

# SEDGEFIELD BOROUGH COUNCIL

## AREA 4 FORUM

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

Tuesday,  
22nd April 2003

Time : 6.30 p.m.

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

**Shildon Town Council**

Councillors P.J. Garnett, Mrs. J. O'Brien and B. Younghusband

**Durham County Council**

Councillor J. Quigley

**New Shildon Residents Association**

Mrs. C. Thompson

**Durham Constabulary**

Chief Superintendent M. Banks and P.C. M. Lawton

**Sedgefield Primary Care Trust**

K. Vasey

**Shildon Community Safety**

Mrs. B. Gardner

There were two members of the public present.

**In**

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

**Apologies: Sedgefield Borough Council**

Councillors Mrs. I. Smith, Mrs. L. Smith, B. Stephens and F. Timmiss

**AF(4)34/02 MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 4th March 2003 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman. (For copy see file of Minutes).

**AF(4)35/02 POLICE REPORT**

P.C. Mandy Lawton was present at the meeting to give details of the crime statistics for the Shildon area for the period March 2003.

Members noted that the crime statistics for March were as follows :

| <b>Type of Crime</b>      | <b>March 2003</b> |
|---------------------------|-------------------|
| Total Crime               | 159               |
| Dwellinghouse burglary    | 6                 |
| Criminal Damage           | 39                |
| Total Thefts              | 37                |
| Theft from Motor Vehicles | 12                |
| Anti-Social Behaviour     | 90                |

Particular reference was made to the increase in the number of anti-social behaviour incidents which was partially attributed to a number of incidents involving motor cyclists in the Shildon area. The Forum was informed that the Police were trying to address this issue and an operation was to be undertaken on 26th and 27th April 2003.

It was queried whether the Police had encountered any problems in the recreational park. It was explained that the recreational park was an area that was being monitored by the Police to try and alleviate problems such as bullying and damage caused to property.

Members of the Forum were reminded to report any incidents to the Police for investigation.

The Chairman thanked P.C. M. Lawton for attending the meeting and presenting her report.

In addition to the Police report, Chief Superintendent Michael Banks was present at the meeting to discuss the precept for Durham Constabulary – 2003/04.

The Forum was informed that following a detailed discussion regarding the level of resources required for 2003/04 it was decided that the precept would need to be increased by 23%. However it was reiterated that the police precept was the lowest of all non metropolitan authorities.

It was noted that the increase in the precept was costing each household 19p per week.

The Forum was given details of what the additional money would be used for:-

- £4M would be allocated towards a pay increase for staff which, was partially attributed to a reduced number of pay scales and

also nationally dictated funding allocations. The pay increases were also due to a 3.4% inflation rise.

- £0.5M towards the increase in Employers National Insurance.
- £1.2M towards the increase in pension costs. The increase in pension costs was due to an increasing number of officers reaching retirement age.
- £1.2M towards I.T. upgrading linked to the National Strategy.

The budget growth breakdown was:-

- £100k for custody assistants
- £424k to civilianise communication rooms to release police officers back to the front line.
- £54k towards 4 surveys per annum required by the Government. These related to fear of crime, police visibility, racist incidents and Joint Performance Monitoring.
- £22k towards Police National Computer liaison officer.
- £21k Drug Arrest Referral Scheme.

The growth would be used to release trained officers from support roles in custody and communications back to front line duties so that by March 2005 the equivalent of over 100 officers would have been released back to the front line. Members of the Forum felt that it was a positive measure to use resources to release Police Officers back into local communities.

Members were informed that a main priority for M. Banks as Divisional Commander at Sedgefield was to tackle the issue of anti-social behaviour.

Particular reference was made to Police Officers retiring at the age of 55 years, and it was queried why this was so. The Forum was informed that the Home Secretary set the Police Authority's terms and conditions. However, under the Police Reform Act 2002, this was being reviewed.

Members of the Forum were informed that the new Sergeant for Shildon would take up post on 12<sup>th</sup> May 2003.

The Chairman thanked Chief Superintendent M. Banks for attending the meeting.

#### **AF(4)36/02 SEDGEFIELD PRIMARY CARE TRUST**

K. Vasey, from Sedgefield Primary Care Trust, gave details of initiatives that were currently ongoing within the Primary Care Trust.

