be appointed from the floor to take over should this be required. Councillor Kevin Cranney was nominated.

29. Declarations of Interest

None

30. Minutes of the meeting held on 4th December 2018.

The minutes were approved

31. Matters Arising

None

32. Questions for the Police

Chief Inspector Nigel Burnell gave a brief update on the work being carried out by the police. This included the issuing of warrants, closure orders and community protection notices. Operation Endurance had seen the successful impounding of illegally held off-road vehicles, quad bikes and unlicensed vehicles. There had been an increase in usage of the domestic violence disclosure scheme. Efforts were being made to continue protecting residents and their neighbourhoods and updates were regularly posted on social media.

A resident commented that not everyone had access to social media and suggested that updates should also be posted in the press. The Leader of the Council confirmed that updates of this kind could in the future be disseminated via Hartlepool Life and Hartbeat. A resident noted that they did not always receive their copy of Hartbeat. The Leader confirmed that the delivery rounds would be checked. A Councillor suggested police updates could also be included in Ward Councillor newsletters.

A resident requested details of how cyclists riding on pavements were being dealt with. Chief Inspector Burnell confirmed that where possible police would stop and report these actions but these were low priority compared to emergency calls. He acknowledged that pedestrians were being impacted and felt that educating cyclists as to their responsibilities should be given greater weight.

A Councillor advised that he had received a number of complaints from residents who had reported crimes but not subsequently received an update as promised. Chief Inspector Burnell acknowledged this but given reductions in the number of police and PCSOs did not see this as a priority. If people could give him individual examples he would be happy to look into these cases personally. A Councillor acknowledged the impact budget cuts had on the police but felt the public perception was that they were paying for an insufficient service.

A Councillor requested an update on knife crime in Hartlepool. Chief Inspector Burnell referred to a knife surrender bin which had recently been

installed in the police station as part of a national campaign. A report on this issue was due to go to Safer Hartlepool Partnership in the future however he felt that the issues seen elsewhere in the country were not evident in the Hartlepool area.

A resident referred to ongoing problems with drugs in the Cornwall Street area. They had made multiple reports to the police but had received no updates. Chief Inspector Burnell advised that updates on intelligence of this kind were often not forthcoming due to the sensitive nature of ongoing investigations however people should continue to make reports to the police otherwise they could do nothing. He also noted that warrants to raid houses may not wipe out the problem entirely but would cause disruption. A resident referred to cuts in policing saying that people often preferred to speak to an officer on the beat rather than call an information line. Chief Inspector Burnell agreed that he would prefer more officers and a bigger budget but he had to work within the limits of what he had. A resident referred to a previous instance when she had reported a cannabis farm to Crimestoppers and the Police but no action had been taken. The Chair acknowledged this but asked those present to focus on current issues rather than past problems.

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

33. Questions for the Fire Brigade

Darren Lane, Community Liaison Officer for Cleveland Fire Brigade, gave a brief update on the work being undertaken by the Brigade. There had been a rise in deliberate fires, refuse fires and an increase in incidents of wheelie bins being set alight by kids getting high on the fumes. Efforts were being made to educate children as to the dangers of this through secondary school assemblies. Ways to secure bins to properties so they could not be removed were also being explored. A week of action would be taking place in Manor House ward involving leaflet drops and offers of Fire Home Safety Visits to the residents.

A resident asked what impact the Council's decision to charge for disposal of waste was having in terms of fly tipping. Mr Lane indicated that recycling of household waste was free and only disposal of bigger items was chargeable. A resident felt that it should be the Council's responsibility to dispose of any larger items free of charge if the owner did not have the money or means to dispose of it themselves and all other avenues had failed. A resident queried whether it would be free to dispose of an old bathroom suite. A Councillor noted that the Council currently operate a waste collection service – charging £20 for the removal of 3 items with a 50% reduction for those on benefits. The Chair suggested that a list of chargeable and non-chargeable items be put into the next edition of Hartbeat.

The Chair thanked Mr Lane for attending the meeting and answering

questions.

34. Public Question Time and Ward Issues

A resident read a brief statement on behalf of the Oxford Road Residents Association regarding issues in the Oxford Road/Cornwall Street area, specifically in relation to the Council's current Landlord Licensing policy. They felt that private landlords were not vetting prospective tenants rigorously enough and this was leading to criminality, violence on the streets and anti-social behaviour. Reference was made to correspondence from Hartlepool MP Mike Hill. The resident asked that the Council implement a rigorous Landlord Licensing Scheme enforcing to the letter a landlords responsibilities in terms of proper vetting, outward appearance of their properties and a requirement that tenants conduct themselves in a civilized manner. Should eviction be required it should be enforced in a timely fashion.

Councillor Ann Marshall left the meeting.

