



South Tyneside Council

Jarrow and Boldon Community Area Forum Minutes

31 May 2012

Present: Councillors: Stephenson (Chairman), Bell, Cunningham, Harrison, Hemmer, Meeks, Murphy, Perry, Smith and Strike

External Representatives:

Pat Snowdon (Community and Voluntary Sector)
Ken Bartley (Community and Voluntary Sector)
Brian Dinsdale (Business Sector)

Andy Whittaker (Acting Head of Sustainable Communities/Lead Officer), Sergeant Darren Head (Northumbria Police), Inspector Dave Hudson (Northumbria Police), Phil Render (Team Leader, Jarrow and Hebburn), Steve Southern (South Tyneside Positive Activities and Targeted Youth Support Group), Sue Collins (PCT), Sean Halligan (South Tyneside Homes), Dave Pentland (Highways and Traffic Manager), James Elliott (Resilience Officer), Andy Ritchie (Area Youth Support Manager) and Brian Springthorpe (Democratic Support Officer).

There were 14 members of the public in attendance at the meeting.

1. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

2. Minutes of the Meeting held on 19 April 2012

Agreed: That the minutes of the meeting held on 19 April 2012 be approved as a true and accurate record.

At this point in the meeting the Chairman agreed to amend the order of business.

3. Proposed introduction of 20 mph zone at Abbey Drive area, Jarrow

Submitted: Report of the Corporate Director Business and Area Management

Dave Pentland, Highways and Traffic Manager, outlined the background to the proposal. The Abbey Drive area was bounded by the B1297 Priory Road and consisted of residential properties, a primary school, several public houses, a serviceman's club, buildings associated with the Tyne crossing and a shopping centre situated to the west of the area.

Details of traffic speeds and numbers of vehicles recorded were given to the Forum following recent surveys. Accident data was detailed in the report.

The cost of the proposal was £15,000 to be funded from Local Transport Plan funds designated for local safety schemes and 20 mph zones.

Agreed: That (a) the report be noted and (b) that formal advertising takes place and (c) that the Forum supports the implementation of the scheme subject to the necessary legal procedures and consultations taking place.

4. Capital Construction Projects Progress Report

Submitted: Report of the Corporate Director Business and Area Management

This report summarised progress on the capital schemes within the area of the Forum and provided comments and information upon significant events which may occur on these projects.

It also provided a brief description of each of the projects along with comments and information on stages of development.

Members and residents raised a number of issues in relation to schemes contained in the report. These schemes included Wilton Gardens parking bays, the area around the metro station, the entrance to Morrisons at Monkton Road and children walking on safety barriers over bridges.

Agreed: That (a) the contents of the report be noted; and (b) that issues raised be investigated.

5. Community Safety Partners Report

Northumbria Police

Inspector Hudson provided a report on policing activities and initiatives that had taken place in the Boldon area of the Forum since the last meeting:

- There were no significant issues to report and crime remained low with 14 reported crimes, 7 of which were shoplifting incidents;
- Anti-social behaviour remained low and police continued to monitor Colliery Woods and Arnold Street, which were areas where there had previously been incidents of motorcycle related disorder and young people congregating;
- Policing priority remained burglaries and it was pleasing to report that there had been no burglaries in May.

Sergeant Head provided a report on policing activities and initiatives that had taken place in the Jarrow area of the Forum since the last meeting:-

- Policing priorities remained burglaries and anti-social behaviour and targeted patrols continued to address these issues. Residents were reminded to secure their property, keeping windows and doors locked and not to leave valuables unattended or on display in vehicles.

Discussion took place on a number of issues including dangerous parking outside schools and the limited CCTV coverage at Hedworth shops. Police confirmed a number of arrests had been made and investigations continued following incidents at Hedworth shops.

Fire and Rescue Service

There was no Fire and Rescue Service representative available to attend the meeting.

Community Safety

Phil Render, Area Team Leader, reported on Community Safety issues in the Forum area.

Partnership working continued and funding was available to help support vulnerable residents with security measures. Seven residents had benefited from this scheme in the Forum area. Community Payback continued to operate in the Forum area and Members and residents were reminded that they could suggest projects to be carried out.

Current anti-social cases stood at:

Fellgate and Hedworth – 0 new, 11 active and 1 closed case.

Bede – 1 new, 34 active and 3 closed.

Primrose – 2 new, 17 active and 0 closed.

Boldon Colliery – 1 new, 3 active and 0 closed.

