

SOUTH AND CENTRAL COMMUNITY FORUM AGENDA



Tuesday 24th September 2019

at 10.30am

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

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

9. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS WHICH THE CHAIR CONSIDERS URGENT**

Next meeting –

Tuesday 26th November at 1.00pm in Committee Room B



SOUTH AND CENTRAL COMMUNITY FORUM MINUTES

25th June 2019

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

Present:

Vice Chair:	Councillor David Mincher	-	Manor House
	Councillor Bob Buchan	-	Fens and Rossmere
	Councillor Ged Hall	-	Burn Valley
	Councillor Dave Hunter	-	Burn Valley
	Councillor Marjorie James	-	Manor House
	Councillor John Lauderdale	-	Burn Valley
	Councillor Jim Lindridge	-	Fens and Rossmere
	Councillor Ann Marshall	-	Foggy Furze
	Councillor Tony Richardson	-	Fens and Rossmere
	Councillor Cameron Stokell	-	Rural West

Police Representative: PC Geoff Coggin

Fire Brigade Representative: Darren Lane

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

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were submitted by Councillors Christopher Akers-Belcher, Stephen Akers-Belcher, Lee Cartwright and Brenda Loynes

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 resident raised concern around cyclists mounting the pavements and potentially knocking over pedestrians.

A resident praised the police for their work combating drugs in Cornwall Street. PC Coggin confirmed there had been a number of arrests and work was ongoing in that area

A member reported problems with bikes of all kinds mounting pavements in various Manor ward areas. She urged residents to report the location of these bikes to the police or their ward members. PC Coggin reiterated this advice. Another member reported similar problems with off-road bikes on the Fens Estate and across the town and suggested that evasive action be taken such as the installation of cameras or the erection of barriers. He also suggested that officers look into the work carried out by the Police and Crime Commissioner's Task and Finish Group on Eston Hill to discover best practice in a similar situation. PC Coggin acknowledged that people were afraid to report those responsible for fear of retribution however there were multiple avenues to make confidential reports including Crimestoppers, Police 101 and the Council and Councillors. A member commented that residents tended not to phone Police 101 due to long answering times and requested statistics on the number of calls made and the results of these. He also queried who would be held accountable if a pedestrian was hit by an off-roader. A resident noted that when she had phoned Police 101 regarding an ongoing incident she had been told the police would be unable to help. She questioned the point of phoning the police and commented on the reduced number of officers in Hartlepool. The Enforcement and Car Parking Services Manager indicated that Chief Inspector Burnell had given information regarding police funding cuts at the previous Forums.

A member reported cars were parking on the field near Masfield Road and Huxley Walk during the school run and urged officers to take enforcement action as this was a risk to other children who used to field to cross into Rift House School. PC Coggin indicated that similar issues at West Park

Primary School had been combated through parking enforcement. He would contact Rift House Primary School regarding this matter.

A member advised that the rules regarding the 1-way system and 20 mph speed restrictions in Arncliffe Gardens were being regularly flouted by drivers and asked that enforcement action be taken. A resident noted that the no-entry signage had been turned around. PC Coggin indicated that consideration was being given to a joint enterprise to combat people driving over 20 mph in 20 mph zones.

A Member reported problems with anti-social behaviour and fly tipping on Braemar Road. PC Coggin would provide an update.

A resident and allotment holder advised that he had previously been attacked by a fellow allotment holder however when the victim had contacted the police they had failed to take any further action or speak to the witnesses. The attacker had subsequently committed suicide having admitted his guilt but the police had taken no further action and had told the victim that he would be evicted if it happened again. The Enforcement and Car Parking Services Manager indicated that while the resident could pursue the Council allotment appeals process this was primarily a matter for the police. PC Coggin requested the crime number in order to further investigate the incident.

