

# CENTRAL NEIGHBOURHOOD CONSULTATIVE FORUM AGENDA



Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2005

at 10am

in Committee Room **\*\*B\***

MEMBERS: CENTRAL NEIGHBOURHOOD CONSULTATIVE FORUM:

Councillors Belcher, Coward, Cranney, Ferriday, Fortune, Hall, Henery, Iseley, Kaiser, Kennedy, Lauderdale, London, Morris, Payne, Richardson, Sutheran, Tumilty, R Waller, Worthy

Resident Representatives:

James Atkinson, Dave Berry, Ian Campbell, Bob Farrow, Patrick Finnan, Clive Hall, Evelyn Leck, Alan Lloyd, Billy Lynch, Norma Morrish

1. **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**
2. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**
3. **TO RECEIVE ANY DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS**
4. **MINUTES**
  - 4.1 To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2005 (*attached*)
5. **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**
6. **ITEMS FOR CONSULTATION**
  - 6.1 Adult Treatment Plan 2006/07 – *Head of Community Safety and Prevention*
  - 6.2 Hartlepool Second Local Transport Plan – *Head of Technical Services (to be presented by Ian Jopling, Transportation Team Leader)*

**7. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION / INFORMATION**

- 7.1 Hartlepool Local Plan – Publication of Further Proposed Modifications –  
*Director of Regeneration and Planning Services*
- 7.2 Statement of Community Involvement – Update report – *Director of  
Regeneration and Planning Services*

**8. WARD ISSUES**

**9. DATES, TIMES AND VENUES OF NEXT MEETINGS**

- (a) Central Neighbourhood Police & Community Safety Forum to be held on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2006 commencing at 2pm in Belle Vue Community, Youth and Sports Centre, Kendal Road
- (b) Central Neighbourhood Consultative Forum to be held on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2006 commencing at 10am in Committee Room B, Civic Centre.

**WARDS**

Burn Valley  
Elwick  
Foggy Furze  
Grange  
Park  
Rift House  
Stranton

***CENTRAL NEIGHBOURHOOD  
CONSULTATIVE FORUM***

**1<sup>st</sup> December 2005**

***MINUTES OF THE MEETING***



**PRESENT:**

Vice-Chair: Clive Hall (Resident Representative) (in the Chair)

Councillor Stanley Fortune	- Park Ward
Councillor Gerard Hall	- Burn Valley Ward
Councillor Gordon Henery	- Foggy Furze Ward
Councillor Frances London	- Foggy Furze Ward
Councillor Dr George Morris	- Park Ward
Councillor Vic Tumilty	- Grange Ward
Councillor Ray Waller	- Stranton Ward

Resident Representatives: James Atkinson, Ian Campbell, Bob Farrow, Patrick Finnan, Evelyn Leck, Alan Lloyd and Norma Morrish

Public: Miss M Lumley, Mr R McAndrew, Mr R McKinnon, Dr Picken, Julie Rudge, Mr N White and William Morrish

Council Officers: Dave Stubbs, Head of Environmental Management  
Denise Ogden, Town Care Manager  
Jon Wright, Senior Neighbourhood Services Officer  
Ian Merritt, Senior Education Officer  
Tom Britcliffe, Principal Planning Officer  
Dave Wilson, Principal Engineer  
Alec Gough, Local Transport Plan Co-ordinator  
Danielle Swainston, Early Years Manager  
Jo Wilson, Democratic Services Officer

Cleveland Police Representative: PC Andy Bell

Cleveland Fire Brigade Representative: Station Officer Tony Dale

Primary Care Trust (PCT) Representative: Kevin Aston

Community Network Representative: Lesley Hall

**35. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Stephen Belcher, Jean Kennedy, Carl Richardson, Lilian Sutheran and Gladys Worthy and Resident Representative Dave Berry. The Vice-Chair informed those present that the Chair was unable to attend owing to a recent family bereavement. Members asked that a message of condolence be sent on their behalf.

Councillor Ray Waller commented that there had been a previous agreement that no more than two items for discussion and/or information would be brought to each forum and this agreement had been broken on several occasions. Members of the public had other commitments and were unable to sit through a three hour meeting. This view was supported by resident representatives present at the meeting though other Councillors did speak in support of the Neighbourhood Forums saying the presentations were useful to the public.

The Head of Environmental Management explained the reason meetings tended to overrun was public question time and without presentations there would be no debate. To keep presentations to a minimum of two per meeting would necessitate more meetings. Public question time had been situated early in the agenda to give the public the opportunity to leave if they had other commitments.

Councillor Waller drew particular attention to the fire brigade presentation on the agenda. Station Officer Tony Dale explained that the consultation time period was three months and there was not an available Police and Community Safety Forum in that time.

Resident Brian MacKinnon commented on the lack of attendance by Councillors and asked if it was possible for a list of members' attendances to be published prior to any elections.