Residents and Members highlighted a number of instances of anti-social behaviour. Often it was felt that the perpetrators were not dealt with robustly enough and that any action taken took too long to implement.

Nexus

There was no Nexus representative available to attend the meeting.

Residents raised concerns over graffiti on the metro lines and pointed out that the rubbish previously highlighted to Nexus had not been cleared.

Agreed: (a) That the updates be noted, and (b) that the issues raised be pursued with the appropriate organisations.

6. Presentation: South Tyneside Positive Activities and targeted Youth Support Group

Steve Southern gave a presentation to the Forum on the South Tyneside Positive Activities and Targeted Youth Support Group.

The presentation included information on:-

- The aims and objectives of the project;
 - 'Bored in Boldon' project involved up to 90 young people per week from 18 hours of youth work based at the CA and village hall;
 - The delivery of the project was done in partnership with South Tyneside Council;
 - Many of the young people involved faced a number of challenges in their lives and the project was designed to
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provide positive activities, volunteering opportunities, help with CVs, training and educational activities around issues affecting their lives and the wider community;

- Since the project began, anti-social behaviour fires had fallen dramatically, crime continued to fall and the project had played a part in the successful Lighter Nights Campaign;
- Young people involved in the project had found it very worthwhile and rewarding; and
- Funding had been secured until December 2012.

Discussion took place on the benefit to the young people and the community from the Project and the Forum offered its congratulations to all involved.

Agreed: That the presentation be noted.

7. South Tyneside Homes Information Report

Submitted: Report of the Chief Executive, South Tyneside Homes

The Housing Services Manager presented the new style report, which identified the main areas of activity and key issues for South Tyneside Homes within the Forum's geographical area.

The report covered the following areas:

- Customer service
- Housing area management
- Income management
- Lettings income
- Repairs and maintenance management
- Decent Homes programme
- Emerging and developing items
- CAF requested information

Customer service – performance on responding to complaints had improved substantially in recent years and the overall numbers of complaints continued to fall. Jarrow office continued to be very busy.

Housing area management – all estate and tenancy support visits had been completed. Customer appointment visits had been introduced to support tenants and garden tidy visits continued.

Income management – Outstanding rent arrears for the CAF stood at £487,120 (2.32% of rent roll). In the Borough £1,616,587 was owed (2.32% of rent roll). Arrears continued to be monitored and

addressed and collection procedures, as well as support for tenants, were in place. Evictions were used as a last resort.

Lettings management – New systems had been introduced to address void levels. Improvements in the management systems had resulted in additional rental income being achieved. There were 72 empty homes in the Forum area out of 218 across the Borough. The average re-let time for general need properties in the Forum was 43.38 days however this increased to 102 days when sheltered units were included.

Repair and maintenance management – Performance and customer satisfaction levels continued to improve. Over 102,000 repairs were made in 2011/2012.

Decent Homes programme - Improvements continued to be made across the Borough including the Forum area.

- Ellen Court – Lift replacement had been completed.
- Calf Close House - Completed.
- Jarrow High Rise – work was underway, or about to commence, in Monastery, Ellen and Wilkinson Courts to improve externals, communal areas and heating systems. A programme of internal works was to be carried out.
- Calf Close – 215 roofs were to be replaced with 56 properties completed to date.
- Scotch and Low Simonside Estates – 312 external canopies had been completed on the Scotch Estate and 60 in Low Simonside. Work in Primrose was ongoing with 147 canopies fitted with a further 50 remaining.
- Scotch Estate – Three parking bays were to be created in the estate to address parking congestion.

Discussion took place on the law regarding gas safety certificates. It was recognised that legislation did not apply to owner occupiers. Members expressed concerns over the introduction of a sub regional lettings system fearing it would not help local families find homes locally. A Member asked for further information on the furniture packs scheme available to new tenants.

Agreed: That the Officer be thanked for his report.

8. Chairman's Urgent Items

The Chairman agreed to accept the following item for consideration by the Forum as a matter of urgency, under the provisions of Section 100B(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, because of the following special circumstances:

Community Engagement by the Primary Care Trust

In order to update the Forum at the earliest opportunity on the community engagement work being carried out by the Primary Care Trust.

9. Community Engagement by the Primary Care Trust

Sue Collins, Promoting Health Engagement Lead for the Primary Care Trust (PCT), advised the Forum of the work being carried out in the Jarrow and Boldon Forum area. The PCT was working with groups and individuals to gather information on 'what does being healthy' mean to the local community?

It was highlighted that residents in the Jarrow and Boldon area suffered higher than average premature death rates. There was a wide range of activities available for residents to promote healthier lifestyles.

