

NORTH AND COASTAL COMMUNITY FORUM AGENDA



Tuesday 26th November 2019

at 10.30am

in Committee Room B, Civic Centre, Hartlepool

MEMBERS: NORTH AND COASTAL NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM:

Councillors Black, Brewer, Brown, Cassidy, Fleming, Harrison, Johnson, King, 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 24th September 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 AccessAble – Presentation – *AccessAble Partnerships Manager*
- 8.2 Recycling and Plastic Free Hartlepool – Presentation – *Team Leader Operations (Waste and Environmental Services)*

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS WHICH THE CHAIR CONSIDERS URGENT

Next meeting –

Tuesday 10th March at 1.00pm in Committee Room B



NORTH AND COASTAL COMMUNITY FORUM MINUTES

24th September 2019

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

Present:

Chair:	Councillor Leisa Smith	-	Seaton
Vice Chair:	Councillor Sue Little	-	Seaton
	Councillor Brenda Harrison	-	De Bruce
	Councillor Ann Johnson	-	Hart
	Councillor Karen King	-	De Bruce
	Councillor Shane Moore	-	Headland and Harbour
	Councillor Steve Thomas	-	De Bruce

Also Present: Councillor Tony Richardson

Officers: Tony Hanson, Assistant Director (Environment and Neighbourhoods)
Kieran Bostock, Transport and Infrastructure Manager
Daniel Garthwaite, Participation and Strategy Manager
Phil Hepburn, Enforcement and Car Parking Services Manager
Peter Frost, Highways, Traffic and Transport Team Leader
Garry Jones, Team Leader (Cleansing and Grounds Maintenance)
Tony Davison, Sustainable Travel Officer
Jane Munden, Victim Services Officer
Jo Stubbs, Democratic Services Officer

Also Present: Darren Lane (Cleveland Fire Representative)

7. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were submitted by Councillor John Tennant

8. Declarations of Interest

None

9. Minutes of the meeting held on 25th June 2019

Approved – with the amendment that a derelict nursing home referred to under item 4 was on the Central Estate not Seaton.

10. Questions for the Fire Brigade

Darren Lane, Community Liaison Officer for Cleveland Fire Brigade, gave a brief update on work being undertaken by the Brigade. There had been 82 fires in the North and Coastal area since the last meeting, 51 of which were rubbish fires. Work was ongoing with schools to inform children that they could be punished for being present when a fire was lit, even if they had not been responsible. Reference was made to bonfire night (residents were urged to attend an organised display rather than releasing fireworks at their own homes) and the current practice of posting footage from inside abandoned buildings on social media and the risks it posed to those doing it.

The Vice-Chair asked if there had been a decrease in fires at the sand dunes. Mr Lane confirmed that there had although there had been issues along Brenda Road and at the Teesbay Retail Park, particularly with fly tipping. The Vice-Chair also advised that children had been gaining access to the abandoned Park View Nursing Home. Mr Lane would check it was fully secured and put it on the fire brigade's at-risk register so that it was included during patrol checks.

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

11. Questions for the Police

The Enforcement and Car Parking Services Manager advised that due to operational reasons nobody from Cleveland Police had been able to attend. He advised that a new inspector, Matt Reeves, had joined the force as replacement for Darren Bainbridge. Operation Endurance was continuing to be successful. Four off-road bikes had been seized. The police website had a dedicated area ('bike watch') where photographs and identifying information could be uploaded and residents were urged to continue providing information regarding where bikes were being stored. Improved signage regarding off-road bikes was also being erected across the town.

Operation Phoenix, aimed at assisting vulnerable people affected by domestic abuse, was being well publicised while Police were continuing to work with the Community Safety team on closure orders for anti-social behaviour. Residents were also urged to ensure that their homes and vehicles were secure in order to minimise the risk of crime.

A resident gave details of a number of issues they had reported to the police via the 101 number where no further action had been taken or the call had not even been answered. These included anti-social behaviour and drug issues. The Enforcement and Car Parking Services Manager advised that response times were dependent upon other priorities. A member indicated that the Police and Crime Commissioner had previously

been made aware of issues around the time taken to answer calls and was working to rectify it. Concerns were also raised around a shortage of officers on the ground who were able to address anti-social behaviour in a timely fashion.

A resident referred to the recent incidents of racist abuse during a Hartlepool United Game, describing them as a 'disgrace'. This was acknowledged by all present.

A resident queried who was responsible for removing a dangerous dog from an owner. The RSPCA had been informed but had advised it was a police matter. The Police had advised the opposite. The location of the dog near a walkway used by schoolchildren was a major concern. The Enforcement and Car Parking Service Manager would refer these concerns to the Police.

12. Public Question Time and Ward Issues

King Oswy Drive – Could the former pub site be tidied? The Enforcement and Car Parking Service Manager to refer this to the developer

Headland Sea Defences – An update was requested following pictures posted on social media. The Transport and Infrastructure Manager indicated that the team were investigating the problem. He also confirmed that bathroom mastic had never been used as part of the defences.

Gullies – Those at Northgate and the Borough Hall were overflowing badly. The Highways, Traffic and Transport Team Leader to action.

Redheugh Gardens Sea Wall – people walking dogs and riding scooters on top, Concerns that someone would be hurt. The Transport and Infrastructure Manager advised that signage and other preventative measures were being looked at.