A Burn Valley resident noted that while a drug dealer in the area had recently been incarcerated another had taken their place. PC Coggin was aware of this and it was being investigated. The Enforcement and Car Parking Services Manager highlighted the positive work being carried out in that area in terms of premises linked to the supply of drugs. PC Coggin referred to similar work in Wynyard Mews. A member advised that young people on bikes were being used to transport drugs across the town. PC Coggin noted the increasing numbers of teenagers being given drug warrants and the need to get the message across via schools.

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

5. 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 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 thanked the Community Liaison Officer for attending the meeting.

6. Public Question Time and Ward Issues

A resident advised that an allotment holder had been erroneously accused by Council officers of moving a microchip from one dog to another. She noted that allotment holders were being constantly intimidated and given warnings by the allotment officer and consequently were unsure of their rights or who was in charge. The Enforcement and Car Parking Services Manager confirmed that all allotment holders were required to sign a tenancy agreement which included details of the rules pertaining to allotment ownership. There was also an allotment forum for tenants and a reporting and complaints procedure. He would take up the specific queries with the allotments team.

A resident also referred to the eviction of an allotment holder for sub-letting and queried what proof the Council held against them. The Heritage and Countryside Manager confirmed that the decision had been based on appropriate information and the subsequent complaint had been considered and was now with the ombudsman. A full answer had been given to the person concerned. A resident raised a similar complaint around the recent removal of CCTV cameras on an allotment site by Council officers. The Enforcement and Car Parking Services Manager suspected that this might be part of a further complaint.

A resident asked whether consideration could be given to resident-only parking on Burn Valley Gardens and Blakelock Road. The Enforcement and Car Parking Service Manager advised that if residents provided a petition in support of resident parking officers would instigate a consultation process. A member referred to a petition which had been submitted around speeding on Rossmere Way. He queried why nobody from highways was present to answer questions and explain why no action had been taken despite repeated requests for speeding restrictions in that area. Another member suggested that a chicane would be preferable to humps in that area given its status as a busy bus route.

A resident raised concerns around incorrect speed limit signage on Masfield Road. The Enforcement and Car Parking Manager would take this back to highways.

A resident complained at the condition of the Burn Valley beck saying Council officers were not cleansing the area as often as they should. She also suggested samples of water be tested to ensure illegal dumping was not taking place.

A resident complained that they had not receive prior notification of the meeting. Officers explained that under new GDPR rules residents were asked to give their written permission to be contacted regarding future meetings, something which may not have happened in this case.

7. Rossmere Park – Verbal Update

The Heritage and Countryside Manager gave a brief update on works ongoing in Rossmere Park. Phase 1 which included a new play area, car park, events area and access off Balmoral Road had been completed around Easter time. Phase 2 which would include work on the lake area would commence around September time. CCTV was also being looked into. The total amount of grant funding was £550 thousand and so far around £300 thousand had been spent with the remainder earmarked for phase 2. Funding for CCTV cameras would be provided through the Neighbourhood Improvement Programme which would also be used to provide camera coverage at Seaton Park, Ward Jackson Park and the Burn Valley. Ward members requested details of the plans for Rossmere Park showing the proposed CCTV camera sites.

A resident queried how much money had been spent recently in the Burn Valley. The Heritage and Countryside Manager confirmed that following anti-social behaviour in the play area officers were looking to install cameras. Only then would an investment review be carried out and potentially new play equipment installed. The Council did not have the financial resources to employ a dedicated park keeper.

A resident requested details of the planned safety investment in Rossmere Park, specifically barrier provision. The Heritage and Countryside Manager agreed to contact highways regarding the need for additional barriers. A request was also made for a crossing from Rossmere Park to the nearby school. The Enforcement and Car Parking Services Manager confirmed this was a matter for highways and suggested someone be asked to attend the next meeting to feedback on these issues and others such as the lack of a fence around the café area, the provision of a metal roof on the bandstand and concerns around undesirables in the car park near the play area. A Ward member suggested that the resident who had raised these concerns speak to a highways officer outside the meeting. He also noted he would be happy to take part in another site visit. A member commented that the officers should have been present and if they could not they should send a substitute.

The meeting concluded at 14:40pm.

CHAIR