

NORTH AND COASTAL COMMUNITY FORUM AGENDA



Tuesday 24th September 2019

at 1.00pm

in Committee Room B, Civic Centre, Hartlepool

MEMBERS: NORTH AND COASTAL NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM:

Councillors Black, Brewer, Brown, Cassidy, King, Fleming, Harrison, Johnson, Little, Moore, Prince, Smith, Tennant, Thomas and Ward.

- 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**
- 2. TO RECEIVE ANY DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS**
- 3. MINUTES**
 - 3.1 To confirm the minutes of the North and Coastal Neighbourhood Forum meeting held on 25th June 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 Play Activities – *Participation and Strategy Manager*

8.2 Hartlepool Community Safety Team - Presentation – *Victim Services Officer*

8.3 Cycling Network Update - Presentation – *Sustainable Travel Officer*

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS WHICH THE CHAIR CONSIDERS URGENT

Next meeting –

Tuesday 26th November at 10.30am in Committee Room B



NORTH AND COASTAL COMMUNITY FORUM MINUTES

25th June 2019

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

Present:

Chair:	Councillor Leisa Smith	-	Seaton
Vice Chair:	Councillor Sue Little	-	Seaton
	Councillor Tim Fleming	-	Headland and Harbour
	Councillor Brenda Harrison	-	De Bruce
	Councillor Karen King	-	De Bruce
	Councillor Shane Moore	-	Headland and Harbour
	Councillor Amy Prince	-	Jesmond
	Councillor John Tennant	-	Jesmond

Police Representative: PC Geoff Coggin

Fire Brigade Representative: Darren Lane

Officers: Phil Hepburn, Enforcement and Car Parking Services Manager
Sarah Scarr, Coast, Countryside and Heritage Manager
Garry Jones, Team Leader (Cleansing and Grounds Maintenance)
Jo Stubbs, Democratic Services Officer

1. Apologies for Absence

No apologies were submitted during the meeting, however apologies for Councillor Paddy Brown were written on the attendance sheet

2. Declarations of Interest

None

3. Minutes of the meeting held on 12th March 2019

The minutes were approved

4. Questions for the Police

PC Geoff Coggin gave a brief update on the work which had been carried out by the police since the previous meeting. There had been a 9% increase in criminal offences in Hartlepool. This included violent offences however PC Coggin advised that violent offences encompassed cyber crimes which were not 'violent' in the traditional sense. Domestic violence had reduced by 1% in the previous year, which was a positive result given the increased media focus on this issue. It was also positive in terms of how time consuming domestic violence investigations were, leaving officers with more time to devote to other crimes and investigations. PC Coggin also advised that more officers had recently been transferred to neighbourhood policing in Hartlepool giving more opportunity for local intelligence gathering. There were also increased numbers answering emergency calls all of which was contributing to Hartlepool getting some of its resilience back. He urged people to contact the police with any concerns they may have in their local neighbourhoods.

A member highlighted residents' concerns that police were not responding to phone calls or incident reports and consequently areas within the De Bruce Ward were being deemed 'safe' due to a lack of reported incidents. PC Coggin was aware of anti-social behaviour issues in that area and would be taking action to combat it as soon as he was able. Ward officers would collect information and make contact with the residents.

A resident referred to a pledge that had been made at the previous meeting that police would attend ward surgeries and residents meetings in the future. So far this had not happened. PC Coggin apologised for this and took the details of any future meetings in an effort to schedule a police presence in the future.

The Chair raised concerns around children gaining access to a derelict nursing home in Seaton and what could potentially happen. The Enforcement and Car Parking Services Manager confirmed that a notice had been served on the owners.

A resident queried the official policy around cars parking on the pavement specifically on Seaview Terrace. PC Coggin advised that it was an offence to cause an obstruction on the pavement and anything doing so could legally be removed. He would send officers over to the area in question and discuss these issues with the Headland Parish Council. The Enforcement and Car Parking Services Manager noted that in some cases drivers had to park on the pavement in order to allow the smooth flow of traffic due to the narrowness of some roads in the town and it was at the discretion of the police whether or not it was obstruction. He acknowledged that developers and planning officers should consider these issues when planning new developments.

A resident queried how calls to the police were logged specifically whether a call on behalf of a number of residents was logged as 1 call or a number of calls. PC Coggin suspected such calls would be logged as a single call.