**36. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS**

None

The Head of Environmental Management informed those present of a Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Forum meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> December 2005 to discuss the possibility of a 20mph speed limit outside the town's schools. Anyone interested in attending was asked to contact Rebecca Redman in the Chief Executive's Department.

**37. TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE CENTRAL NEIGHBOURHOOD CONSULTATIVE FORUM MEETING HELD ON 6<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2005**

The minutes were confirmed subject to the following amendments –

- Page 2 – Resident Representative Ian Campbell said he had asked if members of the Licensing Trade could be invited to a meeting to discuss licensing issues, rather than members of the Licensing Act Committee
- Page 9 – Resident Representative Ian Campbell had asked if access to the footpath between Worsett Lane and Elwick Road could be blocked off, rather than access to Worsett Lane itself
- Page 9 – Resident Representative Ian Campbell said the reference to the bridge made it sound as though it was near Naisberry Footpath where in fact it was near "Dobbers Bank"

- Page 7 – Resident Julie Rudge said the reference to Mr Dunlop having failed to contact the NDC was incorrect. Mr Dunlop had only said he had not contacted the Church of the Nazarene land representatives.
- Page 8 – In reference to the removal of the Oxford Road phone booth Mr MacKinnon said he had been talking about Elwick Road not Oxford Road

### 38. MATTERS ARISING

Town Care Manager, Denise Ogden, gave a verbal update on issues from the minutes of 6<sup>th</sup> October 2005.

- Potential flooding on Burn Valley Park/Vicarage Gardens – The Town Care Manager said there was no problem with sewer capacities in Vicarage Gardens under normal circumstances but an unusually severe storm was too much for the sewers in that area. She acknowledged that this was no consolation to residents whose homes had been flooded but the gullies were clear and Vicarage Gardens was not on the NWL list of problem flood areas.

Resident Representative Evelyn Leck said she was disappointed Vicarage Gardens was not high on the list of flood risk areas. The Council had a duty to keep an eye on it as flooding had previously left the street like a river.

- Resident Norma Morrish's thanks to the street lighting team – this had been passed on to them.
- York Road/Victoria Road paving – work on this was due to be completed in November 2005.

- West Park paving – work on the corner of Edgerton/Valley Drive was due to be actioned in November 2005.
- Middleton Grange Shopping Centre – a smoking ban was to be introduced from January 2006. The tiles would be replaced in November 2005. As a result of this it was felt there was no requirement for the Shopping Centre Manager to attend the Forum.
- Welldeck Road/Stephen Street/Suggitt Street speeding issues – a traffic study was currently being compiled by the Transportation and Traffic Team
- St Matthew's Hall street lighting – an inspection had been carried out and an improvement scheme for the garage area was currently being drawn up.
- Oxford Road phone booth – the NDC and Cleveland Police were working on alleviating the problem of drug addicts using the booth.
- Rats in Kathleen Street – this had been forwarded to Public Protection.
- Belle Vue area back street gullies – this had been actioned.
- Brenda Road/Windermere Road traffic lights out of sequence – this had been reported to Middlesbrough traffic section.
- Collingwood Street/Bruce Street/Murray Street request for resident only parking extension – the Culture, Housing and Transportation Portfolio Holder would be considering the extension of the current resident only parking zones from December 2005. Improvements to address parking in Murray Street would be carried out in January 2006.

- Bins being left out by Hartwell residents – the enforcement team had been instructed to issue letters to residents.
- Naisberry Park area prevention of off-road bikes - persons on motorbikes were asked to leave by staff when they were present on site but there was nothing staff could do when they were not there. Barriers had been vandalised but should be replaced at the time of this meeting. The police off-road team had been informed and intended to visit Summerhill when they were next in town. However there was a wider problem of parents purchasing these vehicles and being unaware of where they could/could not be ridden. This was felt to be something for Trading Standards to consider.

Resident Representative Ian Campbell said his original intent had been to stop the riding of bikes on the footpath for the safety of pedestrians. He asked what objections had been received but the Town Care Manager was unable to comment on this.

Councillor Ray Waller raised the issue of the use of disabled scooters on the footpath, saying if off-road bikes were blocked off the disabled would also be denied access. He said he hoped the Hartlepool Access Group and Over 50s Forum would be consulted on the matter. Mr Campbell said the footpath was unsuitable for the disabled but Councillor Waller felt they should still be consulted. The Head of Environmental Management confirmed that all footpath changes went through full consultation with all interested parties.

The Community Network Representative said parents should be

aware of legality issues surrounding the riding of off-road bikes and publicity on the issue was needed. The Town Care Manager confirmed Officers were working with Trading Standards on this.

- Litter near beck and footbridge – the Town Care Manager was in discussion with the countryside wardens and volunteers from the Prince's Trust to look at this area being cleaned up. However as it was not a public highway it could not be included in any Council cleansing programmes.
- Catcote Road/Oxford Road traffic problems – passed to the Traffic and Transportation section
- Dog fouling in Kingsley Road/Sinclair Road area– passed to the Enforcement Team
- Parking on Garrick Grove – a site visit with the residents had been arranged.