Residents were encouraged to get involved and provide their views to the PCT.

Agreed: That the Officer be thanked for her report.

10. 2012/2013 Community Area Forum Funding

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

The funding to this Forum in 2012/2013 was £353,608 comprised of:

- Environmental Initiatives Funding £93,984
- Housing Initiatives Funding £207,820
- CAF Social Scheme £51,804

There had been 9 schemes approved under delegated powers since the last meeting:

Boldon Colliery – Street Party Group Ruskin Avenue – Jubilee party – £500

Boldon Colliery – Henley House – Jubilee party – £350

Boldon Colliery – Cheviot House – Jubilee party – £420

Fellgate and Hedworth – Calf Close House – Jubilee party – £500

Bede – Porlock House – Jubilee party – £400
 Primrose – Curran House Mews – Jubilee party – £500
 Boldon Colliery, Fellgate and Hedworth, Primrose – Hebburn
 Community Chess Club – Presentation evening – £300
 Primrose – Nolan Hall Coffee Morning Club – Jubilee party – £300
 Fellgate and Hedworth, Primrose – Primrose Sure Start Parent
 Network – Jubilee party – £250

Members questioned how the amounts were calculated and it was confirmed that 2010 deprivation figures were now used. Discussion took place on the accuracy of the statistics used as it was felt that they did not necessarily reflect the true levels of deprivation in some communities.

A resident thanked the Forum for its continued support for the Jarrow Festival and for a Jubilee event planned for 450 residents.

Agreed: (a) That the report be noted, (b) that the delegated schemes be noted, (c) that all funds be split equally between the four wards, (d) to investigate if the South Tyneside Positive Activities and Targeted Youth Support Group application could be classed as an environmental scheme and (e) that the applications for funding be dealt with as set out below:

<u>Organisation / Scheme</u>	<u>Decision</u>
<u>Environment Schemes</u>	
Lukes Lane bridge feasibility study (Primrose) Total cost £4,000 Grant sought £2,000	That a grant of £2,000 be supported. <i>The scheme represents a worthwhile contribution to the community.</i>
2-20 Featherstone – relay paving, renew kerb line and hard surface grass verge (Primrose) Total cost £20,160 Grant sought £8,412	That a grant of £8,412 be supported. <i>The scheme represents a worthwhile contribution to the community.</i>
Sign at Gaslighter pub site in Jarrow (Part funded 11/12 £2,761) (Jarrow wards) Total cost £3,675 Grant sought £914	That a grant of £914 be supported. <i>The scheme represents a worthwhile contribution to the community.</i>

<p>Locking/unlocking of Coronation Park from end of June 2012 to June 2013 (Boldon Colliery) Total cost £2,439 Grant sought £2,439</p>	<p>That a grant of £2,439 be supported. <i>The scheme represents a worthwhile contribution to the community.</i></p>
<p>Financial Inclusion and wellbeing Project – start up grant (Boldon Colliery) Total cost £3,000 Grant sought £3,000</p>	<p>That a grant of £3,000 be supported. <i>The scheme represents a worthwhile contribution to the community.</i></p>
<p>126-130 Calf Close Lane – lay bys (Fellgate and Hedworth) Total cost £4,525 Grant sought £4,525</p>	<p>That a grant of £4,525 be supported. <i>The scheme represents a worthwhile contribution to the community.</i></p>
<p><u>Housing Schemes</u></p>	
<p>Planter and seats for Hagan Hall (Fellgate and Hedworth) Total cost £722 Grant sought £722</p>	<p>That a grant of £722 be supported. <i>The scheme represents a worthwhile contribution to the community.</i></p>
<p>30-32 and 57-59 Eskdale Drive parking bays and relay footways (Bede) Total cost £11,489 Grant sought £11,489</p>	<p>That a grant of £11,489 be supported. <i>The scheme represents a worthwhile contribution to the community.</i></p>
<p>Wilton Gardens convert tarmac area to parking bays both sides (Boldon Colliery) Total cost £10,874 Grant sought £10,874</p>	<p>That the scheme be deferred for further investigation.</p>
<p>Haggerston Terrace concrete grass verges to fit with rest of street (Bede) Total cost £12,155 Grant sought £12,155</p>	<p>That a grant of £12,155 be supported. <i>The scheme represents a worthwhile contribution to the community.</i></p>
<p>Canopies for properties in Lulworth Avenue. (Part funded 11/12 £31,452) (Bede) Total cost £35,405 Grant sought £3,953</p>	<p>That a grant of £3,953 be supported. <i>The scheme represents a worthwhile contribution to the community.</i></p>

