

THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF THE MURTON NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM
HELD ON MONDAY 2 FEBRUARY 2009

Present: Mrs J Maitland (Chair)
Councillors A Napier
and C Patching

Officers: P Walker – District of Easington
J Murphy – District of Easington
J Malcolm – District of Easington
S Gwilym – District of Easington
Inspector V Addison – Durham Police

Also Present: Mrs E A Cowley – Murton Parish Council

Apology: Councillor Mrs A Naylor and P Penman

1 **THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING** held on 24 November 2008, a copy of which had been circulated, were **AGREED**.

2 **MURTON AGENDA FOR ACTION**

(i) **Improve Range of Activities for Young People**

Parish Councillor Mrs A Cowley advised that the Parish Council had met with young people from the Youth Centre to discuss the type of facilities they would like to see in Murton. The young people were asked to complete questionnaires from which it was established that they would like a MUGA, and somewhere warm and safe to meet up.

The feasibility of a MUGA near the Glebe Centre had been investigated but it would not be possible to secure funding because there was already a MUGA located at the community school. The Parish Council were currently discussing access to the facilities out of school hours with the school governors and Councillor Napier asked to be involved in the discussions.

It was hoped that the proposals for a multi-purpose community sports facility at the Welfare Park would be well used by the young people and the Parish Council was liaising with the young people through Groundwork on facilities to be provided there.

P Walker advised that in relation to Woods Tce, discussions with Groundwork had established that it would not be possible to secure funding for the project before Vesting Day, therefore no further action could be taken at present. This was disappointing and there was a need to ensure that the young people were aware that it was not going ahead.

A Cowley made reference to the meetings organised by DCC with Murton Young People which were scheduled to take place each Thursday. K Green from Groundwork had received complaints from the young people that the premises had been closed. P Walker advised that she understood that this

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had been because of staffing issues that were now resolved but she would investigate this with K Green from Groundwork.

AGREED that the information given, be noted.

(ii) Problem of Underage Drinking

Inspector V Addison advised that regular patrols had been carried out at the Welfare Park with large quantities of alcohol seized and youths moved on. Mesh fencing was a possible solution to prevent the youths congregating and this was being costed.

In terms of youth interaction he advised that funding had been secured for outreach workers and Seaham Police were engaging in a five a side tournament with youth teams. He advised that engagement with young people had a positive effect on crime figures and in addition it was pleasing to note that overall crime in Murton was down by 13% with 348 crimes this year in comparison to 400 in 2007/8.

He continued that with the move to unitary arrangements on 1 April 2009, community engagement would change. Durham Constabulary was committed to engaging with local communities and Government Guidance had been received in relation to the establishment of PACT meetings (Police and Communities Together). These meetings were based on a nationally recognised structure for areas with populations of between 7 and 15,000 and aimed to allow communities to influence what happens in their neighbourhoods and establish priorities. The Police were currently looking at the introduction of PACT meetings across Easington District.

AGREED that the information given, be noted.

(iii) Footpath – Calvert Terrace, Murton

J Malcolm advised that as reported at the last meeting, a meeting had been held with Durham County Council, the Police and local Members to discuss the problems at the pathway/cut at Calvert Terrace in Murton. The residents had been consulted on the possible closure of the footpath and to date 2 objections had been received. Following the deadline for the close of consultation on 6 February 2009 the objectors would be contacted to establish the nature of their concerns. J Malcolm advised that he would continue to liaise with DCC on progress with this matter.

AGREED that the information given, be noted.

(iv) Area Action Partnerships

J Murphy, LSP Manager advised that during 2008 public consultation events were held to discuss the newly proposed Area Action Partnerships (AAPs). It was proposed that 14 AAPs would cover the whole of the County. The Easington AAP was based largely on the same geographical area as the current District of Easington. The only change was that Trimdon Foundry would be merged into the Rural East Durham AAP.

AAPs were proposed to ensure the sustainability and effectiveness of partnership working, and it had been decided that each AAP Board's membership would be a "thirds model" made up of:-

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One third Elected Members

One third representatives of partner organisations i.e. the County Council, the Police, the PCT, The Fire Service, a VCS umbrella organisation, a business representative and a relevant major social housing provider

One third members of the public

Each “third” would consist of 7 representatives, limiting the overall board size to 21 members. Boards could also co-opt individuals from outside of the full membership for specific tasks. Any member of the public who had registered with the AAP Forum would be eligible to apply for a Board position and would be appointed by interview.

An open Forum would meet twice a year and would be open to everyone. The purpose of this meeting would be to determine the priorities and agree an annual local plan for the area. The Area Boards would meet initially on a monthly basis to consider issues such as service delivery against the local plan and manage and monitor the budget.

In terms of funding, J Murphy explained that there was a proposal that each AAP would be allocated £250,000; £100,000 for staffing costs and £150,000 that could be used to engage with the community on how they could influence spending. There would also be a budget of £50k per unitary ward that would be aligned to the priorities agreed by the Board.

Following discussion it was **AGREED** that the information given, be noted.

JE/MA/com murtonnf/090201
5 February 2009