



# South Tyneside Council

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## West Shields, Cleadon and East Boldon Community Area Forum Minutes

17 April 2012

Present: Councillors: Punchion (Chairman), Atkinson, Brady, Gibson, Haram, Milburn, Pigott and Walsh.

Mrs P Snowdon (Community and Voluntary Sector Representative).  
Mr B Dinsdale (Business Representative).

Acting Inspector Nick Gjørven & Inspector Dave Hudson (Northumbria Police), Station Manager Neville Charlton (Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service), Rachel Gibson (Area Team Leader), Trevor Denham (Housing Services Manager), Mark Overton (Consultant in Public Health), Peter Fleming (Team Leader, Highways Design and Development), Caine Spence (Acting Commercial Services Manager), Leon Cowley (Corporate Environmental Officer) and Gary Shaw (Democratic Support Officer).

10 members of the public were in attendance.

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### 1. Chairman's welcome and introductions

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

### 2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

**3. Minutes of the West Shields, Cleadon and East Boldon Community Area Forum meeting held on 15 March 2012**

Agreed: That the minutes of the meeting held on 15 March 2012 be agreed as a true and accurate record.

**4. Northumbria Police, Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service and South Tyneside Council Community Safety Report**

Submitted: Joint report of Northumbria Police, Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service, and Corporate Director Business and Area Management.

This verbal report highlighted what community partners were doing within the Forum area to address community safety issues, with contributions from:

- Northumbria Police;
- Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service; and
- South Tyneside Council's Community Safety Team.

Acting Inspector Gjorven, Northumbria Police gave a verbal report on Police activities within the West Shields Wards. The Forum was advised of the current issues in the area which included:-

- Measures to tackle traffic issues on Nevinson Avenue including the use of police speed guns and ticketing vehicles parked illegally;
- Recent incidents of anti-social behaviour;
- Burglaries to sheds and garages which had resulted in 3 warrants being issued and the recovery of a significant amount of tools;
- The removal of metal objects from properties. Residents were advised to not leave anything of metallic value in sight for scrap merchants to take;
- A 9.5% reduction in crime in the area; and
- Details of forthcoming PACT meetings which could be found on [www.northumbria.police.uk](http://www.northumbria.police.uk).

A Member referred to the concerns raised at the previous meeting in relation to the traffic issues on Nevinson Avenue and Whiteleas Way, particularly in relation to the amount of signage indicating the 20mph zone. The Acting Inspector advised that he was willing to engage with partners to look at putting more signage in the area.

Inspector Hudson then provided a verbal report on Police activities in the Cleadon and East Boldon Ward.

Issues highlighted included:-

- Parking issues around Underhill Road and the ongoing work with local Councillors, residents and the school to seek a long term solution; and
- The priority for the area which continued to be burglaries to dwellings and thefts from sheds. There had been no recent issues and resources would continue to be deployed in the area.

Station Manager Neville Charlton, Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service provided the Forum with the latest statistics in the CAF area.

The Lighter Nights campaign had taken place over the Easter period with no anti-social behaviour fires being reported in the areas of focus over this time.

Home Safety checks were still in operation and residents were encouraged to take the opportunity of receiving a free check wherever possible.

There had been a significant increase in anti-social behaviour fires since the last meeting, which was attributed to the more favourable weather conditions.

Preparations were ongoing for the summer open day, the date of which would be given at the first meeting of the new Municipal Year.

Rachel Gibson, Area Team Leader provided Members with an overview from the Community Safety Team.

Four new cases had been submitted into the Anti Social Behaviour Team since the last meeting. Two were in relation to the Biddick & All Saints area leaving 9 active cases in the Ward.

Whiteleas had seen 1 new case referred leaving a total of 8 active cases.

1 new case was referred relating to Cleadon and East Boldon and this was currently the only active case.

The Chairman thanked the representatives for their updates.

Agreed: That the updates be noted.

## **5. Update on GP outreach including an update on Health Facilities in West Shields**

Rachel Gibson provided an update to the CAF in relation to GP outreach in the West Shields area.

Background to the issues in the area was provided including the work of the Biddick Hall Focus Group. The Group had successfully secured a location for a Community Shop on Gaskell Avenue and in conjunction with the Farnham GP Practice, could provide two outreach sessions per week out of this location.

It was hoped that a wide range of health advice/services would be provided as well as advice and support around employment, training, financial inclusion and housing.

The Community Shop would also be one of the venues for the newly developed MyWellness key pilot project. This programme was aimed at supporting inactive people to safely increase their physical activity level.

The update provided details of the pharmacies in the CAF area and also a list of locations that delivered free NHS Health Checks.

