

NORTH AND COASTAL & SOUTH AND CENTRAL COMMUNITY FORUMS AGENDA



Tuesday 10th March

at 10.00am

in Committee Room B, Civic Centre, Hartlepool

MEMBERS: NORTH AND COASTAL AND SOUTH AND CENTRAL COMMUNITY FORUMS:

Councillors C Akers-Belcher, S Akers-Belcher, Black, Brewer, Brown, Buchan, Cartwright, Cassidy, Fleming, Hall, Hamilton, Harrison, Howson, Hunter, James, Johnson, King, Lauderdale, Lindridge, Little, Loynes, Marshall, Moore, Prince, A Richardson, C Richardson, Smith, Stokell, Tennant, Thomas, Ward, Young and 1 Vacancy.

- 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 24th September 2019
 - 3.2 To confirm the minutes of the North and Coastal Community Forum meeting held on 26th November 2019
 - 3.3 To confirm the minutes of the South and Central Community Forum meeting held on 26th November 2019
 - 3.4 Matters arising.
- 4. QUESTIONS FOR THE POLICE**



5. QUESTIONS FOR THE FIRE BRIGADE

5.1 Presentation – Cleveland Fire Arson Strategy

6. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME and WARD ISSUES (maximum of 30 minutes)

7. ITEMS FOR CONSULTATION

No items

8. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND/OR INFORMATION

No items

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS WHICH THE CHAIR CONSIDERS URGENT

Next meeting –

To be confirmed



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 (Cleaving 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

NORTH AND COASTAL COMMUNITY FORUM MINUTES

26 November 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 Karen King - De Bruce

Also present: Councillor Lee Cartwright

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)
Paul Hurwood, Waste Officer
Jo Stubbs, Democratic Services Officer

Also Present: Police Representative Chief Inspector Nigel Burnell
Fire Representative Darren Lane
AccessAble Representative Katie Dyton

16. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were submitted by Councillors John Tennant and Steve Thomas.

17. Declarations of Interest

None

18. Minutes of the meeting held on 24th September

The minutes were confirmed. There were no matters arising.

19. Questions for the Police

Chief Inspector Nigel Burnell gave a brief update on work carried out by Cleveland Police since the previous meeting. There had been 342 reported incidents, a 10% increase in the same quarter the previous year. Included was an increase in vehicle crime however a prolific offender had been arrested recently. Public disorder offences had increased from 185 to 262 and there had been a rise in drug possession which had led to the issuing of more drug warrants. Counterfeit cigarettes had also been seized and premises closure orders issued. He urged the public to keep providing intelligence to the police as this was often the key. In terms of previous concerns around answer times for the 101 number he advised that the average was under 2 and a half minutes for a call to be answered. He acknowledged that some calls would take longer to be answered but felt that this average was acceptable. In the event of an emergency 999 should continue to be used.

A resident asked that Parish Councils be kept informed as to the contact names of PCSOs in their areas. Chief Inspector Burnell confirmed that he would do this.

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

20. Questions for the Fire Brigade

Darren Lane from Cleveland Fire Brigade gave a brief update on the work being undertaken. There had been 30 fires in the North and Coastal area since the last meeting, 23 of which had been deliberate. This equated to a 70% reduction in all fires. The majority of incidents took place between 6pm and 11pm. A number of initiatives were being undertaken by the fire brigade including a free car winter safety check at Hartlepool Station on Saturday 30th November and 'Stay Safe and Warm' whereby heaters and blankets could be provided to people with boiler problems over the Winter months. Work was also being carried out in schools, handing out certificates for events and encouraging people to look after their areas.

A resident queried whether any fire crews had been attacked in the area. Mr Lane advised that this tended to happen in Middlesbrough but details of the perpetrators were always passed on to the Community Safety Team.

The Chair thanked the Fire Brigade representative for attending the meeting and answering questions.

21. Public Question Time and Ward Issues

Winterbottom Avenue – The crossing near the doctors' surgery was not equipped with a rotator or bleeper for those with sight issues. The

Highways, Traffic and Transport Team Leader confirmed that this work would be carried out in the near future.

King John's Tavern – The parking machines in the nearby car park were out of action. The Enforcement and Car Parking Services Manager to investigate,

Brus Tunnel – Public access from the Brus Tunnel to the beach was a danger with water filled deep holes and barriers putting the public at risk. Should anyone be injured it would be difficult to get them away from the area. The Enforcement and Car Parking Services Manager to investigate. The Chair asked that the resident who had highlighted the issue be contacted regarding a future plan before the next meeting.

