

SEDFIELD BOROUGH COUNCIL

AREA 2 FORUM

Village Hall,
Bishop Middleham

Tuesday,
3rd September 2002

Time : 6.30 p.m.

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

Councillor B.F. Avery, JP - Sedgfield Borough Council
Councillor G.F. Chaplin - Sedgfield Borough Council
Councillor T.F. Forrest - Sedgfield Borough Council
Councillor J.E. Higgin - Sedgfield Borough Council
Councillor A. Hodgson - Sedgfield Borough Council
Councillor G. Morgan - Sedgfield Borough Council
Mrs. J. Colledge - Chilton West Residents Association
P. Crawforth - Chilton West Residents Association
Mrs. P. Crawforth - Chilton West Residents Association
Councillor L. Ord - Cornforth Parish Council
Councillor W. R. Wilson - Cornforth Parish Council
Mrs. P. Crathorne - Dean Bank Residents Association
Sergeant B. O'Connor - Ferryhill Police
Councillor J. Chaplin - Ferryhill Town Council
H. Harley - Bishop Middleham Village Hall
Committee

In

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

Apologies: Councillors B. Meek, D.A. Newell, Ms. M. Predki, M.F. Smith and Ms. C. J. Warbis (Sedgfield Borough Council)
Councillor J. Lee (Chilton Parish Council)
D. Watson (Dean Bank Residents Association)
Councillor G. Porter (Durham County Council)
S. Gater (Ferryhill Comprehensive School)
A. Hall (Ferryhill Station and Chilton Lane Residents Association)
G. Hall (Ferryhill Station and Chilton Lane Residents Association)
Inspector G. Docherty (Spennymoor Police)
N. Porter (Sedgfield P.C. T.)

AF(2)7/02 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 25th June 2002 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman of the meeting. (For copy see file of Minutes).

AF(2)8/02 POLICE REPORT

Sergeant B. O'Connor was present at the meeting to give details of the crime figures for the Chilton, Ferryhill, West Cornforth and Bishop Middleham area.

A schedule detailing the recorded crimes for the period April to August 2002 and April 2001 - March 2002 was circulated at the meeting. (For copy see file of Minutes)

The Forum was pleased to note that the number of incidents of antisocial behaviour/public disorder had decreased compared with the same period last year, however the number of dwelling house burglaries had slightly increased.

It was reported that the football coaching initiative, which had been introduced in connection with Darlington Football Club on Friday evenings at Dean Bank Recreation Ground, had been very successful. The number of incidents of anti-social behaviour on Friday evenings had reduced. It was hoped that the initiative could continue in the winter months in an indoor venue.

Specific reference was made to the arrest of 15 drug dealers in Ferryhill and the problems being experienced in relation to private landlords. It was noted that all private landlords in the area had been invited by the Police to attend a meeting in October with a view to forming an Association. Details of the outcome of the event would be reported to the next meeting of the Forum.

Members of the Forum were then given an opportunity to ask questions.

Concern was expressed regarding the fact that Chilton Library windows had been deliberately broken again, and the request was made for a more visible Police presence in Chilton.

The Chairman then thanked Sergeant O'Connor for his presentation.

AF(2)9/02 TIDY ESTATES AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT INITIATIVE

Consideration was given to a schedule detailing schemes that had been completed, schemes that had already been supported or approved by the Forum, pending schemes and new proposals received. (For copy see file of Minutes)

Members noted that since the June meeting of the Forum the following scheme had been completed:

AF2/6- Provision of security lights to improve lighting in the grounds of Rosewood Grange, Dean Bank Grange, Cleves Cross Grange, Hylton Road and Thurstan Grange.

With regard to AF2/43 - rear of 28 - 31 Reading Street bungalows, West Cornforth - Request for installation of rear gates and footpaths to provide access for grass cutter - it was reported that the Council's Property Services Section had produced a design involving one connecting footpath and gates. The cost of the scheme was £2,551.00. Members were of the opinion that this was the best solution to the problem and agreed that work should proceed.

With regard to AF2/48 - Cut between Byron Road and Coleridge Road, Chilton - Request for higher metal fencing along cut - Members attention was drawn to the letter received from the Crime Prevention Officer of Durham Constabulary. The Forum agreed to approve in principle the provision of metal fencing subject to the cost being considered at the next meeting of the Forum.

In connection with AF2/56 - Ullswater Road, Ferryhill - Request to raise fence height between gable of no 6 and cut – Members agreed to approve in principle the provision of metal fencing on both sides, subject to the cost being considered at the next meeting of the Forum

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

AF2/53 - One area of Wood Lane, Ferryhill - Flowerbeds requested

AF2/55 - Maple Grove, West Cornforth - Request for flowerbeds/shrubs etc to grassed area.

AF2/61 - Area of land near to Rutherford Terrace, Ferryhill - Request for landscaping to improve area appearance.

AF2/62 - Broomside, Ferryhill - Possible landscaping solutions to problem of anti-social behaviour by youths in cul-de-sac of bungalows

AF2/63 - Belsay Close, Ferryhill - Request for planting of bushes to area of land behind garages

With regard to AF2/60 - Garage site near to Gregory Terrace, Ferryhill - Renew section of fencing to council garage site - it was noted that the cost of reinstating the fence was £634.00. The Forum agreed that the Chairman and Vice Chairman should visit the site.

In connection with AF2/59 - Cut between Bowness Grove to Derwent Road, Ferryhill - Removal of barriers causing problems with access - Members agreed that as 16 of the 30 residents who had responded to the consultation exercise were against the removal, no action should be taken and scheme deleted from the schedule.

The Forum was of the opinion that it needed to know the costs for all the remaining schemes to ensure that decisions were made in line with the funding available.

AF(2)10/02 ENVIRONMENTAL ENFORCEMENT

Andrew Bailey, the Council's Environmental Enforcement Officer, attended the meeting to give details of recent initiatives to tackle the problems of dog fouling and litter.

He reported that he had commenced his employment with Sedgefield Borough Council at the end of August 2001 to enforce the fixed penalty notice provisions under The Dogs (Fouling of Land) Act 1996 and The Environmental Protection Act 1990 for offences of dog fouling and public littering. To date he had issued 39 fixed penalty notices for dog fouling offences, 51 fixed penalty notices for littering offences, and 6 fixed penalty notices for domestic fly tipping offences. He had also dealt with over 500 complaints from the public and had issued 92 written warnings.

During the past 9 months, a number of initiatives had been undertaken to raise public awareness of their responsibility for their actions and the environment in which they live.

It was noted that the 'Kick the Litter Bug Campaign' which had been undertaken at Woodham and Sunnysdale Comprehensive Schools had resulted in a reduction in litter on school routes by approximately 50%. The campaign was to be expanded to all secondary schools within the Borough by the beginning of 2003.

Members were also given details of the 'Bag the Bug Campaign' which targeted littering motorists throughout the Borough. So far the campaign had resulted in 24 motorists being fined for littering.

With regard to dog fouling, it was noted that 2 pilot campaigns had been undertaken at Chilton and Bishop Middleham in

connection with the Parish Councils, and in both cases two fixed penalty fines had been issued.

Specific reference was also made to articles that had been published in the local newspapers to increase public awareness of the problems.

Members congratulated Andrew on his good work, however expressed concern that in places there were not sufficient litter bins or they were not emptied often enough.

The Chairman thanked Andrew Bailey for his interesting presentation.

AF(2)11/02 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 29th October 2002 at 6.30pm at Chilton Community College.

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 29th October 2002