With reference to the multi-use games strategy Resident Julie Rudge asked if the Church of the Nazarene provision has been removed from the strategy. The Head of Environmental Management confirmed that it had been and agreed to send a letter confirming this to Ms Rudge.

A request had been made that the Manager of the Middleton Grange Shopping Centre to attend a future meeting of the Forum.

**39. TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE CENTRAL POLICE AND COMMUNITY SAFETY CONSULTATIVE FORUM MEETING HELD ON 3<sup>RD</sup> NOVEMBER 2005**

Confirmed.

**40. MATTERS ARISING**

Ian Campbell, Resident Representative for the Park Ward, said he was extremely pleased that crime figures had dropped in the Park Ward, despite rising in the Central area as a whole.

Councillor Vic Tumilty considered that anti-social behaviour had increased in the Grange Ward. Incidents included cars and windows being smashed but residents would not call the police because they were afraid or did not think it would do any good. The Town Care Manager said she was meeting the Area Sergeant that day and would pass the Forum's comments on. She said the police were aware of the situation.

**41. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

Resident Representative Evelyn Leck raised the issue of traffic on the Burn Valley roundabout. She said it was impossible for pedestrians to cross the road from Strathmore House or Blakelock Gardens and asked if something to alleviate this could be erected on York Road/Blakelock Road

Resident Representative Ian Campbell commented on a stall selling 'satanic' items in the Middleton Grange Shopping Centre during the run-up to Halloween. He said he had complained about it the year before and hoped it would not be returning in 2006. The Town Care Manager said Mr Campbell's had been the only complaint received. Councillor Ray Waller drew attention to the comments sheets in the shopping centre, saying these had worked in relation to the forthcoming smoking ban.

Resident Ray McAndrew asked if the flooding problems relating to dropped kerbs in Hartlepool could be looked at. He referred particularly to Park Road where the placing of dropped kerbs,

gullies and gutters turned the street into a pond following rain and snow storms. The Senior Neighbourhood Services Officer said Officers would look at Eltringham Road but acknowledged that this was a town wide issue.

Councillor Ray Waller asked if this issue could be made a priority as it was causing pedestrians great problems across Hartlepool.

Mr McAndrew requested traffic lights be installed at the Osbourne Road/Park Road junction. The Town Care Manager said she would pass this on to the Traffic Centre.

Resident Representative Alan Lloyd said workers at the mobility shop were chaining off disabled parking spaces in the Middleton Grange car park for their customers. These bays should be first come first served.

Resident William Morrish asked if anything would be done about the boarded up windows at Crown House as there was a danger they could fall out and injure pedestrians. The Head of Environmental Management said this had been identified as a blight on the community and Officers would be recommending the owners be taken to court to improve the premises or demolish them. However he acknowledged that they had no legal authority to force demolition.

Councillor Ray Waller asked if Hartlepool's CCTV cameras could be upgraded for use with traffic management to check right turns on Elwick Road. The Senior Neighbourhood Services Officer said he would speak to the Head of Community Safety and Prevention about this.

Councillor Waller also asked if there were any plans to make Eamont Gardens a one-way street. A petition on this issue had handed to him over a year ago and consultation supported a one-way system. Had this been considered and what had been the outcome? The Senior Neighbourhood Services Officer said he would pass this matter on to the traffic section.

Resident Representative Evelyn Leck asked if the area around the York Road bus stop outside the camera shop could be repaired as the dropped pavement was causing people to fall when stepping off the bus. This was noted.

#### **42. DRAFT CHILDREN'S CENTRES AND EXTENDED SCHOOLS STRATEGY**

A report and a copy of the above draft Strategy had been circulated with the Agenda for the purpose of seeking the views of the Forum on the draft.

Early Years Manager Danielle Swainston gave a presentation on the draft Strategy. The presentation contained an introduction, explaining more about the Strategy and the process for developing it. Three options had been presented for consultation. Some further detail was provided and Ms Swainston asked for questions or comments to be directed to her by the closing date of 16<sup>th</sup> December 2005. A comments sheet with contact details was included within the papers.

Resident Representative Norma Morrish asked why Burbank area was not mentioned in the Strategy as there were two schools there. The Early Years Manager said Ward Jackson school had been targeted in that area.

Resident Julie Rudge praised the work Sure Start had done and asked if this would be overturned by the Strategy.

The Early Years Manager said the intent was to expand and improve on what had already been done.

Resident Representative Alan Lloyd asked what the age limits were. The Early Years Manager said there was a range of 0-5 years for the children's centres and from 3 years until school leaver age for the extended schools. The premises would also be used for community access.

Resident Representative James Atkinson asked if excluded children would be included in the Strategy. The Early Years Manager confirmed access was for everyone.

The Chair thanked the Early Years Manager for the report and presentation.