Admiral Court – following a request from an update the Enforcement and Car Parking Services Manager confirmed that this was one of the Council's buildings of interest with the fire brigade regularly being called out to it. However the current owners had recently gone into liquidation and the Council's enforcement team were having problems serving notice on them or persuading them to accept liability. This was a legal process and while it would eventually be successful the Council were bound by the owners in terms of timescales. The Chair confirmed that the owners would be liable should anyone be injured.

22. AccessAble - Presentation

Katie Dyton, Partnerships Managers for AccessAble, gave a brief presentation on the organisation's accessibility guide. This had been launched in 2002 and was available via the website or a phone app. It gave detailed factual accessibility information on hundreds of venues across the UK (150 in Hartlepool alone) including details on parking, access and toilet facilities. This information was consistent and provided by experienced surveyors who would attend venues in person, taking accurate measurements and photographs. Information could be filtered as per access requirements, the fonts could be changed for those with visual impairments and over 60 different languages were used. Venues already on the website were regularly contacted regarding potential changes to accessibility and users could also advise of changes via the website.

A resident with visual impairments noted that he would be unable to view the website and asked whether the documentation was available as a hard copy. Ms Dyton advised that they were reluctant to provide hard copies of the information as it could become out of date very quickly therefore it was preferable to use the online version as this was always up to date. There was the facility for the information on the website to be provided in an audio form. However should it be necessary printed copies could be provided, albeit with the proviso that the information may not be current.

The Chair thanked Ms Dyton for attending the meeting and answering questions.

23. Recycling and Plastic Free Hartlepool - Presentation

The Council's Waste Officer gave a brief presentation on refuse and recycling in Hartlepool, covering an average day for a waste operative, what could be recycled and what happens to refuse and recycling. He advised that on an average day a waste operative would empty approximately 600 wheelie bins and walk 12 miles. Over 43,000 bins were emptied every week with recycling rates standing at 32.5%. Upon collection recycling was taken to a recycling facility, decontaminated and separated and sent on to different facilities to be processed. General waste was incinerated and used as ash for road construction. Information was also given regarding the Household Waste Recycling Centre and the Council's waste removal service.

The Vice-Chair referred to cross contamination issues caused by food waste and suggested that the reasons for this be detailed within Council literature as people might take more care if they knew why it was being asked of them. The Waste Officer concurred with this and suggested it be included on the website.

The Enforcement and Car Parking Services Manager confirmed that the waste operatives would be taking no time off at Christmas and would instead move the collection days onto the weekend. Details would be provided in Hartbeat magazine.

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

The meeting concluded at 11.40am

CHAIR

SOUTH AND CENTRAL COMMUNITY FORUM MINUTES

26 November 2019

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

Present:

Chair: Councillor Lee Cartwright - Foggy Furze

Vice Chair: Councillor David Mincher - Manor House

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)
Paul Hurwood, Waste Officer
Jo Stubbs, Democratic Services Officer

Also Present: Police Representative Chief Inspector Nigel Burnell
Fire Representative Darren Lane
AccessAble Representative Katie Dyton

17. Apologies for Absence

None

18. Declarations of Interest

None

19. Minutes of the meeting held on 24th September

A resident highlighted that the minutes for the previous meeting had not been sent to residents in advance of the meeting, something which had happened a number of times previously. It was suggested that the minutes be deferred on this occasion to give residents the opportunity to consider them properly.

The minutes were deferred

20. Matters Arising

A resident queried whether a representative from the Selective Licensing Panel was in attendance. A member suggested that they be asked to provide a written response to the queries previously raised.

Members queried whether the Chair had written to the Chief Constable for clarification as to the rumoured closure of Hartlepool Police Station as had been requested at the last meeting. The Chair advised that he had attended the last Police and Crime Panel meeting and had received an assurance that there were no immediate plans to close the station. This response had been recorded within the minutes of that meeting. A member expressed her disappointment that the Chair had not written to the Chief Constable formally on this matter, commenting that the public did not have easy access to the minutes of the Police and Crime Panel.