Also included were the NHS Health Check Community Engagement Pilot and details on the various campaigns that were currently taking place.

The Chairman thanked the Officer for the update and commended the work of the Biddick Hall Focus Group on securing the premises on Gaskell Avenue.

Agreed: That the information be noted.

## **6. Introducing Low Carbon Technologies to South Tyneside**

Leon Cowley, Corporate Environmental Officer gave a presentation to the Forum on the new low carbon technologies being introduced to South Tyneside as part of the Decent Homes improvements to the Council's housing stock.

The presentation included information on:-

- The objectives of the initiatives;
- Lukes Lane heating improvements including air source heat pumps and solar thermal panels;
- Non-traditional housing in Horsley Hill – external and internal works, including new insulation, resulting in greatly reduced heating bills;
- New bungalows at Dorset Avenue built to a high environmental standard;
- Solar photo voltaic scheme fitted by accredited South Tyneside Homes staff resulting in over £100k per annum being received through the feed-in tariffs system;
- The Lonnen heating improvements to 61 bungalows;

- Use of external funding including money from the Community Energy Saving Programme (£9M) and European Regional Development fund (£1.2m); and
- Tackling fuel poverty through employment of 2 energy advisors in partnership with Tyne Gateway working directly with tenants.

Members raised a number of concerns particularly in relation to government funding and the amount households could save using renewable energy. Tackling fuel poverty was a very important issue and this scheme along with services already in place showed that work was moving in the right direction to deal with this issue.

In terms of new Government policy and the reduction of the tariff provided for solar panels, a Member advised that the Borough was fortunate to have had a lot of work carried out but consideration had to be given for all future schemes. The CAF heard that discussions had already begun around the issues this would create.

Agreed: That the information be noted.

## **7. Capital Construction Projects Progress Report**

Submitted: Report of the Corporate Director, Business and Area Management

This report summarised progress on all structural, highways, transport and other asset-related schemes within the Community Area Forum.

Peter Fleming, Highways Manager outlined the report to the Forum advising that any further information required on any of the proposed schemes would be available on request.

Further information was requested on the schemes in relation to the Green Lane Pedestrian Improvements and the New Puffin Crossing Whitburn Road/Woodland Road.

Agreed: That (a) the report be noted; and (b) the queries raised be investigated.

## **8. South Tyneside Homes Information Report**

Submitted: Report of the Chief Executive South Tyneside Homes

This report provided Members with performance information on South Tyneside Homes' main areas of activity within the Forum area.

In presenting the report, particular reference was made to the following key areas:

- South Tyneside Homes' Vision;
- A performance update in relation to the letting of empty homes;
- Estate and Tenancy Management;
- Good practice and tenant support;
- An update report on the Decent Homes Programme; and
- Ongoing works in the Forum area.

The restructuring of the Area Housing Management Team had been completed and was now in place. Members were provided with the list of Housing Management Officers in their wards and the estates/areas that they were responsible for. 53 estates had been identified by Officers and residents and the aim was to have these Officers working in their areas improving the service provided. In addition, South Tyneside Homes was to develop a new reporting system to the Forum to provide better, more relevant local information.

During discussion it was suggested that the Officers make direct contact with Members to introduce themselves and perhaps to arrange walkabouts to discuss issues within each estate.

A Member requested that efforts be made to ensure that frontline staff knew of the different funding options available for residents who were requesting fencing etc.

Concerns were raised in relation to the 0300 number. The CAF heard that all calls were recorded to ensure that if an incident was reported it could be investigated.

Agreed: That the report be noted.

## **9. 2011/2012 Community Area Forum Funding**

Submitted: Report of the Corporate Director Business and Area Management

This report outlined the funding allocated to the Community Area Forums for the 2011/2012 financial year for the following schemes:

- CAF Housing Initiatives Scheme;
- CAF Environmental Initiatives Scheme;
- CAF Social Scheme.

Rachel Gibson, Area Team Leader outlined the report which contained a full list of schemes to date. All funding for 2011-12 had been allocated.

Agreed: That the report be noted.

#### **10. Work Programme for the Forum**

Submitted: Report of the Corporate Director Business and Area Management.

The purpose of this report was to highlight a number of ongoing and planned issues for consideration in the 2012/13 work programme.

A Member requested that an item be added looking at the work carried out in the CAF area by the Durham Wildlife Trust.

Agreed: That (a) the CAF notes the completion of its 2011/12 work programme; and (b) that an item on the work carried out by the Durham Wildlife Trust be added to the draft work programme for 2012/13.

#### **11. Chairman's Urgent Items**

There were no urgent items.

The Chairman thanked all for their attendance throughout the Municipal Year and closed the meeting.