

SEDGEFIELD BOROUGH COUNCIL

AREA 2 FORUM

Town Hall,
Ferryhill.

Tuesday,
15th April 2003

Time : 6.30 p.m.

Present: Councillor Mrs. C. Potts (Chairman) - Sedgefield Borough Council and
Councillors A. Hodgson, B. Meek and G. Morgan

Representing Cornforth Parish Council

Councillor W.R. Wilson

Representing Sedgefield Primary Care Trust

Mrs. S. Slaughter

Representing Durham Constabulary

Sgt. J. Davey and P.C. C. Metcalfe

Representing Chilton Parish Council

Councillor J. Lee

Representing Chilton West Residents Association

J. Colledge

**Representing Ferryhill Station and Chilton Lane Ward
Residents Association**

E. Jones

In

Attendance: Miss J. Hall, Miss E.A. North and A. Denholm - Sedgefield Borough
Council

Apologies: Councillors B.F. Avery, J.P., T.F. Forrest, J.E. Higgin, D.A. Newell and
Ms. C.J. Warbis – Sedgefield Borough Council
S. Gater (Ferryhill Comprehensive School), Councillor G. Porter (Durham
County Council)

AF(2)30/02 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 18th February 2003 were
confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

AF(2)31/02 POLICE REPORT

The representatives from Durham Constabulary, present at the
meeting, gave details of the crime figures for Chilton, Ferryhill, West
Cornforth and Bishop Middleham areas.

Members noted that the crime statistics were as follows:

Type of Crime	February 2001/02	February 2002/03
Total Crime	149	118
Dwelling Burglary	16	5
Vehicle Crime	33	23
Criminal Damage	54	58
Anti-social Behaviour/Public Disorder	102	169
Domestic Violence	23	25

Reference was made to the skateboarding initiative. There were various issues which needed to be addressed in relation to Police presence.

An initiative in relation to unlicensed vehicles was to be run again in conjunction with the D.V.L.A.

In relation to bogus officials, a leaflet drop was to be undertaken.

An operation was also to be undertaken in relation to burglaries in back to back and terrace properties. There had been three successful arrests in Ferryhill

Operation Lancelot had just ended and had resulted in a reduction in burglaries.

RECOMMENDED: That the information be received

AF(2)32/02 SEDGEBELD PRIMARY CARE TRUST

Bob Parker, from the Sedgfield Primary Care Trust, was present at the meeting to give details of the Local Improvement Finance Trust (L.I.F.T.) initiative.

This was the Government's preferred way of additional funding in the N.H.S. being used to improve Health Centres and Community Health facilities.

Sedgfield was part of a consortium of six P.C.T.'s and seven Local Authorities, including Sedgfield Borough and Durham County Council. The Partnership was completed by the Treasury, Department of Health and private sector developer.

An evaluation of bids for private sector partner was to be undertaken over the coming months and the successful partner would be announced in August.

It was explained that the private sector partner would be expected to input 60% of the funding. The partner would have 20% say on the Board of L.I.F.T.

The schemes which the initiative covered in relation to Sedgefield were borough-wide.

Spennymoor Health Centre would be the first scheme to be delivered. Significant progress had been made considering the design for a new Health Resource Centre at Spennymoor. This would be used as part of the selection procedure for the private sector partner.

The timescale for work to start in Spennymoor was – the L.I.F.T. Company to be formed by January 2004. Work to commence on site in March 2004 with a twelve month contract period – the Centre to open in March 2005.

A new Health Centre in Chilton was high in the list of priorities. Possible sites for the development were being examined.

Shildon was also high on the list of priorities for the provision of a new Health Centre as the existing Health Centre could not provide the range of services expected. There was a possibility of acquiring a large site in the centre of Shildon for that purpose.

In respect of Ferryhill, it was difficult to improve the physical facilities of the existing building and consideration was being given to the possibility to relocate on the old Post Office site – options were being looked at.

In Newton Aycliffe the Health Centre was to be provided as part of the redevelopment of the town centre. Additional space was to be acquired for the development, to include a range of facilities/services. The development was looking to set up a diagnostic suite and minor surgery suite.

The Forum was informed that the L.I.F.T. Company would own the Health Centres for 25 years, following which they would revert to the N.H.S. who would then be responsible for the maintenance and improvement. Buildings would be surveyed every five years.

2003/04 Trust Plan

Mrs. Slaughter then outlined the Trust's plan for 2003/04. Among the priorities included:-

- Speed of actions.
- Urgency response in hospitals.
- Waiting times for in-patient and out-patient services improved.
- Access to G.P. practices.

As part of the ongoing commitment, these included:

- Investment in cancer care.
- Investment in coronary heart disease treatment.
- Mental Health Services for older people.
- Bishop Auckland development.
- New buildings for N.H.S. – L.I.F.T. for Health Centres.

National Service framework's targets included:-

- Mental Health.
- Coronary heart disease and stroke.
- Diabetes.
- Cancer plan
- Children/older persons.

New local initiatives included:-

- G.P. advanced access.
- Same day access for patients, all practice staff involved.
- Joint Assessment Team – assessing all referrals to orthopaedic services, dealing with 50% referrals locally, improving quality of life for patients.
- Sure Start – considering capital developments for Newton Aycliffe.
- Speech therapy services – develop new services with schools and focussing on those in most need.
- Intermediate care.
- Various investments to reduce high levels of delayed discharge among hospital patients.

It was explained that four pillars of the P.C.T. were:-

- Connecting to the public.
- Improving health services.
- Joining agency services together.
- Improving the health of local communities.

Open Board Meetings were to be held throughout the Borough, with the first being held the following night at Shildon, at the invitation of the Local Residents Association.

It was explained that any Residents Association, etc. wishing to host such Board Meetings should inform Mrs. Slaughter.

RECOMMENDED: That the information be received.

AF(2)33/02 TIDY ESTATES AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT INITIATIVE

Consideration was given to a schedule detailing schemes that had been completed. (For copy see file of Minutes).

It was reported that since the last meeting the following schemes had been completed:

- AF2/46 - Grassed area opposite Nos. 1-13 Pennine Way, adjacent to No. 22 Grampian Way – Planting of trees and shrubs.
- AF2/56 - Ullswatter Road - request to raise fence height between gable of No. 6 and cut.
- AF2/55 - Maple Grove, West Cornforth – request for flower beds/ shrubs, etc. to grassed area.

It was explained to the Forum that in relation to Tidy Estates no future funding was available and no further Tidy Estates reports would be provided. Representatation from the Area Housing Team at future meetings would therefore be only as and when relevant issues needed to be raised or brought to the Forum for consultation

RECOMMENDED: That the information be received.

AF(2)34/02 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was noted that subject to approval at the Annual Meeting of Council on 16th May 2003, the following dates of future meetings were proposed:-

- Tuesday, 24th June 2003
- Tuesday, 9th September 2003
- Tuesday, 4th November 2003
- Tuesday, 6th January 2004
- Tuesday, 24th February 2004
- Tuesday, 20th April 2004

AF(2)35/02 CHAIRMAN’S THANKS TO LEAD MEMBER - HOUSING

It was explained that Councillor Fred Chaplin Lead Member for Housing Sedgefield Borough Council was not standing for re-election in the forthcoming elections. The Chairman thanked Councillor Chaplin for the support and dedication that he had given to the Forum

ACCESS TO INFORMATION

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

Confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman of the meeting held on
24th June 2003