21. AccessAble - Presentation

Katie Dyton, Partnerships Managers for AccessAble, gave a brief presentation on the organisation's accessibility guide. This had been launched in 2002 and was available via the website or a phone app. It gave detailed factual accessibility information on hundreds of venues across the UK (150 in Hartlepool alone) including details on parking, access and toilet facilities. This information was consistent and provided by experienced surveyors who would attend venues in person, taking accurate measurements and photographs. Information could be filtered as per access requirements, the fonts could be changed for those with visual impairments and over 60 different languages were used. Venues already on the website were regularly contacted regarding potential changes to accessibility and users could also advise of changes via the website.

A resident referred to a local dental surgery which was inaccessible to the disabled and asked if anything could be done to change this. Ms Dyton advised that they could make recommendations but could not force premises to make changes. A member suggested that this issue be raised with Healthwatch and that they be asked to formally identify how many dentists in Hartlepool were fully accessible as she understood the majority were not. This inevitably limited the amount of NHS care the disabled could

access. She suggested that a local campaign be undertaken involving Healthwatch and the Health and Wellbeing Board to encourage dentists to be more accessible.

The Chair thanked Ms Dyton for attending the meeting and answering questions.

22. Questions for the Police

Chief Inspector Nigel Burnell gave a brief update on work carried out by Cleveland Police since the previous meeting. There had been 342 reported incidents, a 10% increase in the same quarter the previous year. Included was an increase in vehicle crime however a prolific offender had been arrested recently. Public disorder offences had increased from 185 to 262 and there had been a rise in drug possession which had led to the issuing of more drug warrants. Counterfeit cigarettes had also been seized and premises closure orders issued. He urged the public to keep providing intelligence to the police as this was often the key. In terms of previous concerns around answer times for the 101 number he advised that the average was under 2 and a half minutes for a call to be answered. He acknowledged that some calls would take longer to be answered but felt that this average was acceptable. In the event of an emergency 999 should continue to be used. Several residents disputed this response time information.

A resident referred to a number of recent incidents whereby people had been publically attacked by youths and queried what the perpetrators had to do to be prosecuted. Chief Inspector Burnell advised that these incidents were violent assault not anti-social behaviour and would be investigated. In terms of sanctions for anti-social behaviour these varied and dispersal orders were only a small part. Ultimately the aim was to educate and work with family members rather than imprisonment. He also noted that only a third of all anti-social behaviour was carried out by youths with the majority by adults and neighbours. The resident asked when constant anti-social behaviour would be prosecuted, noting that at one time those responsible would have been taken to the cells. He felt that current practice was to pander to children whose parents took no responsibility. Chief Inspector Burnell indicated there was a need to address the causes of anti-social behaviour and that the key was to involve a number of service providers not just the police.

A member requested further information on the Community Trigger. The Enforcement and Car Parking Services Manager advised that a Community Trigger is a legal right under the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 for victims of anti-social behaviour and/or hate crime or incidents to request a review of how agencies have dealt with their reports. . Hartlepool's Community Trigger threshold is in line with Government guidance and is defined as three or more reports regarding the same problem in the past six months to one of the partner agencies A member disputed that this was government guidance and indicated that officers

within Hartlepool had set these requirements. Community Safety Staff maintained the trigger and so far there had not been a single successful trigger. She also noted that members had been unaware of the Community Trigger, had received no formal training on it and had therefore been unable to offer their input or preferences regarding the trigger requirement. Elected members were entitled to be informed as to changes to the law.

A resident queried whether the police carried out evening patrols, referring to quad bikes and speeding cars being driven around the town late at night. Chief Inspector Burnell confirmed there were active evening patrols and he would brief his officers regarding these concerns.

A resident referred to the minutes of the meeting in June 2019 containing inaccuracies and asked that they be removed from the Council's website pending further investigation. The resident requested that they be informed of the results of any such investigation pending legal challenge. The Chair acknowledged this.

A resident referred to the Burn Valley being a 'no-go' area at night-time and queried how many police officers had moved away from Hartlepool in the past 5 years. Chief Inspector Burnell advised that there were 1200 police officers currently active in the Cleveland area. Officers worked hard and to claim otherwise was doing them a disservice. The resident queried the point of these forums saying nothing got done and everything was 'shoved under the carpet'

A member queried whether there were plans for Hartlepool to follow the example of Middlesbrough regarding enforcement for spitting, begging and riding on footpaths. Chief Inspector Burnell said this was a matter for Middlesbrough which had different demographics and levels of crime. The Enforcement and Car Parking Services Manager noted that the majority of enforcement within Hartlepool's defined Public Space Protection Orders, at present only include Dog Control Orders.

