

# AREA 1 FORUM

Monday,  
1 September 2008  
6.30 p.m.

Village Hall,  
Byers Green

## 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 ਸਾਥੋਂ 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 16<sup>th</sup> June 2008. (Pages 3 - 8)

**4. POLICE REPORT**

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

**5. SEDGEFIELD BOROUGH LOCAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME**

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

**6. QUESTIONS**

The Chairman will take questions from the floor.

**7. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Monday 27<sup>th</sup> October 2008 at 6.30 p.m. venue to be confirmed.

**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

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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 email: [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 N.C. Foster, Mrs. B. Graham, B.M. Ord and K. Thompson

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

### **UK Youth Parliament**

Ian Geldard

### **Spennymoor Comprehensive School Council**

J. Palmer and P. Lenagh

### **Spennymoor Police**

Inspector W. Bentham

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

### **Tudhoe Community Centre**

J. Smith

### **New Life Community Church**

P. Gibson

### **CAVOS**

G. Magill

### **Spennymoor Pub Watch**

C. Fletcher

### **Spennymoor Chamber of Trade**

J. Welsh

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

Mrs. E. Croft

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

I. Lessiter

### **Eden Residents Association**

Mrs. C. Bell

### **Greenways Residents Association**

A. Lamb

B. Lamb

P. Lawton

**Tudhoe Residents Association**

N. Ashley

**OTHERS**

Mr. B. Argyle

Mrs. Brown

Mr. S. Case

Mr. D. Gordon

Mrs. M. Khan-Willis

Mr. P. Moore

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

Community Centre,  
Kirk Merrington

Monday,  
16 June 2008

Time: 6.30 p.m.

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

Councillor A. Gray	– Sedgefield Borough Council
Councillor E. Foster	– Durham County Council
Councillor N.C. Foster	– Durham County Council
Inspector W. Bentham	– Durham Constabulary
C. Bell	– Eden Residents Association
A. Stapleton	– Eden Residents Association
A. Lamb	– Greenway Residents Association
B. Lamb	– Greenway Residents Association
Councillor C. Bainbridge	– Spennymoor Town Council
Councillor J. Graham	– Spennymoor Town Council
P. Gibson	– New Life Christian Centre
L. Gough	– St. Paul's Church
C. Luke	– St. Paul's Church
G. Taylor	– St. Paul's Church
I. Lessiter	– St. Paul's Gardens Residents Association
C. Airey	– Local Resident
T. Dodds	– Local Resident
D. Gordon	– Local Resident
K. Hope	– Local Resident
L. Moorhouse	– Local Resident
S. Moorhouse	– Local Resident
J. Tatham	– Local Resident
W. Thompson	– Local Resident
J. Walton	– Local Resident

### In

**Attendance:** Mr. G. Cooper, Mrs. L. Goundry, Miss L. Kitto and Mrs. N. Woodgate

**Apologies:**

Councillor Mrs. A.M. Armstrong	- Sedgefield Borough Council
Councillor Mrs. B. Graham	– Sedgefield Borough Council
Councillor J.M. Khan	– Sedgefield Borough Council
Councillor Mrs. E. Maddison	– Sedgefield Borough Council
Councillor C. Nelson	– Sedgefield Borough Council
Councillor B.M. Ord	– Sedgefield Borough Council
Councillor K. Thompson	– Sedgefield Borough Council
Councillor W. Waters	– Sedgefield Borough Council
Councillor Mrs. E.M. Wood	– Sedgefield Borough Council
Councillor Miss S.L. Armstrong	– Spennymoor Town Council

### AF(1)1/08 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations of interest were received.

**AF(1)2/08**

**MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> April, 2008 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman. (For copy see file of Minutes).

**AF(1)3/08**

**POLICE REPORT**

Inspector W. Bentham, Community Inspector for Spennymoor and Ferryhill, was present at the meeting to give a presentation on Spennymoor Strategic Briefing. (For copy see file of Minutes).

Inspector Bentham gave a brief introduction to his team of officers and PCSOs for Spennymoor and Ferryhill. It was noted that the Neighbourhood Policing Unit work alongside services such as the Fire and Rescue Brigade, Probation Service, Crime Reduction Partnership and the Council's Community Safety and Housing Services.

The presentation made specific reference to total recorded crime figures for 2007/08. It was explained that crime had reduced by 20.9% since April 2007. This reduction positioned the area first in County Durham. Annual crime levels had significantly decreased and annual detection rates had increased by over 4%.