Councillor Kevin Cranney in the Chair

The Chair agreed with the comments made by the residents. He advised that this area had been made a priority in the ongoing regeneration of Hartlepool as a whole. Speaking as a former chair of the Selective Licensing Committee he was aware of the problems however legislation made it difficult to take action without multiple reports of anti-social behaviour across streets. The Chair pledged to arrange a meeting between residents and Councillors to look at what action could be taken to rectify some of these problems. The Chair of the Stockton Road Residents Association expressed an interest in becoming involved. The Secretary of the Oxford Road Residents Association indicated he would be happy for her to be involved.

A resident requested information on fines given out for dog fouling and asked that more dog foul bins be erected in Cornwall Street. The Community Safety Operations Manager was unable to give exact details of the number of fines which had been issued but new enforcement laws had recently been enacted requiring dog walkers to have collection bags on their person at all times. These bags could be disposed of in any litter bin so the Council were no longer erecting additional dog foul bins. Residents noted that dog fouling often occurred at night but he confirmed that enforcement officers provided an out of hours service. A Ward Councillor advised that bins had previously been removed due to expense when emptying them. He referred to a consultation event due to take place 19th March 3pm-7pm and urged residents to be involved.

A resident requested additional litter bins in the Burn Valley area.

A resident referred to efforts by the Oxford Street Residents Association to convert a grassed area for parking.

A resident referred to road works around the Burn Valley roundabout caused by a gas leak and asked that residents be kept better informed of these matters. The Chair reported that the recall of the gas board had been fast in this case.

A resident requested an update on the damaged playground equipment in the Burn Valley. The Community Safety Operations Manager advised that there had been fire damage. He would speak to the playground inspector regarding this matter. The Chair commented that supplies of play equipment were not kept aside so replacement could take months. The Leader of the Council noted that the installation of CCTV in all town parks had recently been approved.

35. Stagecoach

Nathan Stanislawski, Operations Manager for Stagecoach on Teesside, was present with his colleague Shaun Anderson. He advised that the company were trying to become more integrated with the communities they served and as such invited those present to highlight any issues they might have with the services provided in order that solutions be found.

A resident referred to problems with buses speeding along Rossmere Way. He had emailed the company repeatedly and been told this was not the case. Promises had been made 2 years ago to monitor the situation but nothing had happened thus far. Mr Stanislawski acknowledged that speeding was a concern, saying Stagecoach had been a keen advocate of a recent speed campaign carried out by Cleveland Police. However every vehicle in Stagecoach's fleet was equipped with telematics giving details of what speeds the vehicle was doing at any given time and so far no concerns had been flagged up of any drivers speeding in that area.

A Councillor asked whether a bus stop could be moved and a crossing installed. Mr Stanislawski indicated that these were matters for the Local Authority. The Council's Highways, Traffic and Transport Team Leader was aware of this request but following consultation with Stagecoach officers had been unable to identify a suitable alternative location. The Councillor referred to a bus stop in another location which had been moved to what appeared to be a 'worse place' but the officer advised that this work had not yet been completed.

A resident referred to changes which had been made to the no3 and no4 bus route. Buses were now using Blakelock Gardens as a thoroughfare which was a tight squeeze with cars parked either side. Changes had also been made to routes and stops in St Aidans meaning people were not aware of which stop they should use. She asked that in future a public consultation take place before changes were made. Mr Stanislawski

advised that Stagecoach were trying to involve the public more in the services they provided hence their presence here today. He would be happy to consider any amendments to routes that people wished to suggest. The Chair asked that any more detailed discussions wait until after the meeting.

The Chair thanked Mr Stanislawski and Mr Anderson for attending the meeting and answering questions.

36. Seaton Regeneration Project

The Regeneration Team Leader gave a brief update on the current progress of the Seaton Regeneration Project. This was a £1.3million scheme on the seafront funded by the Coastal Communities Fund and Able UK. So far additions to the seafront included a children's play park and water play area, 2 pieces of artwork and multiple benches along the promenade. The bus station and clock tower had been refurbished and CCTV installed with plans to plant bulbs outside the tower at the appropriate time. A miniature golf course was due to open later in the month and beach huts were expected to be ready in time for Easter. The Leader of the Council also highlighted plans to extend the car park at Seaton to enable greater visitor numbers in the summer.

The Chair requested an update on Longscar Hall. The Regeneration Team Leader advised that following the failed CPO a legal notice had been served on the owners to repair or demolish the site. They had previously given an undertaking that they would refurbish the building within 16 months of the failure of the CPO process and had not done so. If a future demolition was funded by the Council the costs could be recouped from the owners through a charge on the land.

A Councillor referred to complaints about the toilets on the seafront. The Regeneration Team Leader was not aware of any planned improvements. The Leader suggested this be referred to the Neighbourhood Investment Programme.

A Councillor referred to a number of other disused buildings in the town in need of action. The Community Safety Operations Manager confirmed that multi-agency work was ongoing to create a list of the top 10 most vulnerable buildings in Hartlepool. In terms of the Wesley the Leader confirmed that a planning application for a hotel conversion had been received.

The Chair thanked the Regeneration Team Leader for attending the meeting and answering questions.

The meeting concluded at 12 noon

CHAIR