

# AREA 1 FORUM

Monday,  
11 February 2008  
6.30 p.m.

Memorial Room,  
Spennymoor Town Hall

## AGENDA and REPORTS



**This document is also available in other languages,  
large print and audio format upon request**

**العربية (Arabic)**

إذا أردت المعلومات بلغة أخرى أو بطريقة أخرى، نرجو أن تطلب ذلك منا.

**বাংলা (Bengali)**

যদি আপনি এই ডকুমেন্ট অন্য ভাষায় বা ফরমেটে চান, তাহলে দয়া করে আমাদেরকে বলুন।

**(中文 (繁體字)) (Cantonese)**

如欲索取以另一語文印製或另一格式製作的資料，請與我們聯絡。

**हिन्दी (Hindi)**

यदि आपको सूचना किसी अन्य भाषा या अन्य रूप में चाहिये तो कृपया हमसे कहे

**polski (Polish)**

Jeżeli chcieliby Państwo uzyskać informacje w innym języku lub w innym formacie, prosimy dać nam znać.

**ਪੰਜਾਬੀ (Punjabi)**

ਜੇ ਇਹ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਤੁਹਾਨੂੰ ਕਿਸੇ ਹੋਰ ਭਾਸ਼ਾ ਵਿਚ ਜਾਂ ਕਿਸੇ ਹੋਰ ਰੂਪ ਵਿਚ ਚਾਹੀਦੀ, ਤਾਂ ਇਹ ਸਾਥੇ ਮੰਗ ਲਓ।

**Español (Spanish)**

Póngase en contacto con nosotros si desea recibir información en otro idioma o formato.

**اردو (Urdu)**

اگر آپ کو معلومات کسی دیگر زبان یا دیگر شکل میں درکار ہوں تو برائے مہربانی ہم سے پوچھئے۔

## AGENDA

**1. APOLOGIES**

**2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

To notify the Chairman if you have an interest in the following items.

**3. MINUTES**

To confirm as a correct record the Minutes of the meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> December 2007. (Pages 3 - 8)

**4. POLICE REPORT (LOCAL ISSUES AND ROAD SAFETY)**

A representative of Spennymoor Police will attend the meeting to give a report on crime statistics, road safety and initiatives in the area.

**5. SEDGEFIELD BOROUGH LOCAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME - APPLICATION OX CLOSE COMMUNITY GARDEN PROJECT - OX CLOSE SCHOOL**

Report of Assistant Chief Executive. (Pages 9 - 12)

**6. QUESTIONS**

The Chairman will take questions from the floor.

**7. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Monday 31<sup>st</sup> March 2008 at 6.30 p.m. at Middlestone Moor Community Centre

**8. ANY OTHER ITEMS WHICH THE CHAIRMAN DECIDES ARE URGENT**

To consider any other business which, with the consent of the Chairman, may be submitted. Representatives are respectfully requested to give the Chief Executive notice of items to be raised under this heading no later than 12 noon on the Friday preceding the meeting in order that consultation may take place with the Chairman who will determine whether the item will be accepted.

Brian Allen  
Chief Executive

Council Offices  
SPENNYMOOR  
1<sup>st</sup> February, 2008

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ACCESS TO INFORMATION

Any person wishing to exercise the right of inspection in relation to this Agenda and associated papers should contact Miss L. Kitto Tel 01388 816166 Ext. 4508 [lkitto@sedgefield.gov.uk](mailto:lkitto@sedgefield.gov.uk)

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## **Distribution List**

### **Sedgefield Borough Council**

Councillor A. Smith (Chairman)

Councillor C. Nelson (Vice-Chairman) and

Councillors Mrs. A. M. Armstrong, Mrs. B. Graham, A. Gray, J.M. Khan, Mrs. E. Maddison, B.M. Ord, K. Thompson, W. Waters and Mrs. E.M. Wood

