

SEDGEFIELD BOROUGH COUNCIL

AREA 2 FORUM

Chilton and Windlestone,
Workingmen's Club.

Tuesday,
29th October 2002

Time : 6.30 p.m.

Present: Councillor Mrs. C. Potts (Chairman) - Sedgefield Borough Council and
Councillors B.F. Avery J.P. T.F. Forrest, A. Hodgson and G. Morgan

Representing Durham County Council

Councillor G. Porter

Representing Cornforth Parish Council

Councillors L. Ord and W. R. Wilson

Representing Bishop Middleham Parish Council

Councillor Mrs. B. Watson

Representing Ferryhill Town Council

Councillor A. Denton

Representing Chilton West Residents Association

Mrs. J. Colledge

Representing Ferryhill Station and Chilton Lane Ward Residents Association

Mrs. G. Hall and Mrs. E. Jones

Representing Ferryhill Police

Inspector G. Docherty and Sergeant B. O'Connor.

Representing Sedgefield PCT

N. Porter

Members of the Public

P. Britton, F. Conley, L. Conley, D. Jackson, J. Jackson, A. Johns,
M. Johns, A. Rowland, G. Smith, H. Smith, A. Tobin, C. Tobin,
A. Tuesday, P. Tuesday, M. Vayro, K. Vayro, M. Vayro, L. Weston and
R. Williams

In

Attendance: Mrs. G. Garrigan Miss. D. Hedley and W. Kelly.

Apologies: **Sedgefield Borough Council** : Councillors G.F. Chaplin, J.E. Higgin,
B. Meek, D.A. Newell, Ms. M. Predki, M.F. Smith and Ms. C. J. Warbis
Castle Residents Association : C. Hall
Ferryhill Station and Chilton Lane Residents Association : A. Hall
Cornforth Partnership : R.A. Sunman

AF(2).12/02 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 3rd September 2002 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman of the meeting. (For copy see file of Minutes).

AF(2).13/02 POLICE REPORT

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

It was reported that the football initiative that had been introduced in connection with Darlington Football Club on Friday evenings would continue during the winter months in Broom Cottages Primary School. The initiative had been very successful in reducing the number of anti-social behaviour incidents on Friday evenings.

Specific reference was made to the meeting that had taken place on Monday 21st October 2002 with representatives of Private Landlords, the Police and Three Rivers Housing Association.

It was reported that a number of issues had been discussed, including the possibility of the Police providing a vetting service for Private Landlords, subject to data protection legislation. A further meeting was to be held in the New Year when an officer with specialist knowledge of data protection would be present.

Reference was made to the fact that an Association of Private Landlords already existed in the Borough that met on a regular basis and it was hoped that more landlords would join the Association.

Specific reference was made to 'Operation Lancelot' that would commence in November to tackle the problem of dwellinghouse burglaries and the fear of house burglaries.

The Police reported that they were very concerned regarding the number of children cycling in the dark without lights and had obtained funding to purchase 60 sets of pedal cycle lights. The lights would be given out to children on Saturday 9th November 2002 when a Cycling Safety/Crime Prevention Day would be held at Ferryhill Police Station.

With regard to the incidents of anti-social behaviour in Chilton, it was noted that the Beat Officer for Chilton would be planning a number of initiatives to address the problem.

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

The Chairman then thanked Sergeant O'Connor and Inspector Docherty for their attendance and presentation.

AF(2).14/02 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 the Forum's budget allocation for 2002/3 was £70,705 and expenditure on completed/approved schemes amounted to £63,670. There was therefore only £7,035 available for new schemes.

A verbal update was given in respect of the following schemes:

Supported/Approved Schemes

AF2/14 – Extend parking near to shops – Brancepeth Road, Ferryhill.

The scheme would be completed by the end of the financial year.

AF2/33 – Request for wall mounted lights to be fitted to footpath and side of Brancepeth Road, Ferryhill and corner of Auckland Road near No. 20

Work was scheduled for completion by 8th November 2002.

AF2/46 – Planting of trees/shrubs to discourage youths playing football – grassed area opposite Nos. 1 – 13 Pennine Way, adjacent to No. 22 Grampian Way, Chilton.

The Landscape Architect was currently working on the design. The scheme would be completed by the end of the financial year.

AF2/43 – Request for installation of rear gates and footpaths to provide access for grasscutter etc. – rear of 28/31 Reading Street bungalows, West Cornforth.

Work was scheduled to commence on Monday 4th November 2002.

AF2/48 – Request for higher metal fencing along cut between Byron Road and Coleridge Road, Chilton in view of problems with youths.

The cost of providing metal fencing was £3,410, which was less than originally anticipated.

AF2/56 – Request to raise fence height between gable of No. 6, Ullswater Road, Ferryhill and cut.

The Forum agreed that metal fencing should be provided for all three sections of the cut at a cost of £4,895.

Pending Schemes

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

W. Kelly, Landscape Architect outlined his proposals for the treatment of the area. A plan was displayed at the meeting. The estimated cost of the scheme was £8,000.

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

Details of the proposed scheme were outlined at the meeting. The estimated cost was £3,000.

AF2/60 – Renew section of fencing to Council garage site near to Gregory Terrace, Ferryhill – youths using land as a cut through

The Forum agreed that arrangements be made for the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Area Forum to visit the site.

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

Details of the proposed scheme were outlined at the meeting. The estimated cost was £4,500, which included the provision of a tarmac footpath.

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

The scheme had not yet been costed.

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

The cost of shrub planting and providing a low trip rail fence was £2,500.