#### **43. FIRST CONSULTATIVE DRAFT OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S PLAN**

A report relating to the first consultative draft had been circulated with the Agenda for the purpose of informing the Forum of progress towards a first Children and Young People's Plan for Hartlepool.

The Forum was advised that HBC has responsibility, under the Children Act 2004 to prepare and publish a Children and Young People's Plan in cooperation with individual key partners and partner organisations. The Plan would be the over-arching strategic plan that would cover all services available to children and young people of Hartlepool. The aim of the plan, the consultation action taken to date and the issues for consultation were outlined in the report.

In addition to the report, a number of documents/leaflets were made available at the meeting. These included:



- A first Consultative Draft copy of the Plan;
- Every Hartlepool Child Matters – Consultation Response Form;
- A Summary version of the above;
- A first Consultative Draft Summary.

Senior Education Officer Ian Merritt gave a presentation on the draft Plan. Individual members of the Forum were invited to raise issues, express view(s) or ask questions by completing the Consultation Response Form and submitting it as suggested in the documentation.

The Chairman thanked the Senior Education Officer for his report and presentation.

#### **44. STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT**

The Forum received a report informing them of the progress in the preparation of the Draft Statement of Community Involvement and sought comments on its content. The report set out the Council's policy for involving the community and key stakeholders both in the preparation and revision of Local Development documents and with respect to planning applications. Two documents were made available at the meeting, the Draft Statement of Community Involvement and a Summary document.

The report detailed further background information, gave details of the consultation period, actions taken to date, publicity undertaken, consultation results and next steps.

Principal Planning Officer Tom Britcliffe gave a presentation with slides covering:

- Introduction
- Why Plan?

- Service Standards
- Consultation
- How to get advice and help
- Contact details

Resident Representative Evelyn Leck asked why the consultation had been left so late. The Principal Planning Officer acknowledged that it might have been more useful to bring the matter to the previous forum but they had been unable to consult until the matter went to the Secretary of State.

The Chairman thanked the Principal Planning Officer for his report and presentation.

#### **45. CLEVELAND FIRE BRIGADE – INTEGRATED RISK MANAGEMENT PLAN**

Station Officer Tony Dale had circulated with the Agenda a copy of the Cleveland Fire Brigade Safety Improvement Plan 2006/07. At the meeting he gave a presentation on the Integrated Risk Management Plan and circulated a questionnaire for completion and return.

Resident Representative Patrick Finnan asked if Billingham Fire Station would be affected by the proposed changes. Mr Dale said it would not. Mr Finnan then asked how the requirements of the Headland would be assessed. Mr Dale said they would be looked at on a risk basis.

Resident Representative Evelyn Leck said she was greatly concerned about the cuts in services. Lives could be lost waiting for fire appliances to come from Billingham and five engines was the minimum Hartlepool should have. Mr Dale said Hartlepool would have two basic appliances and two special appliances. He pointed out that there had never been more than two simultaneous fires in the last five years and asked if

members would prefer money to be spend on overprovision of resources or on the prevention of fires. Ms Leck asked if there would be a rebate of Council Tax paid for the fire service but Mr Dale said this money would be rediverted not saved.

Resident Representative James Atkinson asked if the local fire service were prepared for terrorist attacks. Mr Dale said Billingham Station was fully prepared for a terrorist situation and staff at all stations were trained for such an eventuality.

Councillor Gerard Hall said he was concerned at the number of proposed night shift staff and asked if there would still be adequate provision through the night. Mr Dale said there was a plan in place and fire fighting appliances would be on site within five minutes.

Councillor Ray Waller said precautionary measures were important and it should be a legal requirement that all homes have a fire prevention inspection. However Resident Representative Evelyn Leck said many homeowners would not let the firefighters in to carry out the checks. Mr Dale pointed out that people could not be forced to have home safety checks and all new houses were built with fixed smoke detectors.

The Chair thanked Mr Dale for his report and presentation

#### **46. LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN (2006-11) – HIGHWAY IMPROVEMENTS, YORK ROAD**

A report had been circulated with the Agenda for the purpose of seeking the views of the Forum on the proposed improvements.

Local Transport Plan Co-ordinator Alec Gough gave a presentation on the

proposed scheme to improve York Road Highway (copy presentation attached for further information). The presentation contained an introduction, explaining the aims of the improvements, the proposed measures and the phasing of the works. The estimated costs were also detailed. The Local Transport Plan Co-ordinator asked for questions or comments to be directed to him by the closing date of 19<sup>th</sup> December. A questionnaire with contact details was included within the papers.

Resident Representative James Atkinson said the proposals would only add to the congestion in York Road which had been made worse by the improvements in York Road five years ago.. Mr Atkinson asked if the bus shelter near the ramp could be moved to the wider part of the pavement to help ease the situation. The Local Transport Plan Co-ordinator said the first phase of the plans would include the construction of bus lay-bys and widening of the existing road. The previous improvements would be looked at again and they would try to learn from their previous mistakes.

