

**THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING**  
**OF THE NORTH AREA FORUM**  
**HELD ON WEDNESDAY 1 JUNE 2005**

Present: **Representing the District of Easington**

Councillor C Walker (Chair)  
Councillors B Burn, P J Campbell,  
R Davison, J Goodwin, J Haggan,  
Mrs S Mason, A Napier, C Patching  
and R J Todd

Also Present: J Walker – Seaham Town Council  
K Younger – Seaham Town Council  
R Blair – Dawdon Partnership  
S Haddick – Seaton Parish Council  
M Davison – South Hetton Parish Council  
K Dilston – Murton Community Partnership

Residents: J McCreath, T McCourt, M McDade,  
W A Place and D B Glover

**1 CHAIR'S COMMENTS**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the District Council's North Area Forum and introduced himself, the Vice-Chair and the officers present. A representative from the Customer Services Section was also present to take any individual queries or problems at the end of the meeting.

**2 FOLLOW UP FROM LAST MEETING AND CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

**(i) Confirmation of Minutes**

The Minutes of the last meeting held on 16 February 2005, were confirmed.

**(ii) Follow Up from Last Meeting**

J Lane, Environmental Co-Ordinator for Waste Management provided an update on fly tipping throughout the district.

**RESOLVED** that the information given, be noted.

**(iii) Assistance with Wheeled Bins for the Elderly and Disabled**

Members were advised that the District Council were currently reviewing its lists of elderly and disabled residents who required assistance with wheeled bins. It was explained that the authority would be distributing a letter to all residents currently held on the list asking if they still required the service. The authority currently had over 4,000 households who utilised this service.

**RESOLVED** that the information given, be noted.

**3 YOUR QUESTION TIME, YOUR SAY IN SERVICE DELIVERY, YOUR CALL**

(i) **Telecommunications Poles**

Mr D Glover made reference to a number of telecommunication posts, which had been erected, in Gregson Terrace, Seaham. He explained that residents had not been advised or consulted on the location of the poles and when contacted British Telecom had been unhelpful and unwilling to assist.

Councillor A Napier advised that planning permission was not required for the erection of telecommunication poles but suggested that British Telecom be contacted and representations be made on behalf of the residents in Gregson Terrace.

**RESOLVED** that representation be made to British Telecom on behalf of the residents in Gregson Terrace.

(ii) **Miners Gala – Traffic Management**

Mr B Blair, Seaham Regeneration, made reference to the amount of money being charged by a Traffic Management Company to accompany the miners banner out of Seaham to Durham Big Meeting. He explained that a figure of £500 had been quoted as the amount that would be charged.

Sergeant G Webb advised that the Licensing Officer at the District Council was dealing with this and advised that an amount of £500 for traffic management was an appropriate amount.

Councillor A Napier advised that similar problems had been experienced in Murton and the sum of £500 was a conservative estimate as the actual cost would be more in the region of £1,600. Councillor Napier advised that he would contact Mr D Hopper of the National Union of Mineworkers to ascertain what the current situation was.

Mr B Blair suggested that the services of the Street Wardens could be used to accompany the banner as a goodwill gesture. Councillor J Goodwin advised that a meeting was scheduled to be held to discuss the current situation and Mr Blair would be advised of the outcome.

**RESOLVED** that the information given, be noted and Mr. Blair be advised of the situation following the meeting.

(iii) **CVS**

Mr B Blair expressed concern that the CVS in Easington was costing voluntary groups large amounts of money. He queried if the District Council had a policy on volunteers i.e. supporting and promoting volunteering in the district.

The Chair explained that the authority fully supported the voluntary groups working within the district and were willing to work in partnership with them. He spoke on Local Area Agreements and stressed that all Members of the District Council fully supported the Agreements.

**RESOLVED** that the information given, be noted.

(iv) **Bus Shelter – South Hetton**

## North Area Forum – 1 June 2005

Mrs Kennedy, a resident, sought clarification regarding a vandalised bus shelter which was to be demolished.

Councillor R J Todd advised that to the best of his knowledge, there was no truth in this and there were no plans to demolish the bus shelter being referred to.

**RESOLVED** that the information given, be noted.

(v) **Public Footpath – Pinedale, South Hetton**

Mrs Kennedy explained that padlocked gates had been erected on the public footpath leading into Pinedale Estate which had blocked access for residents.

Councillor R J Todd advised that there had never been a public right of way across the area of land being referred to, as the estate was open plan. He explained that residents, whose houses adjoined the footpath had erected gates on the advice of the police following problems with youths congregating in the area and causing a nuisance. Only those residents who needed to gain access to their houses by this route were provided with keys. All other residents wishing to gain access onto the estate could use the two formal entrances to the estate.

**RESOLVED** that the information given, be noted.

(vi) **Access to Cycleway, South Hetton**

Mrs Kennedy advised that her husband was in a wheelchair and housebound and had previously been able to gain access onto the cycleway at South Hetton. However, gates had recently been erected across the cycleway which were so narrow that they prevented wheelchair access.

Councillor R J Todd advised that Durham County Council were responsible for the cycleway being referred to and pointed out the barriers were erected to prevent motorcycle access.

**RESOLVED** that the concerns of Mrs Kennedy be forwarded to Durham County Council.

## 4 **EAST DURHAM HOMES**

Mr A Caygill, Chief Executive, East Durham Homes provided an update on the current situation regarding East Durham Homes.

**RESOLVED** that the information given, be noted.

## 5 **CRIME AND DISORDER STRATEGY 2005-2008**

Mr G Lodge, Senior Community Safety Officer gave a presentation on the District Council's Crime and Disorder Strategy 2005 - 2008.

**RESOLVED** that the information given, be noted.