The Forum was informed that there was approximately £5.5M of additional money committed to expanding existing services and developing new services in Sedgefield:

### **Improving Access for Patients : £900,000**

- Quicker access to G.P. and nurse appointments in practices in Sedgefield.
- Reducing waiting times for in-patient and out-patient appointments in hospitals.
- Improving accident and emergency services.
- New local services delivered by specialist G.P.'s in minor surgery and E.N.T. (Ear, nose and throat) specialisms and plans for local Gynaecology Clinics in Primary Care.
- Investing in health visiting and community nursing.

### **Improving Mental Health Services : £180,000**

- Brand new buildings and new services being developed for older people with mental health needs in Bishop Auckland. Also a new purpose built building in Darlington for adults with mental health needs, replacing the existing old fashioned building.
- Additional community based service teams in Primary Care to support people in their own homes, early intervention teams, crisis resolution teams and assertive outreach teams.
- A new investment in memory clinics for those individuals suffering with dementia.

### **Improving Services to People with a Learning Disability**

- Existing money being used to relocate all individuals from Earls House, Long Stay Hospital. This was part of a radical programme in conjunction with Priority Services Trust and Durham Social Services to provide proper homes for all people with a learning disability.

### **Substance Misuse : £90,000 P.M.S. Investments**

- Additional money from P.M.S. (Personal Medical Services) and through the Drugs Action Team to set up a proper structure at a primary care level to support people with drug problems.

### **Coronary Heart Disease : £600,000**

- Significant new investments in expanding the capacity of James Cook University Hospital to provide coronary revascularisation to more patients.

### **Additional Prescribing Investments : £2,400,000**

- A significant 20% increase in investments on the 2002/03 prescribing budget for G.P. practices in Sedgefield would give all G.P.'s access to the newest and most effective drugs.

### **Cancer : Additional Investments of £200,000**

- Working with the Cancer Care lines to expand cancer services, like additional therapy, radiographers and additional Gastroenterologist and investment in a surgical voice restoration service.

### **Building and Renovating Health Centres in Sedgefield : £100,000**

- An initial investment in a L.I.F.T. (N.H.S. Resources) consortium would see the complete renovation of the outdated and unsuitable Health Centres in Sedgefield over the next three years.
- Local people would be able to access Primary Care Services, including dentistry in modern, up-to-date buildings.

In addition to these new and expanded services, a large number of new local, primary and secondary care developments in Sedgefield were improving the health opportunities of local people. Funding was from particular project money or by local initiatives.

Services included:

- Sure Start – Shildon and West, Newton Aycliffe, better services for children and patients.
- Help promote, expand - investment in tackling teenage pregnancy and smoking cessation.

It was queried whether there was any allocated funding towards projects for people with impaired hearing. K. Vasey to investigate.

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

The Chairman thanked K. Vasey for attending the meeting.

### **AF(4)37/02 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, together with pending schemes. (For copy see file of Minutes).

Members noted the schemes that had been completed since the last meeting of the Forum.

**Supported/Approved Schemes:**

AF(4)/38 - *Investigate for possible solution to problem of youths climbing on to nest of garages and causing nuisance - Tynedale Walk, Shildon* - The Forum was informed that work was programmed to start week commencing 21st April 2003. Clearance had been obtained from Accountancy to carry monies over for this work.

**Pending Schemes**

AF(4)/63 *Extend garden fence to front of property, 1 Auckland Wynd* - The Forum was informed that the scheme had been referred to Property Services to be looked at through the Miscellaneous Fencing Works Budget.

AF(4)/65 *Remove old fencing between Nos. 7 and 11 Front Row, Eldon, or fit birdsmouth* - The Forum was informed that the scheme had been referred to Property Services to be looked at through the Miscellaneous Fencing Budget.

M. Ferguson explained that she would no longer be attending the Area Forum on a regular basis as funding for Tidy Estates was no longer available.

**AF(4)38/02 PRE-SALTING OF ROADS**

Consideration was given to a letter dated 11th March 2003, which had been sent to Durham County Council. The letter detailed Members' concerns and disappointment that a representative from the County Council was unable to attend the meeting of Area 4 Forum to discuss the reasons why the decision had been taken to cut the winter maintenance budget. (For copy see file of Minutes).

**AF(4)39/02 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

To be agreed at Sedgfield Borough Council Annual Meeting on Friday, 16th May 2003.

**AF(4)40/02 CHAIRMAN'S ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

The Chairman gave thanks for Officer support with specific thanks being given to Margaret Ferguson for the presentation of the Housing Portfolio and Community Involvement Initiative.

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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

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Confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman of the meeting held on  
22<sup>nd</sup> July 2003

