

SEDGEFIELD BOROUGH COUNCIL

AREA 2 FORUM

Town Hall,
Ferryhill.

Tuesday,
25th June 2002

Time : 6.30 p.m.

Present: Councillor Mrs. C. Potts (Chairman) - Sedgefield Borough Council; and

Councillor B.F. Avery, JP - Sedgefield Borough Council
Councillor T.F. Forrest - Sedgefield Borough Council
Councillor J.E. Higgin - Sedgefield Borough Council
Councillor A. Hodgson - Sedgefield Borough Council
Councillor B. Meek - Sedgefield Borough Council
Councillor G. Morgan - Sedgefield Borough Council
Councillor Ms.C. Warbis - Sedgefield Borough Council
Mrs. R. Holmes - C.A.V.O.S.
W.P.C. Redfearn - Chilton Police
Councillor W.R. Wilson - Cornforth Parish Council
P. Crathorne - Dean Bank Residents Association
S. Gater - Ferryhill School
Councillor J.N. Chaplin - Ferryhill Town Council
Councillor A. Denton - Ferryhill Town Council
R. Greenwell - Member of the Public
R. Hopper - Member of the Public
K. Johnson - Member of the Public
J. Robinson - Member of the Public

In

Attendance: A. Denholm, Mrs. G. Garrigan and Ms. J. Hall

Apologies: Councillors G.F. Chaplin, D.A. Newell, Ms. M. Predki and M.F. Smith
(Sedgefield Borough Council)
D. Watson (Dean Bank Residents Association)
Councillor G. Porter (Durham County Council)
N. Porter (Sedgefield P.C.T.)

AF(2)1/02 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 16th April 2002 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman of the meeting. (For copy see file of Minutes).

AF(2)2/02 POLICE REPORT

W.P.C. Redfearn was present at the meeting to give details of the crime figures for the Chilton, Ferryhill, West Cornforth and Bishop Middleham area.

It was noted that for the period from 15th April 2002 to 15th June 2002, there had been 1,048 recorded crimes, compared to 1,082 for the same period of 2001.

- 1 Arson
- 40 Assaults
- 26 Dwelling House Burglaries
- 20 Burglaries (Other)
- 89 Damage
 - 2 Making off without payment
 - 1 Deception
- 5 Possession of Drugs
- 1 Robbery
- 67 Thefts
 - 29 Thefts from motor vehicles
 - 9 Thefts of motor vehicles
 - 13 Other

Specific reference was made to the Allotment Watch Scheme, which was being set up in Ferryhill.

AF(2)3/02 TIDY ESTATES AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT INITIATIVE

Consideration was given to a schedule (for copy see file of Minutes) which detailed schemes that had been completed, schemes that had already been supported or approved by the Forum, pending schemes, together with new proposals received.

It was reported that the budget figures for the Tidy Estates Initiative had been revised and the allocation for new schemes, less approved/completed schemes committed from 2002/03 allocation, was £20,605.

With regard to supported/approved scheme, AF(2)/46 – Grassed area opposite Nos. 1-13 Pennine Way, adjacent to No. 22 Grampian Way, a plan detailing a proposed scheme was circulated at the meeting. It was noted that the total estimated cost was £5,750. Members agreed that work on the scheme should proceed, however, requested that if the tender sum for the work was above the amount estimated, the scheme should be brought back to the Forum for further consideration.

It was explained that there could be a delay in processing requests for landscaping schemes as the Council's Landscape Architect, Martin Peacock, was terminating his employment with the Council the following day. The Forum requested that his post be filled as a matter of urgency to ensure that schemes could be designed and implemented in the forthcoming planting season.

In connection with AF(2)/34 – Demolition sites at Nos. 1,9 and 11 Thirlmere Road – Shrub beds and landscaping required to improve appearance – it was requested that this scheme be removed from the Tidy Estates programme as the Lakes Residents Association had

drawn up new proposals and were seeking alternative sources of funding.

Members noted that the additional street lighting requested under AF(2)/25 – Rear of 7-14 The Pentlands, Chilton, would be provided by Durham County Council, and therefore the application needed to be removed from the schedule.

With regard to AF(2)/43 – Request for installation of rear gates and footpaths to provide access for grass cutter, etc. – rear of 28 to 31 Reading Street Bungalows, West Cornforth, it was noted that the Council's Planning and Technical Services Department, was currently investigating possible solutions.

The Forum agreed that the following schemes be costed and brought back to the September meeting for consideration:

AF(2)/48 - Cut between Byron Road and Coleridge Road, Chilton – request for higher metal fencing along cut .

AF(2)/53 - One area of Wood Lane, Ferryhill – flower beds requested.

AF(2)/55 - Maple Grove, West Cornforth – request for flower beds/ shrubs, etc. to grassed area.

AF(2)/56 - Ullswater Road, Ferryhill – request to raise fence height between gable of No. 6 and cut.

AF(2)/60 - Garage site near to Gregory Terrace, Ferryhill – renew section of fencing to Council garage site.

Members agreed that AF(2)/54 – Broomside, Ferryhill – request for low wall or fence and gates around grassed area to prevent youths accessing area be deleted from the schedule as the area was designated open space.

In connection with AF(2)/58 – The Cotswolds, Chilton – removal of redundant lintels from garages, it was agreed that a letter be sent to the Head of Contract Services, requesting that the work be done under the Housing Maintenance budget.

With regard to AF(2)/59 – Cut between Bowness Grove to Derwent Road, Ferryhill – removal of barriers, it was reported that the elderly people living nearby had complained of youths using the barriers to gain access to other areas. It was agreed that the Council's Local Estate Officers would investigate the problem.

AF(2)4/02 COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT FUND

Consideration was given to a report of C.A.V.O.S. and the Council's Regeneration Manager in respect of the above. (For copy see file of Minutes)

Mrs. R. Holmes, Chief Executive of C.A.V.O.S., attended the meeting to give details of the progress made in the establishment of a Community Network for the Borough, how the network was organised and its composition. She also went on to explain how the Community Network would operate with regard to making decisions on the allocation of funding under resources allocated to the Borough under the Government's National Strategy for Neighbourhood Renewal.

The Chairman thanked Mrs Holmes for her very interesting presentation.

AF(2)5/02 INSIGHT PRESENTATION

A Substance Abuse Awareness presentation was made to the Forum by Lorraine Joyce, Substance Misuse Co-ordinator, Durham Constabulary, Lynne Brook, Drug Trainer, Health Promotions and Jack Flanagan, M.B.E. Senior Project Leader – 'Out There' project.

A short video was shown which gave details about the different types of drugs, what they looked like, how they were taken, their effects and health risks. It also gave information regarding the Misuse of Drugs Act which divided drugs into three classes - A, B and C, and the penalties under the Act for possession and possession with intent to supply.

Members of the Forum were then invited to take part in an insight drug quiz and Lynne Brook, Health Promotions gave details of the answers, with particular reference to the effects that various drugs had on health.

The Forum was then advised on how to recognise drugs and drugs paraphernalia by Jack Flanagan, M.B.E.

The Chairman thanked the Durham Agency Against Crime Team for their very interesting presentation.

AF(2)6/02 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, 3rd September 2002, at 6.30 p.m., at Bishop Middleham Village Hall.

ACCESS TO INFORMATION

Any person wishing to exercise the right of inspection, etc., in relation to these Minutes and associated papers should contact Gillian Garrigan, Spennymoor (01388) 816166, Extension 4237.

Confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman of the meeting held on
4th September 2002