The South Area priorities for 2007/08 were as follows :-

- Vehicle crime
- Violent against the person
- Domestic abuse
- Rowdy nuisance behaviour
- Burglary dwelling and other

It was explained that Domestic Abuse was the only priority that had increased over the past year. The 2008/09 South Area priorities were as follows :-

- Assaults and domestic abuse
- Class A drugs
- Rowdy and nuisance behaviour
- Prolific and priority offenders
- Burglary dwelling

It was reported that tasks for achievement were as follows :-

- Response to Domestic Violence
- Hate Crime perception
- Allotment crime
- Your priorities
- Neighbourhood forums

The reported crime figures for April and May 2008 were as follows :-



	<b><u>April :</u></b>	<b><u>May :</u></b>
Vehicle crime	8	5
Violent crime	5	13
Burglary (Dwelling)	3	0
Burglary (Other)	3	2
Rowdy Nuisance	108	86
Sexual offences	0	0
Criminal Damage	26	16

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

	<b><u>April :</u></b>	<b><u>May :</u></b>
Damage only accidents	10	9
Minor injuries	2	1
Fatalities	0	1

At the last meeting of the Forum it was reported that the actions taken in respect of the Neighbourhood priorities for Area 1 had proven to be successful. However, Members agreed to continue with the three priority areas until the next meeting of the Forum. Those areas being Central Drive, Middlestone Moor, Drake Street and Mount Pleasant Court.

It was noted that since the last meeting only three incidents had been reported in Central Drive, Middlestone Moor. Two of the incidents involved females in April 2008 and the other incident involved off-road motor cycles.

Only one incident had been reported at Mount Pleasant Court in May, 2008 involving youths drinking.

Reports in Drake Street had decreased significantly at the last meeting, however, four further incidents had been reported within the past few months. It was noted that one individual had taken a drug overdose. It was suggested that the area be reviewed at the next meeting.

The Forum were asked to set two Neighbourhood Priorities to replace Central Drive, Middlestone Moor and Mount Pleasant Court. Inspector Bentham put forward three suggestions of areas to be targeted:-

- Ash Grove – drug users
- Off-road motorcycles
- Ullswater Close – Neighbour disputes

Members reported that Tweed Road was also an area of concern with increased anti-social behaviour problems. Concerns were raised regarding drinking and drug taking.

Specific reference was made to the increased number of problems in Kirk Merrington. In particular concerns were expressed regarding speeding in the village, also drinking and drug taking in the area of Blue House Estate.

Consideration was given to all the suggested areas. Members of the Forum agreed the following as Neighbourhood Priorities for Area 1 :-

1. Drake Street
2. Kirk Merrington
3. Tweed Road

It was noted that actions taken in respect of the priority areas would be reported at the next meeting of the Forum in September, 2008.

- AGREED :*
1. *That the information be noted.*
  2. *That the neighbourhood policing priorities for Area 1 Forum be as follows :-*
    1. *Drake Street*
    2. *Kirk Merrington*
    3. *Tweed Road*

**AF(1)4/08      SEDGEFIELD BOROUGH LOCAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME - APPLICATION ST. PAUL'S PARISH HALL COMMUNITY REGENERATION PROJECT**

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

The Reverend Lynda Gough, St. Pauls Parish Church, Spennymoor was in attendance to present the application.

The Church was requesting funding to undertake a major structural renovation and development of the existing Parish Hall. The Hall would incorporate a facility for increased general use by community groups, and provision for "healthy lifestyles" opportunities and a base for 3 – 5 Social Enterprise Small Businesses. An initial household consultation had been undertaken, which showed positive responses and support of the project.

The total cost of the project for Phase 1 and 2 was £1,154,409. The total estimated cost for Phase 1 was £455,300. The amount of funding requested for Phase 1 of the project was £200,000, 44% of the Phase 1 project cost.

*AGREED :*      *That the project be supported.*

**AF(1)5/08      SEDGEFIELD BOROUGH LOCAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME - APPLICATION NEW LIFE CHRISTIAN CENTRE BASEMENT DEVELOPMENT**

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

Phil Gibson, New Life Christian Centre, Spennymoor, was in attendance to present the application.

The Centre was requesting funding to develop the underused basement area for use in connection with youth development and to develop unused rooms for community and educational use. An initial consultation with centre users had shown an interest to undertake adult education courses.

The amount of funding requested for the project was £151,400, 100% of the total project cost.

Members were informed that the centre currently had no available funds to contribute to the project. However, attempts would continue to source match funding. The Centre would be responsible for revenue costs of the project.

*AGREED : That the project be supported.*

**AF(1)6/08**

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Monday 1<sup>st</sup> September, 2008 at 6.30 p.m. at Village Hall, Byers Green.

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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 Miss L Kitto

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**Difference**

**+ £310,317**

The above table illustrates that we are over subscribed against the money remaining in the LIP Budget. This picture has been repeated across other Area Forum Areas.

### **Project Proposals to be considered**

#### **Kirk Merrington MUGA- Kirk Merrington Community Association**

This proposal aims to redevelop a small area of unused wasteland that sits on the edge of Kirk Merrington to provide a Multi Use Games Area (MUGA), 14 metres x 26 metres in size. The applicant has stated that offering children a facility within the village should have a very positive impact. This is evidenced in how young people in the village brought this issue to the attention of the local MP and Town Council. The main aim of this project is to offer an area that teenagers can be proud of, and give them a sense of belonging. The applicant has applied for **£39,324 of LIP**, which is **62%** of the total project costs.