### **Spennymoor Town Council**

Councillors Miss.S.J. Armstrong and J. Graham

### **Durham County Council**

Councillors E. Foster and N.C. Foster

### **Tudhoe Grange Comprehensive School Council**

### **UK Youth Parliament**

Ian Geldard

### **Spennymoor Comprehensive School Council**

J. Palmer and P. Lenagh

### **Spennymoor Police**

Inspector A. Green

### **County Durham Primary Care Trust**

### **Tudhoe Community Centre**

J. Smith

### **New Life Community Church**

R. Gibson

### **CAVOS**

G. Magill

### **Spennymoor Pub Watch**

C. Fletcher

### **Spennymoor Chamber of Trade**

J. Welsh

### **Neighbourhood Watch Co-Ordinators**

Mrs. E. Croft

### **The Oaks Residents Association**

S. Bright

### **St. Pauls Gardens Residents Association**

I. Lessiter

### **Eden Residents Association**

Mrs. C. Bell

**MARG**

Mrs. Sheila Lewis

**Greenways Residents Association**

A. Lamb

B. Lamb

P. Lawton

**Tudhoe Residents Association**

Mrs. S. Stephenson

**OTHERS**

Mr. B. Argyle

Mrs. Brown

Mr. S. Case

Mr. D. Gordon

Mrs. M. Khan-Willis

Mr. P. Moore

Mrs. A. Mumford

Mr. K. Pritchard

Mr. J. Redman

Mrs. A. Robinson

Mr. F. Ryder

Mrs. J. Slater

Mrs. A. Stapleton

Mr. R. Stewart

Mr. A. Williams

# Item 3

## SEDGEFIELD BOROUGH COUNCIL AREA 1 FORUM

Conference Room 1,  
Council Offices,  
Spennymoor

Monday,  
10 December 2007

Time: 6.30 p.m.

**Present:** Councillor A. Smith (Chairman) – Sedgefield Borough Council and

Councillor Mrs. A.M. Armstrong	–	Sedgefield Borough Council
Councillor Mrs. B. Graham	–	Sedgefield Borough Council
Councillor A. Gray	–	Sedgefield Borough Council
Councillor J.M. Khan	–	Sedgefield Borough Council
Councillor Mrs. E. Maddison	–	Sedgefield Borough Council
Councillor B.M. Ord	–	Sedgefield Borough Council
Councillor Mrs. E.M. Wood	–	Sedgefield Borough Council
Inspector Bill Bentham	–	Durham Constabulary
Sergeant M. Hall	–	Durham Constabulary
A. Lamb	–	Greenways Residents Association
Councillor Miss. S. Armstrong	–	Spennymoor Town Council
Councillor J. Graham	–	Spennymoor Town Council
Councillor C. Maddison	–	Elected Member Tudhoe/Low Spennymoor Ward, Spennymoor Town Centre
M. Forbes	–	Ox Close Primary School
J. Smith	–	Ox Close Nursery School
I. Geldard	–	UK Youth Parliament
E. Jowett	–	Member of the Public
B. Argyle	–	Spennymoor Resident

### In

**Attendance:** A. Blakemore, Mrs. G. Garrigan, Mrs. L. Goundry and Miss. L. Kitto  
(Sedgefield Borough Council)

**Apologies:**

Councillor C. Nelson	-	Sedgefield Borough Council
Councillor K. Thompson	-	Sedgefield Borough Council
Councillor W. Waters	–	Sedgefield Borough Council
I. Lessiter	–	St. Pauls Gardens Residents Association
D. Gordon	–	Local Resident

### AF(1)21/07 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillors Mrs. A.M. Armstrong, Mrs. B. Graham and J.M. Khan indicated that they would be declaring a personal and prejudicial interest in Item No: 5 - Local Improvement Programme - Application, Ox Close Nursery Parents Room as they were Members of Sedgefield Borough Council Cabinet.

Councillor Mrs. E. Maddison indicated that she would be declaring a personal interest in Item No. 4 – Naming of Development on Land at Whitworth Park, Spennymoor as she was a member of Spennymoor Town Council.

**AF(1)22/07 MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 29<sup>th</sup> October 2007 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman. (For copy see file of Minutes).

**AF(1)23/07 NAMING OF DEVELOPMENT ON LAND AT WHITWORTH PARK, SPENNYMOOR**

**NB : In accordance with Section 81 of the Local Government Act 2000 and the Member's Code of Conduct, Councillors Mrs. E. Maddison declared a personal interest in the above item. She remained in the meeting but took no part in the discussion on the item.**

Consideration was given to a report of the Building Control Manager regarding a request received from Barratt Homes to officially name and number the above development. (For copy see file of Minutes)

Members noted that Spennymoor Town Council had suggested the names of the six miners killed in Whitworth Colliery Pit.

As only four streets needed to be named, Members of the Forum agreed to select the names through a random draw. The following names were drawn:

- Bray
- Morgan
- Nelson
- Rothery

The Forum requested that the remaining two names – Goundry and Lowe be used for other streets, if required.

**AF(1)24/07 SEDGEFIELD BOROUGH LOCAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME - APPLICATION - OXCLOSE NURSERY PARENTS ROOM**

**NB : In accordance with Section 81 of the Local Government Act 2000 and the Members' Code of Conduct, Councillors Mrs. A.M. Armstrong, Mrs. B. Graham and J.M. Khan declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the above item and left the meeting for the duration of discussion on the item.**

Consideration was given to a report of the Assistant Chief Executive regarding the above. (For copy see file of Minutes).