21-45 Langley construction of concrete lay bys (Primrose) Total cost £27,800 Grant sought £27,800	That a grant of £27,800 be supported. <i>The scheme represents a worthwhile contribution to the community.</i>
8 Kennet Avenue fence (Fellgate and Hedworth) Total cost £742 Grant sought £742	That the scheme be deferred for further investigation.
<u>Social Schemes</u>	
Edward Taylor Kelsey Trust – Christmas hampers (Jarrow wards) Total cost £800 Grant sought £800	That a grant of £800 be supported. <i>The scheme represents a worthwhile contribution to the community.</i>
Boldon Colliery Miners and Community Banner – band and coach hire (Boldon Colliery) Total cost £1,625 Grant sought £1,000	That a grant of £1,000 be supported. <i>The scheme represents a worthwhile contribution to the community.</i>
Low Simonside Youth Club – equipment (Bede) Total cost £1,000 Grant sought £1,000	That a grant of £1,000 be supported. <i>The scheme represents a worthwhile contribution to the community.</i>
Low Simonside CA – kitchen refurbishment (Bede) Total cost £6,219 Grant sought £3,000	That the scheme be deferred for further investigation.
South Tyneside Positive Activities and Targeted Youth Support Group – equipment for allotment (Boldon Colliery) Total cost £970 Grant sought £970	That a grant of £970 be supported. <i>The scheme represents a worthwhile contribution to the community.</i>

Hebburn Ladies Bowling Club – transport for away games (Bede, Fellgate and Hedworth, Primrose) Total cost £165 Grant sought £45	That a grant of £45 be supported. <i>The scheme represents a worthwhile contribution to the community.</i>
St Joseph’s fundraising Group – Proms in the garden event (Fellgate and Hedworth) Total cost £500 Grant sought £500	That a grant of £500 be supported. <i>The scheme represents a worthwhile contribution to the community.</i>

11. 2011/2012 CAF Funded Environmental / Housing Schemes

Submitted: Report of the Corporate Director Business and Area Manager

This report detailed the progress of CAF funded environmental and housing schemes that were not yet completed. Members were updated on the status and estimated completion date of each scheme.

Members indicated that some schemes may not be included in the report and that updates on the progress of schemes should be given to the Forum.

Agreed: That the report be noted.

12. South Tyneside Olympic Torch Relay

Submitted: Report of the Corporate Director Business and Area Management

James Elliott, Resilience Officer, advised that the Olympic Flame convoy would approach the Borough from Leam Lane at 7.45 am and travel along Newcastle Road and Western Approach. The Flame would then be carried on foot by torch bearers as it passed South Shields Town Hall and made its way along Ocean Road, Sea Road and through the Great North Run gantry, which would be set up on The Leas.

Then the torch would be back on the convoy for the long stretch to Souter Lighthouse, before it was carried by torchbearers from Souter Lighthouse through Whitburn towards the Sunderland coastline. The journey through South Tyneside would take just over one hour.

South Tyneside Council had no control over the route or those chosen as torchbearers. Residents were advised that the best view would be at the Leas and to be there early as the timings were fixed and that there would be road closures and traffic management arrangements in operation.

Agreed: That the report be noted.

13. Work Programme for the Forum 2012/2013

Submitted: Report of the Corporate Director Business and Area Management

Members were referred to the Forum's draft work programme for the 2012/2013 Municipal Year, and invited to add or amend the topics contained within it.

Agreed: (a) That the draft Work programme 2012/2103 be approved as presented.

14. Dates and Times of Future Meetings

Discussion took place on the venue and timing of future meetings. It was recognised that no time or venue would suit everyone; however, it was felt it would be worthwhile trying a new time and a venue specifically in Boldon.

Agreed: (a) To hold two meetings in Jarrow Town Hall and one in Boldon, (b) to change the time of all meetings to 5pm and (c) that the next meeting of the Forum be held at 5pm on Thursday 12 July 2012.

The Chairman advised that a range of activities were available at the Salem Street Community Bungalow.

The Chairman advised that Ken Bartley was to stand down as a Community and Voluntary Sector representative after many years of service. Ken was thanked for all his hard work on behalf of Jarrow and its residents, on a number of bodies, over a long period of time. Ken was wished well for the future.

Ken thanked everyone for their good wishes and advised that it had been a pleasure to work with so many people dedicated to improving Jarrow and the lives of its residents.
