

THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING

OF THE CENTRAL AREA FORUM

HELD ON WEDNESDAY 14 JANUARY 2009

Present: Councillor A Collinson (Chair)
Councillors G Johnson, D Milsom,
B Quinn and D J Taylor-Gooby

Apologies: Councillors Mrs A E Laing, T Longstaff and
G Tennant

Also Present: P Penman – District of Easington
J Murphy – District of Easington
S Wood – East Durham Homes
J Atkinson – Shotton Parish Council
C Dand – Shotton Parish Council
I Cochrane – Shotton Parish Council
H Bennett – Peterlee Town Council
J Alvey – Peterlee Town Council
A Liversidge – Haswell Parish Council
Mrs D Liversidge – Haswell Parish Council
D Mercer – Acre Rigg Residents Association/Citizens Panel
L Goldsborough – ASDA Store Manager
M Weston – Town Centre Manager
S Walton – Resident
D Billing - Resident

1 **THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING** held on 1 October 2008, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were confirmed.

2 **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

(i) **Odour Control at Aerobic Digester Plant, Thornley
(Minute No. 2 refers)**

At the last meeting Premier Waste had indicated their intention to establish a Residents Liaison Group. It was reported that Ashley Cooper from Premier Waste had since advised that there had been no steps taken to establish a liaison group as the company felt that this would be premature given that the plant was still not fully operational and was in the process of recommissioning its digestion processes. Approval from the Regulators was needed before the plant could get back to full capacity. If the regulators approved the digestion processes and the plant got back to full operation then Premier Waste would progress the establishment of a Residents Liaison Group.

AGREED that the information given, be noted.

(ii) **Turning Circle, Grouse Moor, Haswell
(Minute No. 4(vi) refers)**

It was reported that following investigation it was found that the road/footpath was unadopted and therefore the turning circle at 7 and 8

Grouse Moor was the responsibility of the developer. The matter had been raised with the developers and a reply was awaited.

AGREED that the information given, be noted and a response from the developers be pursued.

3 FRONT STREET/GEORGE STREET, HASWELL

Members and residents were advised that a report was to be submitted through the Council's reporting processes in the near future in relation to improving the appearance of Front Street/George Street, Haswell.

Mr and Mrs Liversidge stated that this was a long running issue that was reported at every Forum without progress. They added that the Parish Council had consulted with residents about proposals for a village plan and this had highlighted that Front Street/George Street were the main areas of concern.

They continued that litter was piled up in the yards at Front Street and the former Renco building was strewn with builders rubble. P Penman advised that the Council was currently carrying out the annual 'Big Clean' and would arrange for the Teams to visit the area and tidy where they could.

With regard to the Renco site Councillor Collinson advised that he understood that enforcement action was being taken against the owner, although as reported previously this would be a lengthy process.

Mr Billing referred to a pool of water at the entrance to the Renco site which he felt may be a danger to small children. It was agreed that this would be referred to the Council's Engineers Section for investigation.

As requested at the last meeting it was also reported that 3 fines for litter had been issued in the last year in Haswell and 2 for dog fouling.

With regard to the height of the 'Alcohol Free Zone' signs and whether they could be lowered to make them more visible, this had been referred to the Head of Neighbourhood Services for investigation.

AGREED that the information given, be noted.

4 AREA ACTION PARTNERSHIPS

J Murphy, LSP Manager advised that he was a member of the Workstream that was looking at arrangements for engagement as part of the new unitary Council.

He advised that following a number of consultation events it had been agreed to implement 14 Area Action Partnerships (AAPs) of which Easington's was the largest in terms of population.

There would be an open forum meeting twice a year to consider local issues and priorities and to define the Local Plan which would be open to anybody to attend. The Area Board would meet initially on a monthly basis to monitor delivery against the Local Plan and to manage and monitor spending.

With regard to membership of the Area Boards he advised that this had been established on the basis of a 'thirds' model totalling 21 representatives and made up of Partner organisations, members of the public and elected Members. Members

of the public would be appointed through an application and interview process. Elected membership would comprise of 6 unitary Members and 1 Parish/Town Council representative.

In terms of funding, £250,000 was to cover administration and staffing costs and £150,000 for local initiatives. There would also be a budget of £50k per unitary ward that would be aligned to the priorities agreed by the Board.

In discussing the proposals concern was expressed that there was only one Member on the Board from Parish/Town Councils, and Members felt that to be able to represent their communities, this representation should be increased. In addition it was felt that the arrangements should be reviewed after one year of operation.

AGREED that the information given, be noted and the views of the Area Forum be conveyed to DCC.

5 YOUR QUESTION TIME -YOUR SAY IN SERVICE DELIVERY – YOUR CALL

(i) ASDA Premises

Mr Walton, resident asked if the planning application had been granted for the temporary erection of tarpaulin/scaffolding at the rear of ASDA for winter storage.

Confirmation was given that retrospective planning permission had been granted and L Goldsborough, Store Manager advised that this was the last year that this would be required as the area would be permanently enclosed as part of the store refit. She extended an invitation to show anyone interested around the store to explain the works to be carried out.

Mr Walton also referred to the delivery wagons which on occasions double-parked on the road and asked if delivery schedules could be timed to avoid more than 2 wagons being on-site at any one time. L Goldsborough responded that the store did try to plan deliveries with the depot to try to minimise problems.

With regard to car parking and access to the store she advised that this would be looked at as part of the overall refit and would discuss the problems experienced in the car park with the Town Centre Manager.

In response to a comment from Councillor Alvey, she advised that she would be happy to attend a meeting at Peterlee Town Council to discuss ASDAs proposals.

To conclude she stated that the refit was due to start on 23 March 2009 and be completed by September 2009.

AGREED that the information given, be noted.

(ii) Footpath – Wayfarers Arms, Haswell

Mr Billing, resident stated that the footpath to the front of the Wayfarers Arms was showing signs of subsidence. Councillor Collinson advised that this had been referred to Council Engineers who had advised that the footpath was not in need of immediate repair, however the matter would be referred to DCC through the Highways Action Line.

AGREED that the information given, be noted.

(iii) **Gully Vehicles**

Mr Walton referred to the gully emptying service and P Penman explained that this service was managed by DCC. The Council used to undertake two cleans per year with two vehicles but as this had been reduced to once a year one of the vehicles now operated from Meadowfield.

Mr Walton also made reference to roadworks in South Hetton and the length of time taken for these to be completed. P Penman advised that he would refer Mr Walton's comments to DCC.

AGREED that the information given, be noted.

(iii) **Christmas Tree, Peterlee Town Centre**

A Member referred to the publicity received over the Christmas period regarding the Christmas tree in the Town Centre and asked if steps could be taken to ensure that this did not happen again.

AGREED that the information given, be noted.

(iv) **County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust Healthcare Commission**

Councillor D J Taylor-Gooby informed Members and residents that the NHS was carrying out public consultation about plans for the future of health care in the area over the next year. A public meeting was to be held in Hardwick Hall Hotel in Sedgefield on 5 February 2009 and free transport to the event could be provided.

AGREED that the information given, be noted.

At the close of business, the Chair stated that as this was the last ever meeting of the Central Area Forum he wished to thank Officers for their assistance and support, the previous Chair's and Vice-Chairs of the Area Forum, Members of the District and Parish/Town Councils, and members of the public for their contribution.