The Headteacher, Jane Smith, Oxclose Nursery, Spennymoor was in attendance to present the application.

The nursery was requesting funding to provide a purpose-built venue for parents/community use. It would be used for parenting classes, family



learning lessons, confidential meetings, distance learning and informal drop-in sessions. An initial community consultation had been undertaken, which showed an overwhelming positive response to the provision of the Parents room and the ideas on what could be provided as part of the project.

The total cost of the project was £63,835. The amount of funding requested for the project was £43,835. The nursery would contribute £20,000. The revenue costs would be absorbed into the nursery's annual budget.

The Forum agreed to support the project.

## **AF(1)25/07 CRIME AND DISORDER LOCAL PRIORITIES**

Allan Blakemore, Community Safety Manager, gave a presentation regarding the above.

It was explained that Sedgefield Community Safety Partnership was in the process of setting priorities for 2008/09 and was consulting residents on their local priorities.

It was explained that the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 as amended by the Police and Justice Act 2006 imposed a duty on the Council to share data for the purpose of reducing crime and disorder and replaced the three year audit and strategy process with an annual strategic assessment.

The presentation outlined the intelligence driven and national priorities, which were:

- **Domestic Abuse**  
This was identified as a national priority. Two women die every week in Great Britain as a result of domestic violence.
- **Domestic Burglary**  
Domestic burglary was very low in Sedgefield Borough, however residents did have a high degree of fear of being a victim of this particular crime. Borough average is 8.3 burglaries per 1,000 households in 2006/07 compared to the national average of 13 burglaries per 1000 households.
- **Substance misuse**  
Substance misuse related to Class A, B and C drugs, alcohol and smoking
- **Vehicle Crime**  
Vehicle crime relates to the organised stealing of vehicles for resale after changing identification, taking vehicles without owners' consent (better known as "joyriding"), theft from vehicles and vehicle interference.

- **Criminal Damage**  
Criminal damage was the highest record of crime across Sedgefield Borough, usually accounting for 40% of total recorded crime. It was linked to night time economy and anti-social behaviour.
- **Anti-Social Behaviour**  
The usual profile figures were follows:
  - Rowdy and inconsiderate behaviour - 73%
  - Nuisance neighbours - 10%
  - Vehicle nuisance/Inappropriate use - 9%
  - Noise - 3%
  - Street drinking - 2%
  - Animal related problems - 2%
  - Substance misuse - 1%

Questionnaires were then circulated at the meeting for completion. It was pointed out that by providing postcodes on the questionnaires, the Community Safety Partnership would be able to map localised priorities, whilst preserving anonymity. It was noted that the information would be shared with Durham Constabulary to assist in the setting of neighbourhood priorities for action.

**AF(1)26/07**

**POLICE REPORT**

Inspector Bill Benson, Community Inspector for Spennymoor and Ferryhill was present at the meeting to give a report on crime statistics, initiatives and road safety for the area.

The reported crime figures for October and November 2007 were as follows:

	<u>October :</u>	<u>November :</u>
Vehicle Crime	8	10
Violent Crime	14	10
Burglary (Dwelling)	5	7
Burglary (Other)	1	3
Rowdy/Nuisance	127	85
Sexual Offences	2	1
Criminal Damage	43	35

With regard to road traffic accidents the figures were as follows:

Damage only accidents	19	12
Minor injuries	4	8
Fatalities	0	1

Concern was expressed regarding the number of youths drinking alcohol in public places. Specific reference was made to 'Bottlewatch' scheme, which was to be introduced. The scheme, which would hopefully lead to a

reduction of anti social behaviour, involved marking the labels of bottles and cans of alcohol to identify the place of purchase. The Police would then be able to identify the place of sale in respect of any alcohol seized from juveniles. It was noted that quotations were currently being sought for marking the bottles/cans.

The Forum was also given details of Operation Hawkeye and the week of action in Tudhoe, which had commenced that day.

It was noted that thefts from shops had increased in the run up to Christmas and consequently there would be increased police patrols of the Town Centre.

It was reported that it was intended to discuss and set the three neighbourhood priorities for Area 1 at the next meeting of the Forum in February 2008.

**AF(1)27/07**

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Monday 11<sup>th</sup> February 2008 at 6.30 p.m. at Spennymoor Town Hall.

