

# SEDGEFIELD BOROUGH COUNCIL

## AREA 4 FORUM

Hackworth Suite,  
Shildon Sunnydale Leisure Centre,  
Midbridge Lane,  
Shildon.

Tuesday,  
12<sup>th</sup> November, 2002

Time : 6.30 p.m.

**Present:** Councillor J. G. Huntington (in the Chair) and  
Councillors V Chapman, D. M. Hancock and F. Timmiss

### **Shildon Town Council**

Councillors Mrs J O'Brien and P. J. Garnett

### **Durham County Council**

Councillor J. Quigley

### **Durham Constabulary**

PC 1765 M. Lawton

### **Sunnydale Residents Association**

A. G. Bowman

### **In**

**Attendance:** Miss M. Ferguson - Sedgefield Borough Council  
Mrs. T Rix - Sedgefield Borough Council  
Miss C. L. Todd - Sedgefield Borough Council

There were three members of the public present.

**Apologies:** **Sedgefield Borough Council**  
Councillors Mrs I. Smith, Mrs. L. Smith and  
B. Stephens

### **Durham County Council**

Inspector F. Moore

### **Shildon Town Council**

Councillor. B. Younghusband

### **Jubilee Fields Residents Association**

Mrs. B. Carr

### **AF(4).12/02 MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meeting held on the 17<sup>th</sup> September 2002  
were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.  
(For copy see file of Minutes).

### **AF(4).13/02 POLICE REPORT**

P. C. Mandy Lawton was present at the meeting to give details  
of the crime figures for the Shildon area.

Members were informed that the total number of crimes reported in October 2002 had increased to 73 in comparison to 41 in 2001. It was explained that the crime figures had increased as a result of the Home Office changing the method of recording incidents

Members noted that bogus official type burglaries were still occurring in the area and the public should report any suspicious person/vehicle seen in the area.

Specific reference was made to the slight increase in the number of recorded domestic violence incidents. However, it was noted that the increase meant that people were now reporting incidents.

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

Concern was expressed that Shildon Police Office was not always manned. Members were informed that if the Police Office was closed calls were automatically transferred to Newton Aycliffe Office.

It was explained that problems of anti social behaviour i.e. underage drinking were occurring at the Skateboard Park. The police were hoping to visit schools to try and educate children of the problems related to anti social behaviour.

The Chairman thanked PC Mandy Lawton for her attendance and presentation.

#### **AF(4).14/02 SEDGEFIELD 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 of the following local health services:-

- G. P's and G. P's practices
- Dentists, Optometrists and Pharmacists
- Community Nurses, Health Visitors and District Nurses
- Allied Health Professions such a Speech Therapists and Occupational Therapists
- Health Centres in the Borough
- Sedgefield Community Hospital

The Trust also had a statutory responsibility for commissioning all health services from acute hospital trusts, mental health and

learning disability services and specialist hospitals. It was responsible for the implementation of government policy such as the NHS plan and the development of government standards. There were four national services, frameworks including cancer, mental health, coronary heart disease and old 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's targets with regard to waiting lists, access to health services and emergency care. The length of time patients should wait to see a nurse should be no more than 24 hours, and to see a G. P. 48 hours.

It was explained that the Sedgefield P. C. T. 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. It was noted that 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.

Reference was also made to the need to improve joint working between the Borough Council, Social Services and the Primary Health Care Team to tackle the fundamental causes of poor health and inequalities.

It was reported that a non executive member of the Sedgefield P. C. T. 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.

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 care developments and direct delivery of services.
- Putting services together
- Promoting good health in local communities

Members were then given details of the following existing and future initiatives of the Trust: -

- **LIFT** – Developing modern health centres
- **SURE START** – Across the Borough
- **LINKS TO OTHER AGENCIES** – Partnership Initiatives
- **LINKS TO DEMOCRATIC PROCESS** – Area Forums, Local Strategic Partnerships, Scrutiny Committees, Borough Council, County Council and Town Councils

- **LINKS TO PUBLIC AND PATIENTS** – Listening Events, Communication Strategy
- **HEALTH PROMOTION INITIATIVES** – Passport to Health

Nigel Porter then answered questions from members of the Forum.

Concern was expressed regarding the length of time a patient had to wait to see a G. P.

Discussion was held on the design of the new hospital at Bishop Auckland and accessibility issues including lack of automatic doors.

Particular reference was made to the development of the new Shildon Arcade and the possibility of health care provision.