Resident Representative Evelyn Leck asked if there could be a bus stop near the new Health Centre and a zebra crossing between Elwick Road and the Burn Valley roundabout. The Local Transport Plan Co-ordinator said the Burn Valley roundabout area was phase three of the plan and details of this would be considered at a later time. Details of phase one would be taken to the next Forum for consideration.

Resident Bill White asked if the Northbound side of York Road would be widened as the current narrowness was causing problems for churchgoers and pedestrians.

Resident Representative Ian Campbell asked if the bus shelter near the Central Library could be moved to help ease the

current congestion, exacerbated by cyclists using the pavement. Alternatively could the pavement be widened. The Town Care Manager said she was happy to take these suggestions on board as the current situation caused problems for the street cleaners. Resident Representative Norma Morrish reminded those present that cycling on the pavement was illegal not just inconsiderate.

Resident William Morrish asked if the proposed £1.2million cost of the developments would not be better spent on a park-and-ride scheme. The Local Transport Plan Co-ordinator said he was unable to comment on this.

The Chair thanked The Local Transport Plan Co-ordinator for his report and presentation.

#### **47. MINOR WORKS**

The Forum were asked to consider schemes for potential funding from the Central Neighbourhood Consultative Forum Minor Works Budget.

The report gave full details on schemes for landscaping and related work in one location and highway schemes in another.

The Forum approved the expenditure of all schemes as described in the report, subject to the final approval of the Portfolio Holder. The total cost of the schemes approved was £6,100.

#### **48. WARD ISSUES**

##### Burn Valley

Councillor Gerard Hall asked if the feasibility of making the streets leading off Park Road one-way could be looked into.

With reference to the proposed traffic measures in Cornwall Street Councillor

Hall said he had received a number of objections from residents and was happy to bring these back to a future meeting.

Councillor Hall also praised the Oxygen Centre on Cornwall Street which seemed to be well used.

##### Elwick

No issues raised

##### Foggy Furze

Councillor Frances London requested an update on the alleygates situation in Peebles Avenue and Melrose. The Town Care Manager said she would contact Councillor London on this issue.

Councillor London said she had asked for a fence to be installed on Peebles Avenue in order to stop youths congregating on the corner. The Town Care Manager said the Enforcement Officer was dealing with this and she would get an update.

Councillor London also asked for an update on the old Ringtons building at the bottom of Oxford Road. The Head of Environmental Management said the building was owned by Tones and they had been warned that it would be added to the list of derelict buildings unless improvements were made.

##### Grange

Resident Representative Patrick Finnan asked if the previous bus routes for the Tunstall Avenue and Duke Street areas could be reinstated. The Head of Environmental Management said he would pass this request on to the new Head of Technical Services.

Councillor Vic Tumilty raised the issue of vehicles parking on the Murray Street pavement. Councillor Tumilty felt Bell's

Stores were particularly at fault and asked what could be done to bring the culprits to task. The Senior Neighbourhood Services Officer reported Murray Street was inspected every month and a scheme of improvements was due to start in January 2006. He agreed much of the problem was related to Bell's Stores but explained that the decriminalisation officers could only enforce existing traffic orders. Councillor Tumilty stated that HGVs delivering to Bell's Stores should be asked to pay for any damage they caused but the Head of Environmental Management said the Council had no powers to make them.

### Park

Councillor Dr George Morris congratulated officers on the work they had done bringing the issue of parking on Park Avenue to the attention of the Portfolio Holder.

Councillor Dr Morris raised the issue of High Tunstall pupils littering in the surrounding area. He had written to the departing Head on two occasions with no success and hoped the incoming Head would be more helpful. Councillor Dr Morris hoped that the Forum would support him on this. The Head of Environmental Management said five fixed penalty notices had been issued on this matter and reiterated Councillor Dr Morris's comments on the new Head. In addition the Town Care Manager said letters had now been written to the Governors in the hope of solving the problem.

Resident Representative Ian Campbell drew members' attention to the recent formation of the Park Ward Residents Association, of which he was the Chair. Mr Campbell asked if the issues of anti-social behaviour and litter in Ward Jackson Park could be addressed and if the clock tower and fountain in Ward

Jackson Park could be brought back to a fully-operational standard.

Resident Representative Ian Campbell also asked if the Neighbourhood Forums were reported in the Hartlepool Mail and Hartbeat magazine. The Town Care Manager confirmed that the Mail received the relevant papers for the meeting and were invited to attend but officers could not control whether they came and what they reported on if they did.

### Rift House

No issues raised

### Stranton

Resident Representative Ian Campbell asked if there were any plans to erect a zebra crossing on Upper Burn Road to provide access to Tesco. The Town Care Manager said she had seen the plans and would get back to the Forum on timescales for the work to be completed.

<b>49. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING</b>
--

Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> February commencing at 10am in Committee Room B, Civic Centre.

