

SOUTH AND CENTRAL COMMUNITY FORUM AGENDA



Tuesday 26th November 2019

at 1.00pm

in Committee Room B, Civic Centre, Hartlepool

MEMBERS: SOUTH AND CENTRAL NEIGHBOURHOOD 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 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 10.30am in Committee Room B



SOUTH AND CENTRAL COMMUNITY FORUM MINUTES

24th September 2019

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

Present:

Chair:	Councillor Lee Cartwright	- Foggy Furze
Vice Chair:	Councillor David Mincher	-
	Councillor Christopher Akers-Belcher	- Foggy Furze
	Councillor Bob Buchan	- Fens and Rossmere
	Councillor Ged Hall	- Burn Valley
	Councillor Marjorie James	- Manor House
	Councillor John Lauderdale	- Burn Valley
	Councillor Jim Lindridge	- Fens and Rossmere
	Councillor Brenda Loynes	- Rural West
	Councillor Ann Marshall	- Foggy Furze
	Councillor Tony Richardson	- Fens and Rossmere

Officers: Tony Hanson, Assistant Director (Environment and Neighbourhoods)
Kieran Bostock, Transport and Infrastructure 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)

8. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were submitted by Councillors Stephen Akers-Belcher, Lesley Hamilton, Helen Howson and Carl Richardson

9. Declarations of Interest

None

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

Minutes approved. Residents highlighted that they had not received a copy of the minutes in advance of the meeting and an action sheet detailing the work that had been carried out following the meeting had also not been included. The Enforcement and Car Parking Services Manager noted these comments.

11. Matters Arising

Residents raised issues around bikes being ridden on pavements and allotment holders being given notice of eviction and accused of sub-letting. The Chair indicated that these issues would be looked at in greater detail later in the meeting.

12. 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.

A member reported a trike being ridden at speed along Brenda Road with a toddler on the front who was not wearing a helmet. The Chair confirmed this would be reported to the police. The Member queried why this had not been flagged up through the CCTV cameras on Brenda Road.

Residents asked whether signage could be erected regarding cycles being ridden on pavements.

A member advised that location details for off-road bikes had been reported at the police station 2 weeks previously but no action had been taken and the details had been lost. The Enforcement and Car Parking Services Manager apologised for this. He also advised that phone calls made to the Community Safety team were not recorded.

A resident asked that a privet hedge on Burn Valley Gardens be cut back as it was causing visibility problems for drivers. The Enforcement and Car Parking Services Manager would look into this.

A member made reference to allegations that Hartlepool Police Station was closing down and the Community Safety Team moving out. The Chair advised that the Police and Crime Commissioner had previously indicated

there were no immediate plans to close the station while the Enforcement and Car Parking Services Manager was not aware of any such plans. The Assistant Director (Environment and Neighbourhoods) advised that he also was not aware of any closure proposals and noted that there was a 3-year agreement in place for the Community Safety Team to be based there. If there was such a proposal members would have been informed. However given the confusion and the contradictory statements being made a member asked that the Chair write to the Chief Constable asking for clarification.

A member requested more police presence at residents' group meetings. The Chair acknowledged this but noted that attendance must be prioritised.

The Enforcement and Car Parking Services Manager also confirmed that police were continuing to work with the Community Safety team on closure orders for anti-social behaviour. A member queried whether landlords were involved in these. The Enforcement and Car Parking Services Manager advised that they were sometimes asked to vet tenants before leasing properties, specifically to avoid those with a known addiction. However they were often misled by tenants. A resident felt that sometimes the landlords were more interested in making money.

A resident asked what enforcement measures could be taken against vehicles parking on pavements, particularly business owners. The Enforcement and Car Parking Services Manager confirmed that currently enforcement could only be carried out on restricted roads such as those with double yellow lines. However a Government paper on a blanket ban on parking on pavements was due for consideration. This would mean that anyone parking on the pavement could be issued with a penalty charge. However there were some areas where the roads were so narrow that this would not apply. A member welcomed this legislation but felt that when the time came there would need to be a clear demarcation between pavements and newly created parking spaces on former grass verges.

13. 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 44 fires in the South and Central area since the last meeting, 21 of which were rubbish fires and 15 vehicle 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.

A member commented on the continued practice of attributing all fires in Summerhill Park to the Manor House Ward when in reality the majority of Summerhill lay in the Rural West Ward. The Chair suggested that the boundaries be checked.