A resident referred to problems with speeding traffic at the Headland and Seaton despite both areas being 20 mph zones. He asked that the police camera van carry out spot checks as signage had no impact.

The Vice-Chair reported vandalism and arson attacks to the park and sensory garden at Seaton and requested greater police presence on weekend evenings as a deterrent. The Chair supported this commenting that the police needed to go into schools and talk to children and young people to deter them from bad behaviour. PC Coggin advised that there was a package in place to engage more with children of all ages following concerns particularly around the behaviour of older children. The Chair referred to a recent incident when she had been threatened by a number of children outside her home but despite having given police the names of the perpetrators no action had been taken. PC Coggin acknowledged this but said he was doing as much as he could and did not have the manpower to do more at the moment.

A member highlighted problems with unregistered off-road vehicles across the town particularly in the Burbank area and on the beach near Steetley and the Sand Dunes. PC Coggin confirmed that officers were aware of this and action was being taken to deal with the perpetrators.

A discarded gas canister had been found at Seaton. The Chair noted that such items were readily available in shops and to take enforcement action would require a change in the law.

The Chair thanked PC Coggin for attending the meeting and answering questions.

5. Questions for the Fire Brigade

Darren Lane, Community Liason Officer for Cleveland Fire Brigade, gave a brief update on the work being undertaken by the Brigade. There had been an over 50% rise in deliberate fires although the number of deliberate primary fires and dwelling fires had reduced. He gave detailed statistics on the number of deliberate fires in each ward and advised that the majority of fires tended to take place during the evening. Work was also ongoing around securing derelict buildings, following some success with the demolition of the Longscar. A group named Urban Explorers had been posting images from inside buildings such as the former Odeon and Wesley online and there was some concern that this could lead to others taking similar action. Work was also ongoing with schools in the area following a number of incidents of arson at Summerhill. The Chair highlighted the presence of a homeless man in the Wesley building should there be problems in the future. The Community Liason Officer was aware of this.

The Chair thanked the Community Liason Officer for attending the meeting and answering questions.

6. Public Question Time and Ward Issues

A resident highlighted problems with people driving across graves in West View Cemetery when overtaking. A Ward Member advised that over the last year a campaign had been run encouraging people to show respect when visiting cemeteries. There had been more focus on Stranton Cemetery simply because drivers were using it as a thoroughfare however more signage was needed in West View Cemetery advising that vehicles should not be driven past a certain point and cars should be parked on the main road. The Team Leader (Cleansing and Grounds Maintenance) indicated that maintenance staff would speak to people who were using cars were they should not but the response could be abusive so they were advised to walk away. He also noted that in some cases the elderly struggled to walk to certain sites. The Chair confirmed that she would raise this issue with the Assistant Director for Environment and Neighbourhood Services.

A member referred to problems with speeding traffic in a number of wards within Hartlepool and suggested that a townwide campaign on dangerous driving be undertaken. PC Coggin confirmed that he would forward this suggestion to his superiors while the Chair suggested it be a courteous driving campaign meaning the issues in West View Cemetery could be included.

The Vice-Chair queried whether it would be possible to include children's water play areas in some of the town's parks. She also asked if smoking could be banned in parks however the Enforcement and Car Parking Services Manager was unsure if this would be legal in an open space without an addition to the existing public space protection orders. The Chair noted that signage of this type had been installed at the Seaton water play area. The Enforcement and Car Parking Services Manager confirmed it was possible provided it could be justified.

A resident requested statistical information on the fines issued by the enforcement team for dog fouling, smoking and litter. The Enforcement and Car Parking Services Manager advised that the annual report which included this information was available on the Council's website. He disputed the suggestion that enforcement was not being carried out but said it was sometimes difficult and could be labour intensive. However where possible enforcement was carried out.

A resident highlighted issues with the completion of the Seaton play area, specifically the grassed area. Officers would raise this with the Council's Architect and Landscape Team Leader. The resident also queried whether the contractors who had carried out the works to the Church Street area were liable for a set period. The Enforcement and Car Parking Services Manager confirmed that retention money was applicable and could be claimed back if the work was not of an appropriate standard.

A resident queried when work on the Headland Sea Defences would start, how long it was expected to take and whether the promenade would be closed for the duration. Officers would ask the Transport and Infrastructure Manager and feedback his response.

The meeting concluded at 11:50am

CHAIR