C HALL

CHAIR

**Report of:** Head of Community Safety & Prevention

**Subject:** ADULT TREATMENT PLAN 2006/07

---

**1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To seek comments from the Central Neighbourhood Consultative Forum on the 2nd February 2006 on the draft Adult Treatment Plan 2006/07 which relates to adult drug treatment and support for the coming year.

**2. SUMMARY OF CONTENTS**

- 2.1 The report describes the process and contents of the draft Adult Treatment Plan 2006/07 which is set out in three parts and illustrates the performance and forecast targets for activity in relation to adult drug treatment services and support for 2006/07 and initial targets for 2007/08. The report also invites comment on the draft Plan prior to finalisation and agreement with the National Treatment Agency and Home Office at the end of March 2006.

**3. BACKGROUND TO THE REPORT**

- 3.1 The Government has a 10-year drug strategy 'Tackling Drugs Together' launched in 1998 which requires multi agency partnerships to determine local priorities within a specific framework and implement activity to address their drug situation.
- 3.2 Initially Hartlepool's interests were represented in a Tees-wide Drug Action Team (DAT) then in a Hartlepool DAT from 2000 and in June 2004 following the merger of DAT with the Youth Offending Service and Community Safety Partnership responsibility for the drug strategy passed to the Safer Hartlepool Partnership. The aim being that of improved coordination of strategic planning and joint initiatives linking the crime, drugs and prevention agendas.
- 3.3 The Home Office provide substance misuse monies, which along with other mainstream funding from key partners such as Hartlepool Primary Care Trust, Police and Probation finances a wide range of projects and initiatives to address the town's drug misuse.

- 3.4 The National Drug Strategy has four strands Communities, Young People, Reducing the supply and availability of drugs and Treatment. Each has Key Performance Indicators (KPI's) and the National Treatment Agency and Government Office North East monitor performance against these indicators, through a series of agreed targets, management frameworks and reporting requirements.
- 3.5 The national drug strategy was updated in 2002 when greater emphasis was placed on engaging with drug using offenders. Specific programmes such as the Drug Intervention Programme (DIP) and Restrictions on Bail (ROB) were introduced to Hartlepool in 2004 with Tough Choices being introduced in April 2006.
- 3.6 All are intended to identify drug using offenders at the earliest opportunity and throughout the criminal justice system and get them into treatment thereby reducing the levels of crime they might commit to fund their drug habit.
- 3.7 One of the most significant requirements for the treatment element of the strategy is the production of an annual Treatment Plan to confirm the investment, focus and activity of the Partnership.
- 3.8 There is a predetermined format for the Plan which details what should be available to every drug misuser to ensure consistency of provision across the country and there is also a national service framework 'Models of Care' which details the quality, standard and operational structures to be put in place.

#### 4. **CONTENTS OF THE ADULT TREATMENT PLAN**

- 4.1 The copy of the draft Adult Treatment Plan is available at this meeting for further reference.
- 4.2 The Plan is in three parts.
- 4.3 Part one contains the strategic summary of our local situation, identifies a range of targets across tiers of services with illustrations of past, current and future performance targets. It also confirms the detail of three national key performance indicators:-
  - a) numbers into treatment – this should increase year on year
  - b) waiting times – how long it takes an individual to get into treatment
  - c) retention rates – how many of those in treatment stay longer than 12 weeks.

- 4.4 There have been positive moves to increase the numbers of individuals coming into the treatment services and at year-end forecast a target of 559. This is due in the main to the expansion of the Community Drug Centre in Whitby Street, a reconfiguration of services and increased personnel. The DIP, ROB and Dordrecht projects have also played a major part in engaging with offenders and getting them into treatment quickly.
- 4.5 National targets are set for waiting times with a requirement in 2006/07 that anyone should be able to access their treatment needs within three weeks. Currently Hartlepool services are bettering that target with most referrals accessing treatment within a week. That has not always been the case however and in previous years there had been waiting times in excess of 8 – 12 weeks.
- 4.6 Retention targets are important as evidence suggests that if individuals can be kept in treatment for at least 12 weeks then it is more likely to have a successful outcome. Currently performance is at 67% and needs to be strengthened to at least 75% by 2008.

## **5. FEEDBACK**

- 5.1 The draft of the Plan is being made available to the widest possible audience for comment this will include the three Neighbourhood Consultative Forums, Stakeholders, the Primary care Trust, User groups and service providers.
- 5.2 Although the national drug strategy requires action within a predetermined framework there is still opportunity to ensure that Safer Hartlepool Partnership have considered and focused initiatives in areas of greatest need and the public and agencies are encouraged to have input to assist in forming the Plan.
- 5.3 The final submission of the Plan has to be sent to the National Treatment Agency for mid March and therefore anyone can make comment by 10<sup>th</sup> March 2006 in the following ways :
- Contact Chris Hart, Planning and Commissioning Manager, Safer Hartlepool Partnership, tel: 01429 405589
  - Write to Chris Hart, Planning and Commissioning Manager, Safer Hartlepool Partnership, Community Safety Office, 8 Church Street,
  - Hartlepool, TS24 7DJ.
  - Copies of the draft Adult Treatment Plan 2006/07 will also be available from the reception at the Community Safety Office, 8 Church Street,

Hartlepool, TS24 7DJ and can be accessed on the Partnership website [www.saferhartlepool.gov.uk](http://www.saferhartlepool.gov.uk).