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

23. Questions for the Fire Brigade

Darren Lane from Cleveland Fire Brigade gave a brief update on the work being undertaken. There had been 42 fires in the South and Central area since the last meeting, 37 of which had been deliberate. This equated to a 35% reduction in all fires. The majority of incidents took place between 6pm and 11pm. A number of initiatives were being undertaken by the fire brigade including a free car winter safety check at Hartlepool Station on Saturday 30th November and 'Stay Safe and Warm' whereby heaters and blankets could be provided to people with boiler problems over the Winter months. Work was also being carried out in schools, handing out certificates for events and encouraging people to look after their areas.

A resident highlighted a potential link between refuse collections and deliberate fires. Mr Lane commented that residents were always advised to put their bins out in the morning rather than the night before.

A member queried the safety of wood burners. Mr Lane confirmed that wood burners and traditional fires were safe provided they had been cleaned previously.

A resident queried whether attacks against fire officers was a problem in Hartlepool. Mr Lane confirmed that it tended to be verbal rather than physical and was not the problem that it was in Middlesbrough.

The Chair thanked the Fire Brigade representative for attending the meeting and answering questions.

24. Public Question Time and Ward Issues

Dent Street – A resident highlighted problems with the green bin wagons depositing water and fluid splatter onto the back streets. The Waste Officer confirmed that this should not be happening and suggested the vehicle drain may be faulty. He would arrange for the vehicle to be inspected and any necessary repairs carried out.

Illegal parking – Reference was made to cars being regularly parked on double yellow lines across Hartlepool. Specific problems were highlighted in Masefield Road and generally near the town's schools. The Enforcement and Car Parking Services Manager confirmed that a schedule was in place for enforcement officers to attend local schools.

Thirlmere Street – Pebbles had been deposited into the back street by the road sweeper. The Highways, Traffic and Transport Team Leader to investigate.

Kipling Road – The speed signage was incorrect. The Highways, Traffic and Transport Team Leader to investigate.

Road sweepers – In response to a member query the Team Leader for cleansing and grounds maintenance confirmed that the Council currently had 4 road sweepers.

Burn Valley – Complaints were made at the lack of cleaning in this area which was causing problems for pedestrians. The Team Leader for cleansing and grounds maintenance acknowledged this but advised that the area was cleaned regularly. However the current inclement weather meant that wet leaves on the pavements could be back very soon. A resident also asked that a CCTV camera in this area be repainted to prevent pigeons flying into it. The Assistant Director (Environment and Neighbourhoods) to investigate.

25. Recycling and Plastic Free Hartlepool - Presentation

The Council's Waste Officer gave a brief presentation on refuse and recycling in Hartlepool, covering an average day for a waste operative, what could be recycled and what happens to refuse and recycling. He advised that on an average day a waste operative would empty approximately 600 wheelie bins and walk 12 miles. Over 43,000 bins were emptied every week with recycling rates standing at 32.5%. Upon collection recycling was taken to a recycling facility, decontaminated and separated and sent on to different facilities to be processed. General waste was incinerated and used as ash for road construction. Information was also given regarding the Household Waste Recycling Centre and the Council's waste removal service.

The Waste Officer confirmed that plant pots and shredded paper could not be recycled. They also preferred not to take envelopes as the gum and window sections needed to be removed.

A resident queried whether the lunch break at the Household Waste Recycling Centre could be staggered as it was currently inconvenient for working people. The Waste Officer advised that these breaks were not only for staff to have their lunch but allowed time for the waste to be compacted within the skips. This process was carried out 3 times per day and it was safer to close the premises while it was being carried out. Otherwise there would not be enough room for all the waste currently being deposited by residents. The Assistant Director (Environment and Neighbourhoods) noted that this was also a requirement following an inspection of the premises a number of years ago by the Health and Safety Executive.

A resident asked whether in future the collection of brown bins would be chargeable. The Assistant Director (Environment and Neighbourhoods) confirmed that this was presented to Neighbourhood Services Committee on 18th October and 15th November, and was due to be considered by Finance and Policy Committee on 9th December.

A member referred to a visit to a recycling centre she had been on previously as part of Neighbourhood Services Committee and asked whether a similar visit could be arranged for residents. The Waste Officer confirmed that this could be considered.

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

The meeting concluded at 2:55pm

CHAIR