A member referred to problems with a homeless man living in Tunstall Court and starting fires and concerns that this would start again upon his release from custody. Mr Lane requested that he be contacted should this occur.

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

14. Public Question Time and Ward Issues

Brenda Road traffic lights – pelican light twisted. The Highways, Traffic and Transport Team Leader to investigate.

Thirlmere Road – floral garden removed and paving stones cracked. Was it possible to revert the site back to tarmac? The Assistant Director (Environment and Neighbourhoods) to investigate.

Grey bins – heavier bins needed as currently being blown over in high winds. The Assistant Director (Environment and Neighbourhoods) to investigate.

Allotments – an eviction order had been served for a project garden in the Burn Valley Ward. Meeting of the Allotment Holders Association taking place that evening. Open invitation to allotment holders, Councillors and the Chief Executive. A letter to Councillors had previously been delivered to the Chief Executive's Office.

Selective Licensing Panel – failure to hold 2 panel meetings per year despite agreement. Documentation on the number of empty properties was incorrect. Could someone from the Selective Licensing Team be asked to attend a future meeting to explain these discrepancies? The Chair confirmed they would be asked to attend.

Burn Valley – bad smell coming from the drains. Alcoholics and drug users in Burn Valley Gardens. Sex workers operating in the area. The Chair asked the Enforcement and Car Parking Services Manager to look into this.

Stockton Road/St Aidans Church – faulty timer on pelican crossing. Member suggested that this might be caused by water getting into the system. **The Highways, Traffic and Transport Team Leader to investigate.**

Living Wage – assistants for people on personalised budgets being paid minimum wage but Council had pledged to pay living wage to all contractors. Also had understood that this service would be provided in-

house. The Enforcement and Car Parking Services Manager to investigate. Member suggested that this be referred to Neighbourhood Services Committee.

Former Alma Pub – Application made for the site to be converted into a hotel. Where would cars park? The Chair confirmed that this would be covered as part of the planning process.

Waste bins – Problems with wasted space in bins in public areas (smaller bins inside larger bins) and failure to collect waste left outside when bins emptied. The Team Leader (Cleansing and Grounds Maintenance) to investigate.

Fens Beck – who would be taking responsibility for the recent diesel pollution and when? The Transport and Infrastructure Manager confirmed that the Environment Agency had been out to investigate and would report back soon.

Fens Precinct – problems with cars parking in the yellow bays. The Enforcement and Car Parking Services Manager advised that enforcement could be carried out during the camera car school enforcement runs.

Fens Primary School – complaints around parking. The Enforcement and Car Parking Services Manager to discuss with the school.

Dog fouling – more enforcement needed.

15. **Hartlepool Community Safety Team – Verbal Presentation** *(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.

A resident referred to low attendance levels at recent Crime Prevention events and queried how the public were made aware of the services on offer. The Victim Services Officer advised that a variety of different channels were utilised including social media, the Hartlepool Mail and the Council's webpage. A resident suggested that information be sent out to resident associations who could then disseminate this information to their

residents. A member suggested that an item be placed in Hartbeat magazine while a resident felt that the onus should be on residents associations to contact Ms Munden rather than the other way round.

A resident advised that the Duke of Edinburgh had been invited to tour the Burn Valley allotments and queried who would be responsible for security arrangements. The Chair advised that the Duke would have his own security.

The Chair thanked the Victim Services Officer for attending the meeting and answering questions.

16. **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 referred to the walkway from the A179 to the golf course going past the reservoir. Walkers and cyclists would regularly go up the bank to get to the houses on Bishop Cuthbert and they were concerned that if they had an accident the Council would be liable. They asked if it would be possible for steps to be installed to prevent people falling into the stream. The Sustainable Travel Officer would look into this but suspected it might be a rights of way issue. It was also noted that disabled access would also need to be provided at the site.

A member asked that improvements be made to the black path at Sappers Corner and that replacement markers be installed due to bikes riding at speed. The Transport and Infrastructure Manager noted that this was a public right of way and not an adopted highway. Therefore the Council were only required to maintain it as a public right of way which was not to the same standard as an adopted highway.

A resident asked if there were plans to tarmac the car park near to the Central Library as those with disabilities found it difficult to navigate on market day. The Highways, Traffic and Transport Team leader advised that there were no plans for a full resurfacing however monthly inspections were carried out. The Enforcement and Car Parking Services Manager acknowledged that eventually repairs would become impractical.

The Chair thanked the Sustainable Travel Officer for attending the meeting and answering questions.

The meeting concluded at 12:10pm

CHAIR