New Schemes

AF2/64 – Solution to problem of youths congregating on wall between Skipton Close, Ferryhill and bungalows - causing nuisance.

Arrangements were to be made for the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Area Forum to view the area.

AF2/65 – Request for higher metal fencing along cut between no.44 and 46 Lime Road, Ferryhill to alleviate problems of anti social behaviour.

Scheme to be considered at next meeting.

AF2/66 – Raise height of fence bordering 21 Ullswater Road, Ferryhill and cut to prevent youths accessing garden and causing nuisance.

Scheme to be considered at next meeting.

The Forum agreed that costs should be provided for all pending and new schemes, prior to decisions being made on which ones to support.

Members suggested that a schedule should be provided at the next meeting, listing the amounts of money spent on schemes in each town/village within Area 2 to help with the task of prioritising schemes.

AF(2).15/02 SEDGEBFIELD PRIMARY CARE TRUST – PROGRESS REPORT

Nigel Porter, Chief Executive of the Sedgefield Primary Care Trust attended the meeting to update the Forum on the current activities of the Trust.

The Forum was informed that Sedgefield Primary Care Trust had statutory responsibility for the provision the following local health services:

- GPs and GP practices
- Dentists, Optometrists and Pharmacists
- Community Nurses, Health Visitors, District Nurses
- Allied Professions – such as Chiropodists, Speech Therapists and Occupational Therapists.
- Health Centres within the Borough
- Sedgefield Community Hospital

It was noted that 90% of all health services were delivered locally.

The Trust also had statutory responsibility for commissioning all health services from acute hospital trusts, mental health and learning disability services and specialists hospitals outside the County. It was responsible for the implementation of Government policies, such as the NHS Plan and the development of Government standards.

There were four national services frameworks - cancer, mental health, coronary heart disease and older people, and two more were to be introduced in respect of diabetes and services for children.

Specific reference was made to the Trust's objective of meeting Government targets with regard to waiting lists, access to health services and emergency care. The maximum length of time on a waiting list for in-patient treatment should be 12 months and for an outpatient appointment - 23 weeks. The length of time a patient should wait to see a nurse should be no more than 24 hours and to see a GP - 48 hours. The length of time patients waited for treatment in accident and emergency departments also needed to be dramatically reduced.

It was explained that the Sedgefield PCT had the same boundaries as Sedgefield Borough Council and the Sedgefield locality of Durham County Council Social Services Department. Its Board included representatives from the local general public to ensure that it was responsive to the population it served.

Specific reference was made to the link between ill-health and social factors. 77% of the wards in Sedgefield Borough fell within the 10% most deprived in England. The County also had the highest rate of teenage pregnancies in the country. It was explained that the Government was committed to improving health services and had increased expenditure by 7.8% over and above the rate of inflation for the next three years.

Reference was also made to the need to improve joint working between the Borough Council, Social Services and the Primary Health Care teams

to tackle the fundamental root causes of poor health and inequalities. The Sedgefield Local Strategic Partnership provided an opportunity to co-ordinate neighbourhood regeneration activity alongside health improvement initiatives.

It was reported that a non-executive member of the Sedgefield PCT Board would like to join each of the Area Forums so that he/she could be informed of the important local issues and provide details on local health care developments.

Reference was also made to the Government's proposal for the responsibility for scrutiny of health services to rest with the local authority with responsibility for Social Services, which in this area, would be Durham County Council.

The Forum noted that the four key issues facing Sedgefield Primary Health Care Trust were as follows:

- Getting closer to the public.
- Improving local health services by commissioning, Primary Health Care developments and direct delivery of services
- Putting services together.
- Promoting good health in local communities.

Members were given details of the following existing and future initiatives that the Trust was involved with:

- NHS Local Improvement Finance Trust (LIFT)
A Government initiative to facilitate renewal and provision of buildings to provide Primary Care.
- Sure Start Programmes in Ferryhill, Chilton, Shildon and Newton Aycliffe (West Ward)
- Health Promotion Initiatives – Passport to Health

Nigel Porter then answered questions from Members of the Trust.

Concern was expressed regarding the length of time it took for doctors/consultants within the hospitals to communicate with a patient's GP, particularly in relation to changing prescribed medicines.

Members queried whether the Government's target regarding the length of time a patient had to wait to see a GP was realistic, bearing in mind the difficulties encountered to trying to make an appointment to see a GP in Chilton.

It was pointed out that the health centre in Chilton was in need of refurbishment and that the GPs based in Chilton were currently looking for new premises. It was explained that the Trust was planning to develop modern centres throughout the borough under LIFT initiative and discussions were taking place with the Chilton GPs.

The Chairman thanked Mr. Porter for attending the meeting and it was agreed that a non-Executive member of the PCT be invited to attend future meetings of the Forum.

AF(2)16/02 DALE STREET, CHILTON

Owner occupiers and private residents of Dale Street, Chilton gave details of the problems being encountered in their street.

It was noted that a large number of the properties were owned by PP Properties and it was suggested that the company did not operate any vetting procedures. Consequently there were numerous incidents of anti-social behaviour.

Concern was also expressed regarding the number of properties that were boarded up, which did not enhance the appearance of the street.

It was pointed out that on a number of occasions, rubbish had been dumped within the curtilage of the boarded up properties and it had taken the landlord a considerable length of time to arrange for its removal.

The Chairman reported that she fully understood the problems and would ensure that details of residents' concerns were forwarded to the Council's Lead Member for Housing.

AF(2).17/02 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 17th December 2002 at 6.30 p.m. in Ferryhill Town 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
17th December 2002