Warren Road traffic lights – there were no rotators or bleepers in place for those with sight issues. The Highways, Traffic and Transport Team Leader to investigate.

Timings for traffic lights – concerns raised about the timings for the lights at Asda and the former One-life building particularly at off-peak times when the building was not in use. The Highways, Traffic and Transport Team Leader to investigate. Concerns were raised at the inference that pedestrian crossing phases be reduced particularly near to a functioning medical facility however the Highways, Traffic and Transport Team Leader indicated that these were set based on national guidelines.

Litter – concerns around rubbish left by takeaway business

Elwick Road / Wooler Road – cars regularly jumping the red lights. This was acknowledged as a national problem. The Highways, Traffic and

Transport Team Leader was hoping police enforcement would commence soon.

Utilities repairs – concerns around the amount of time repairs were taking and the impact this had on traffic flow across the town. The Transport and Infrastructure Manager advised that a new permit scheme had recently been approved at Neighbourhood Services Committee whereby utility companies had to approach the Council prior to commencing work and abide by a set of conditions. The permit scheme should be implemented in spring 2020.

Overhanging trees – causing pedestrians to walk on the road. The Team Leader (Cleansing and Grounds Maintenance) reported that this would be included in the Winter tree maintenance programme.

Waterfront Festival – performances were praised however complaints that the organisation had been shambolic. Also the signage advertising the event had variously been covered by foliage or given insufficient information. The Council Leader advised that notices had been placed in Hartbeat, Hartlepool Life, Hartlepool Mail, Radio Tees and on social media. A number of issues around the day itself had been fed back to the Communications Team and would be taken on board however it was good to see a festival of this sort taking place in the town.

13. **Play Activities** (*Participation and Strategy Manager*)

The Participation and Strategy Manager gave a brief presentation on the Council's Preventative and Community Based Services. Issues covered included physical activity and anti-social behaviour, holiday provision and family engagement. It was noted that all these activities were free of charge.

A resident queried whether there was any promotional information for local scout and girl guide organisations. The Participation and Strategy Manager confirmed that the Council worked closely with these clubs and had a partner event scheduled for October. A programme of community activities had been launched in July and further consultation on groups such as these would take place after Christmas. Members referred to the Sea Cadets and Boys Brigade organisations, both of which were still active. The Chair asked if there was a list of all groups and associations in each area which was easily accessible. The Participation and Strategy Manager confirmed that if organisations were happy for their details to be shared they were happy to do so. They were hoping to update the website in the future with active links to organisations, preferably through the Hartlepool Now Active webpage.

The Vice-Chair thanked the Participation and Strategy Manager for the work carried out in Seaton. The Participation and Strategy Manager

indicated that pop up sessions had taken place across the town and had been really well received.

A resident praised the free swims programme at Mill House during the summer holidays. It was noted at over 10 thousand children had accessed this.

A resident referred to free learning-to-sail sessions at Tess and Hartlepool Yacht Club. The Participation and Strategy Manager asked that his team be informed of anything similar so that it could be better publicised.

The Chair thanked the Participation and Strategy Manager for attending the meeting and answering questions.

14. Hartlepool Community Safety Team – Verbal Update (Victim Services Officer)

The Victim Services Officer gave a brief presentation on her role within the Community Safety Team. She could offer support to those involved in a variety of crimes including theft, burglary, anti-social behaviour and hate crimes. These could be victims, witnesses or family members and this could include help and support at all stages from the immediate impact to court procedures and compensation, even years after the event. Crime prevention advice was also offered including home safety assessments and the installation of security equipment in certain circumstances. These services were free, independent and confidential and on offer to anyone living in Hartlepool other than those in housing association properties. People could be referred by the police, council and fire brigade or could self-refer.

The Chair thanked the Victim Services Officer for attending the meeting.

15. Cycling Network Update – Presentation (Sustainable Travel Officer)

The Sustainable Travel Officer gave a brief update on the Hartlepool Cycling Network. This included key activities, improvements to the main network and key features of the Hartlepool Cycling Development Plan (www.hartlepool.gov.uk/cycleplan). Future projects under consideration included a cycleway from Wolviston to Hartlepool Town Centre.

A resident commented on the need for cyclists to receive training on navigating traffic lights. The Sustainable Travel Officer acknowledged the need for pedestrians, drivers and cyclist to use the roads appropriately. The Road Safety Team needed to get the message out to everyone and had run a number of initiatives for cyclists, some involving the police. Bikeability cycle training courses that were mostly run for school children could also be run for adults if required.

A resident criticised some cyclists for using the public footpaths and queried where the funding from cycle paths was coming from. The Sustainable Travel Officer confirmed that all the initiatives discussed were externally funded and often designed for shared use. Enforcement of cyclists was a police matter.

A resident referred to Sustrans and suggested that there be more promotion of this initiative. The Sustainable Travel Officer confirmed that this project, based at the Phoenix Centre, was funded through the project.

The Chair asked if a demarcation line identifying the cycle way could be painted along the Seaton Carew sea front to prevent runners and cyclists colliding. The Sustainable Travel Officer acknowledged this was a problem but felt that a demarcation could lead to increased speeds by cyclists. There was also a need for runners to be aware of their environment which could be hampered by the use of headphones. The Chair referred to bone conductor headphones whereby runners could hear music and environmental sounds.

The meeting concluded at 14:45pm

CHAIR