The Chairman thanked Nigel Porter for attending the meeting and it was agreed that a none executive member of the P. C. T. be invited to attend future meetings of the Forum.

#### **AF(4).15/02 HOUSING PORTFOLIO - 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)

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

##### **Supported/Approved Schemes**

- |          |  |
|----------|--|
| AF(4)/5  | Installation of mast for CCTV camera opposite Jubilee Pub, Maple Avenue. Work had commenced on 11 <sup>th</sup> November 2002. It was anticipated that work would be completed within a week.  |
| AF(4)/39 | Dusk till dawn lighting/higher gates/robust fencing, Rowan Avenue, Shildon. The lighting works had been completed on 4 <sup>th</sup> July 2002. The Forum had requested that the lighting be monitored and the fence work deferred for the current time. It was explained that 33 residents had been consulted regarding the scheme. To date 19 replies had been received of which 14 still wanted fencing and 5 felt that lighting was adequate. It was agreed that a site visit be carried out by the Chairman and Senior Housing Manager. |
| AF(4)/43 | Erect wrought iron small fence to front of bungalows to prevent access to gardens, 17-27 St.   |

Paul's Terrace. The Forum was informed that the fencing works had been completed.

AF(4)/42 Raise height of front wall with metal fencing/raise height of rear/side fence to 6 ft to prevent youths causing nuisance, 3 - 7 Maple Avenue bungalows. The Forum was informed that the work would be completed week commencing 11<sup>th</sup> November 2002.

AF(4)/52 Renew fencing and raise height at rear of bungalows to prevent access by youths, Harrison Close. The Forum was informed that the work had been completed on 12<sup>th</sup> November 2002.

AF(4)/55 Remove bushes and relay grassed area to discourage youths congregating, Spout Lane/Linden Close. It was explained that horticultural were to prune the bushes right back from their own budget. The Forum agreed to remove the Scheme from the Schedule.

#### **Pending Schemes**

AF(4)/11 Closure of disused cut - 60 Hollyhill, Shildon. Confirmation was still awaited from the legal section on whether the cut had been closed.

AF(4)/38 Investigate for possible solution to problem of youths climbing onto garages and causing nuisance, Tynedale Walk, Shildon. The design was to raise the height of one section of wall adjoining garages and to fit metal spindles bow style to top of garages. Ten residents had been consulted, eight replies had been received and eight were in favour. The Forum agreed to support the Scheme.

AF(4)/57 Provide gates to area between 8 and 9 Dalton Cottages to prevent unauthorised access to grassed area. A site visit had been carried out on 13<sup>th</sup> August 2002. It had been identified that the scheme would only benefit two properties. It was explained that it was not a maintenance issue as there had never been gates. Councillor Hancock to investigate other avenues for funding. The Forum agreed to remove the scheme for the schedule.

AF(4)/16 Additional car parking, Hackworth Close bungalows near Shildon Court. The Forum agreed that the scheme should remain on the pending list

until further information on the Museum was received.

- AF(4)/58 Verge strengthening requested to grassed area, Harrison Close, Shildon - vehicle driving over. The engineers had visited the site and said that in their opinion the scheme may not be necessary. Environmental Services had been contacted and requested that the bin wagon does not drive over the grass. The Forum agreed to remove the scheme from the schedule.
- AF(4)/60 Remove seat/relocate litter bin/possibly plant prickly bushes to try and alleviate problems with youths, land to the side of No. 36 Ash Grove. A site visit had been carried out on 13<sup>th</sup> August 2002. The wooded area had been identified as probably being more responsible for the problems being experienced than the seat. Community Force had been informed to monitor the area. The Forum agreed to remove the scheme from the schedule.

#### **New Schemes**

- AF(4)/61 Request for rose beds to grassed area opposite number 11 and number 6 Elm Drive adjacent to car park. The Forum requested costs for planting rose beds.
- AF(4)/62 Tidying up of parking area, cut back overgrown grass at Elm Drive (unadopted). The Forum agreed that the County Council be requested to carry out some improvement works in this area.

It was also requested that the no parking sign outside 1 Harrison Close, Shildon be replaced.

#### **AF(4)16/02 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> January 2002 at 6.30pm in the Hackworth Suite, Shildon, Sunnydale Leisure Centre.

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#### **ACCESS TO INFORMATION**

Any person wishing to exercise the right of inspection, etc., in relation to these Minutes and associated papers should contact Claire Todd, Spennymoor 816166, Ext. 4240