- 5.4 Key stakeholders will receive a copy of the draft and the plan will be considered at Safer Hartlepool Partnership Executive and Joint Commissioning Group.
- 5.5 In addition key service providers will have a view and consultative meetings will be arranged with user, family support groups and service users.

## **6. OFFICER ADVICE**

- 6.1 Residents of the Consultative Forum area, the independent sector, Ward and Parish Councillors along with service providers and stakeholders delivering associated services in Hartlepool are asked for their comments on the draft Adult Treatment Plan 2006/07 at the Forum meetings or to Chris Hart before 10<sup>th</sup> March 2006.

Contract Details: Chris Hart, DAT Co-ordinator  
Community Safety Office, 8 Church Street, Hartlepool  
Tel: 01429 284593



**Report of:** Head of Technical Services

**Subject:** Hartlepool Second Local Transport Plan

---

## **1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform the Central Neighbourhood Consultative Forum of the wide range of transport schemes and initiatives that are being considered for inclusion in Hartlepool's Second Local Transport Plan (LTP).

## **2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 The LTP is a strategic document that the Government requires the Council to produce every five years. It describes Hartlepool's long-term transport strategy and sets out our policies to deliver transport improvements that will address local transport problems. These improvements will contribute towards achieving the long-term vision for Hartlepool set out in the Community Strategy.
- 2.2 Hartlepool's provisional LTP for the period 2006-2011 was submitted to the Government in July 2005 and included draft strategies, transport schemes, implementation programme and targets. Since this date, the provisional LTP has been further developed to take account of the confirmed allocation of capital funding and consultation on proposed transport improvements.
- 2.3 Work is still on-going in finalising the detail of the final LTP in accordance with the Government's guidance. This process involves key stakeholders to develop transport schemes and public consultation. Following Cabinet approval, the final LTP will be submitted to the Government by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2006.

## **3. CONSIDERATION OF THE ISSUES**

### **Transport Problems**

- 3.1 Analysis of Hartlepool's local transport problems through involvement of partners and evidence from public consultation has identified the following key issues:
- Poor access to key services and facilities, particularly for people who are mobility impaired and people who do not have access to a car;
  - Road danger, particularly for pedestrians and cyclists, and fears for personal safety;
  - Increasing traffic congestion at key junctions on the local road network, including the town centre and the A179 and A689 main road corridors; and
  - Environmental impact of transport on air quality and noise in residential and commercial areas.

3.2 More detailed analysis has also identified specific issues for the Central Forum Area including:

- Increasing traffic congestion in and around the town centre, particularly on A689 Stockton Road at junctions with Clarence Road, Victoria Road, Park Road and Burn Road and along York Road;
- Poor linkages between town centre areas caused by the dual carriageway and railway line;
- Poor access to, and quality of, town centre car parks;
- Lack of vehicle parking in the town centre and in older residential areas; and
- Poor standard of bus passenger waiting facilities.

### **Confirmed LTP Capital Funding**

3.3 The confirmed allocation of capital funding through the Local Transport Plan is £10.476 million over the next five years. This includes £5.726 million for Integrated Transport and £4.750 million for Structural Maintenance.

### **Proposed Transport Schemes and Initiatives**

3.4 A wide range of potential transport schemes and initiatives are currently being considered for inclusion in the final LTP including:

- **Bus Priority** improvements on York Road core bus corridor;
- Improvements to **Bus Infrastructure** including new bus shelters, replacement of all bus stops poles and flags, new timetable displays and raised kerbs with priority on core bus route corridors (service 1,6 and 7);
- Improvements to **Public Transport Interchanges** including Hartlepool railway station;
- Creation of new or improved **Walking** and **Cycle Routes** in coastal, urban and rural areas;
- Continued support for **Travel Planning** at all schools and employers;
- **Local Safety Schemes** including Safer Routes to School, CCTV, street lighting and the Safer Streets Initiative with funding specifically allocated to Neighbourhood Action Plan areas;
- Provision of new or improved **Road Crossings**, including tactile pedestrian crossings, at justified locations;
- **Traffic Management** including highway engineering schemes, parking lay-by programme and car park information signs on approach to the town centre;
- **Local Road Schemes** including signalisation of A689 Stockton Street/Burn Road junction and re-modelling of Catcote Road/Oxford Road junction;
- **Miscellaneous** schemes including contribution to Shopmobility building extension, expansion of road safety education and training, sustainable travel promotion and purchase of a new Dial-a-Ride vehicle; and
- **Structural Maintenance** of roads, footways and bridges.

## **4. RECOMMENDATION**

4.1 It is recommended that the Central Neighbourhood Consultative Forum note the proposed transport schemes and initiatives to be further developed for the final Local Transport Plan and provide comments as appropriate.