#### **Tudhoe Moor Play Area - Spennymoor Town Council**

This project will carry out physical improvements to the play park at Tudhoe Moor, off Green Lane, including the removal and replacement of play equipment and safety surfacing. The project also includes the creation of a Multi Use Games Area to provide a community facility which will encourage participation in sport and recreational activities. The applicant has stated that the project will have many impacts on the residents and community of Tudhoe Moor, including a healthier community, a safer community, reduction in anti-social behaviour and community pride. The applicant has applied for **£106,615 of LIP**, which is **66%** of the total project cost.

#### **Jubilee Park Play Improvements - Spennymoor Town Council**

Jubilee Play Park is owned and managed by Spennymoor Town Council. The project will update and improve the amenities on the play park, the main features on the scheme include junior play equipment, MUGA, skate park facility, fitness/adult equipment, 1 piece of toddler equipment, youth shelter, seating, litterbins, signage and landscaping. The applicant has identified that this project will have many impacts on the resident and community of Spennymoor including, healthier community, safer community, reduction in anti social behaviour and increase in community pride. The applicant has requested **£210,897** which is **67%** of the total project cost.

#### **Spennymoor Boxing Club - Spennymoor Boxing Academy**

This project would consist of moving all of the existing gym to the present squash court area of Spennymoor Leisure Centre, which will approximately treble the floor area of the current gymnasium. The new gym will enable use of a championship sized ring; house a hanging punch bag area, reception desk, 1on1 training area, various weight apparatus, locker units and a viewing gallery. Currently Spennymoor Boxing Academy operate within the Leisure Centre on a hire agreement and would be looking to finalise a long-term lease agreement with the Borough Council for the enhanced occupied space.

The applicant has identified that the impact of the re-housing and refurbishment can be measured on two scales. Immediate impact will allow

more members to join the club which not only provides exercise, but also teaches discipline, manners and respect for the community. The aim is to include female membership as well as increasing junior and male membership. The long term impact would be the possibility of creating champion boxers with a number of members potentially being considered to represent Great Britain in the London Olympics in 2012. The applicant has requested **£122,000 of LIP** which is **100%** of the total project costs.

### **Projects already discussed at Area Forum**

The following 2 projects were discussed at the Area Forum held on 16<sup>th</sup> June. Information on these projects has also been included in this report so that Area Forum can see projects aspirations, against other projects already considered and supported by the Area Forum but not yet approved by Sedgfield Borough Council.

### **New Life Christian Centre Refurbishment- New Life Christian Centre**

The project involves the redevelopment of the unused basement area for youth development and the development of unused rooms for community and educational use. The applicant has stated that by bringing these unused spaces back to life they will be able to cater for larger number of children in Spennymoor. They will be able to create a safe place for young people to socialise in and enjoy recreational activities from which has in neighbouring communities led to significant decrease in anti-social behaviour. It is hoped that community members accessing the new services offered will also grow in confidence and gain new skills and employability as they begin to network with new people and access courses. The applicant has applied for **£151,400 of LIP**, which is **100%** of the total project costs.

### **St Paul's Parish Hall Community Regeneration Project - Applicant - St Paul's Parish Church**

The project, which is split into two phases, aims to undertake a major structural renovation and development of the existing Parish Hall. This will include a facility for increased general use by community groups, a provision for "healthy lifestyles" and a base for 3-5 Social Enterprise small businesses. Phase one of the project will consist of a refurbished exterior to the existing building, new entrance foyer and single storey extension to the north-east corner of the existing building.

Phase 1 will incorporate; Kitchen, Café, Entrance foyer, Lift and staircase, Upper Gallery, 1 Social Enterprise Unit. The applicant has stated that the provision of an enhanced community based facility would improve the physical and environmental conditions of the neighbourhood, and develop other regeneration benefits within the areas of skills training, improved healthy living, community safety, and greater social and community cohesion. The applicant has requested **£200,000 from LIP** (Phase 1 only) **44%** of the total phase 1 project costs.

### **Current Position**

Given that the Local Improvement Programme is entering it's final year of operation (3-year programme from April 2006 – March 2009), the Capital

Programme Team are keen to make progress on applications quickly given the timescales for decision making in the run up to the close of the scheme.

### **Next Steps**

Given the amount of projects that have been submitted within the Area 1 locality and the available monies within the Local Improvement Programme for Area 1, the Capital Programme Team will now work in more detail with all applicants to discuss the impact and outcomes expected from the project and look at key issues such as local priorities and the deliverability of the overall project within the timeframe remaining for the LIP Programme. This will assist in the task of prioritising projects that will be taken through the decision making process of Sedgefield Borough Council.

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

That the Area Forum considers the above list of projects and offers any comments about the projects in relation to priorities for the Area 1 locality and how each project will meet local needs. Representatives from the projects will be available to answer questions if necessary.