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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 Mrs. Gillian Garrigan, Spennymoor 816166 Ext 4240

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# Item 5

AREA 1 FORUM

11<sup>th</sup> February 2008

## Report of the Assistant Chief Executive

### Sedgefield Borough Local Improvement Programme

#### Application - Ox Close Community Garden Project, Ox Close School

This report highlights a Local Improvement Programme (LIP) application submitted to and initially appraised by the Strategy and Regeneration Section. The report provides information to the Area 1 Forum for their consideration and comments, which will be used to further develop the project proposal prior to it being taken through Sedgefield Borough Council's decision-making process.

The Area 1 Forum has been allocated £836,000 of LIP capital resources between 2006 and 2009. A total of £278,600 has been allocated to the year 2007/08 of which £188,503 has been approved to date. A range of projects were allocated in the previous year for this area, and there is some additional under-spend resulting from last year, which will be available to the Area Forum for additional project activity.

#### Project Background

- **Name of Project:** Ox Close Community Garden project
- **Location:** Ox Close Crescent Spennymoor
- **Name of Applicant:** Ox Close Primary School.
- **Brief Description of Project:** The project aims to develop a currently underused piece of land into a community garden which incorporates a community wildlife area, a community growing area, a community sensory and a community adventure area. The applicant aims to create a high quality learning resource that is sustainable, fulfils a range of functions and serves the needs of the local community.
- **Requested from LIP: £57,548 (91%)**
- **Total Estimated Project Cost: £62,748**
- **What will the LIP be used for:**
  - Growing area – hard standing areas, seating, raised planting beds / plots, glasshouse
  - Wildlife Garden – pond area, paved / decked footpaths / walkways, dipping platforms, bird hide, rock fall and tree shrub / bulb planting, picnic benches / seating, willow tunnel

- Archway entrance into site, welcome sign, boundary fence (40m)
- **Impact of the Project:**  
The applicant has stated that the impact of the project will be:
  - Improvements to currently underused land and the development of a community garden
  - Raised achievement by young people through the creation of a high quality outdoor learning resource
  - Improvement to the health and well-being of the wider community through increased opportunities for physical exercise and the promotion of healthy eating
  - Increased ownership and sense of community responsibility
  - Enhanced community opportunities for learning and inter-generational social interaction
  - A reduction in anti-social behaviour and vandalism

- **Evidence of need and community support:**  
The applicant has stated that the project was developed as a result of local children and young people on how to improve their local environment. In July 2007, year 4 pupils wrote letters to the head teacher of Ox Close Primary School making suggestions of how to improve the local environment. To raise awareness with parents and the wider community, year 5 hosted a coffee morning. Links were then established with Greenways Residents Association who were keen to work in partnership to develop a community garden. In December 2007, a meeting was held for parents, governors and members of the wider community to make suggestions and further improve the initial design. 12000 public consultation leaflets were also distributed throughout the town to raise awareness and invite comments. 30 local residents responded to the public consultation of which 96% were in support of the project. Support and interest in using the garden has also been received from the youth club, beavers and cubs. Spennymoor School has also expressed a keen interest in working in partnership to develop some elements of the project.

- **Value for money and Revenue implications:**

The applicant has applied for £57,548 of LIP, which is 91% of the project costs. This project is however the first phase of an anticipated larger project. The applicant is working on applications for funding for the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> phases of the project. This particular project is however, not dependent on these applications. Three quotes have been sourced. Revenue costs will be paid for by the school's budget.

Subject to discussion and agreement by the Area Forum to progress the project, the Strategy & Regeneration Division will work with the applicant during the full project appraisal stage to explore a more detail predicted programme of use for the facility in order to maximise the overall possible impact of the intended project prior to it being taken through Sedgefield Borough Council's decision-making process.

The detailed appraisal stage will also include full exploration of the community use of the facility to ensure the facility is available to the wider community after school and on weekend periods, to ensure the project provides enhanced local community opportunities.

**Recommendation from the Strategy and Regeneration Section:**

That the Area Forum considers:

- The project proposal, and how it would meet the priority needs of the Area 1 locality.

**Material considerations:**

**Other applications received from Area 1:**

In taking the above decision the Area Forum is requested to consider the implication of the funding level requested against the following projects that have been received for future determination by the Forum.

**Projects endorsed by Area Forum and waiting decision by SBC.**

Ox Close Nursery – Parents Room - £57,551

**Projects Approved to date:**

2006/07	Tudhoe Grange School Family Centre	£ 15,226
2006/07	Spennymoor Settlement Technical Study	£ 3,231
2007/08	Middlestone Moor Play Area	£ 41,518
2007/08	Spennymoor Settlement	£142,000
2007/08	St Pauls Parish Hall Technical Study	£ 6,848

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