**Report of:** The Director of Regeneration and Planning Services

**Subject:** HARTLEPOOL LOCAL PLAN, PUBLICATION OF FURTHER PROPOSED MODIFICATIONS

---

## **1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To advise the Forum that Further Modifications to the new Hartlepool Local Plan are currently available until 16 February 2006 for inspection and for the receipt of representations.

## **2. BACKGROUND AND INFORMATION**

- 2.1 On 11 August 2005 the Forum considered the recommendations made by the Inspector in her report on the Public Local Inquiry held during June and July 2004 into objections to the Hartlepool Local Plan.

- 2.2 The Forum discussed a range of issues relating to the Local Plan including;

- renewal of central area older housing stock and affordable housing,
- effect of late night uses in mixed use areas adjacent to housing,
- problems of flooding/ sewer capacity,
- Briarfields,
- proposed deletion of Tunstall Farm,
- Proposed retention of the University Hospital site for hospital use,
- proposed deletion of Coronation Drive housing site.

- 2.3 In a number of cases the Local Plan as proposed to be modified sought to address issues raised. The Forum supported the Inspector's recommendations relating to the Briarfields area and noted that the Inspector's suggestion that the Briarfields site (excluding the former allotments area) be retained on a 'shopping list' of possible future housing sites to be considered in the light of monitoring of housing supply.

- 2.4 The Council on 15 September 2005 considered the views of the Forum and other bodies and agreed to make Proposed Modifications to the Local Plan. These were made available for public inspection from Friday 30 September to Thursday 10 November 2005.

- 2.5 A number of representations of support and objections to the Proposed Modifications were received.
- 2.6 The Council on 15 December 2005 considered these representations and proposed a number of Further Modifications to the Local Plan to accord mainly with recent national policy guidance, thereby enhancing the effectiveness of the policies and also to clarify parts of the text. These related generally to policies on offices and town centre uses, renewable energy together with minor amendment to the text on housing clearances. In the case of the issue of flood risk as discussed previously by the Forum, there have been further discussions with the Environment Agency and as a consequence the policy is to be strengthened in line with Government advice. .
- 2.7 The Forum should note that with respect to Briarfields the Council did agree in September to identify the former allotments area as a key green space. However the Council has since reconsidered how the former allotments site at Briarfields should be denoted. The Council felt that in the current economic context, there should be greater flexibility provided in the Local Plan to enable the appropriate re-use of the land within the Briarfields area as a whole, which may or may not include the development of allotments or other open space. A further modification has thus been proposed deleting the reference to the former Briarfields allotments site as protected green space in policy GN3. This is in place of the Modification previously proposed.
- 2.8 The Further Proposed Modifications together with the Borough Council's reasons for proposing them have been made available for public inspection until Thursday 16 February 2006. They can be viewed at Bryan Hanson House, the Civic Centre, libraries in Hartlepool, and at Summerhill Visitor Centre. They can also be viewed on Hartlepool Borough Council's website [www.hartlepool.gov.uk/planningandbuildingcontrol/planningpolicy](http://www.hartlepool.gov.uk/planningandbuildingcontrol/planningpolicy)
- 2.9 Any representations on the Further Proposed Modifications should be received by 16 February 2006.

### **3. RECOMMENDATION**

- 3.1 That the report be noted and that interested parties be encouraged to submit any formal representations by the due date.

**Report of:** The Director of Regeneration and Planning Services

**Subject:** STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT –  
UPDATE REPORT

---

**1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To update the Forum on progress on the preparation of the Statement of Community Involvement.

**1. BACKGROUND AND INFORMATION**

- 2.1 At the last meeting, the Forum received a presentation and report on the draft Statement of Community Involvement (SCI), a document which sets out how and when the Council will consult the community during the preparation of new planning policy documents and in the consideration of planning applications.
- 2.2 The Borough Council has considered all the comments made on the draft document and in response has agreed some amendments. These are generally of a minor nature and include:
- addition of a sub-title clarifying that the document relates to consultation with the community on planning matters;
  - the addition of some further bodies listed as consultees and amendments to the contacts specified in the report; and
  - the incorporation within the main part of the document of the content of some of the appendices.

**3 THE NEXT STEPS**

- 3.1 The amended Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) will be submitted to the Secretary of State at the end of January and at the same time will be made publicly available for formal representations for a statutory period of six weeks. The SCI and associated documents will be published on the Council's website and details of the availability of the documents will be publicised in the local press.
- 3.2 The soundness of the SCI will be tested by an independent planning inspector. In assessing soundness, the inspector will take into account any formal representations received on the submitted document. Any resulting recommendations for changes made by the Inspector must be incorporated in the SCI before it can be adopted by the Council.

#### **4 RECOMMENDATION**

- 4.1 That the report be noted and that interested parties be encouraged to submit any formal representations when the Statement of Community Involvement is published at the end of January.