

AREA 1 FORUM

Monday,
10 November 2008
6.30 p.m.

Conference Room 1,
Council Offices, Spennymoor

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 1st September 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 - UPDATE ON PROJECT ACTIVITY

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

6. QUESTIONS

The Chairman will take questions from the floor.

7. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Monday 19th January 2009 at 6.30 p.m. at Spennymoor Town Hall, Memorial Room.

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

ACCESS TO INFORMATION

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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

Village Hall,
Green

Monday,
1 September 2008

Time: 6.30 p.m.

- Present:**
- Councillor A. Smith (Chairman) – Sedgefield Borough Council and
 - Councillor Mrs. A.M. Armstrong – Sedgefield Borough Council
 - Councillor A. Gray – Sedgefield Borough Council
 - Councillor Mrs. E. Maddison – Sedgefield Borough Council
 - Councillor B.M. Ord – Sedgefield Borough Council
 - Councillor K. Thompson – Sedgefield Borough Council
 - Councillor N.C. Foster – Durham County Council
 - Inspector W. Bentham – Durham Constabulary
 - PC J. Rielly – Durham Constabulary
 - C. Darkes – Greenways Residents Association
 - G. Darkes – Greenways Residents Association
 - A. Lamb – Greenways Residents Association
 - B. Lamb – Greenways Residents Association
 - Councillor Miss S.J. Armstrong – Spennymoor Town Council
 - Councillor J. Graham – Spennymoor Town Council
 - Councillor I. Harrington – Spennymoor Town Council
 - Councillor F. Ryder – Spennymoor Town Council
 - Councillor F. Walker – Spennymoor Town Council
 - S. Armstrong – Spennymoor Town Council
 - M. Rowe – Spennymoor Town Council
 - Councillor C. Maddison – Elected Member Tudhoe/Low Spennymoor
Ward/Spennymoor Town Centre
 - H. Moorhouse – Kirk Merrington Park Improvement Team
 - L. Moorhouse – Kirk Merrington Park Improvement Team
 - S. Moorhouse – Kirk Merrington Park Improvement Team
 - J. Walton – Kirk Merrington Park Improvement Team
 - D. Brown – Spennymoor Boxing Academy
 - G. Courtney – Spennymoor Boxing Academy
 - D. Ellis – Spennymoor Boxing Academy
 - G. Ellis – Spennymoor Boxing Academy
 - R. Ellis – Spennymoor Boxing Academy
 - B. Green – Spennymoor Boxing Academy
 - N. McCormick – Spennymoor Boxing Academy
 - L. Cassie – Local Resident
 - E. Jowitt – Local Resident
- In attendance:** Mrs. L. Goundry, Miss L. Kitto and Mrs. N. Woodgate (Sedgefield Borough Council)
- Apologies:**
- Councillor Mrs. B. Graham – Sedgefield Borough Council and
 - Councillor J.M. Khan – Sedgefield Borough Council
 - Councillor C. Nelson – Sedgefield Borough Council
 - Councillor W. Waters – Sedgefield Borough Council
 - Councillor Mrs. E.M. Wood – Sedgefield Borough Council
 - D. Gordon – Local Resident

AF(1)7/08 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Mrs. A.M. Armstrong indicated that she would be declaring a personal and prejudicial interest in Item No : 5 – Sedgefield Borough Local Improvement Programme – as she was a Member of Sedgefield Borough Cabinet.

AF(1)8/08 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 16th June, 2008 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman. (For copy see file of Minutes).

AF(1)9/08 POLICE REPORT

Inspector W. Bentham, 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.

It was noted that PC Ruth Taylor and PC Peter Hall were new officers within the Neighbourhood Policing Team.

The reported crime figures for June, July and August, 2008 were as follows :-

	<u>June :</u>	<u>July :</u>	<u>August :</u>
Vehicle Crime	9	9	5
Violent Crime	19	13	12
Burglary (Dwelling)	3	6	3
Burglary (Other)	6	11	1
Rowdy Nuisance	76	102	92
Criminal Damage	29	29	46

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

	<u>June :</u>	<u>July :</u>	<u>August :</u>
Damage Only Accidents	12	13	6
Minor Injuries	2	0	4
Fatalities	0	0	0

It was noted that violent crime in June had increased, however, there was no particular trend or repeat location barring three calls to Stratton Street.

Violent crime had declined in July, again with no particular trends. There had been two calls to the locality of the Penny Gill, Spennymoor.

Burglary dwelling incidents had increased in June and July, however, for both months eight people had been arrested for burglary crimes.

Following those arrests the figures had reduced back to normal in August. Criminal damage figures had significantly increased in August as a result of one individual who had punctured 21 tyres over two nights in Spennymoor. The individual was currently on bail for those offences and awaiting the CPS prosecution decision.

PC J. Rielly reported that the actions taken in respect of the Neighbourhood Priority for the Drake Street area had proven to be successful. The main individual involved in the incidents had vacated the street.

Members were informed that consultation was taking place with regard to the increased number of traffic problems in Kirk Merrington. Once the findings were completed, the area would be monitored.

With regard to Tweed Road, it was reported that rowdy nuisance and crime based incidents at the properties were the main problems. The gathering of youths and drinking was not a problem in the area, however, it was suggested that the area be monitored and reviewed at the next meeting.

The Forum was asked to set one new Neighbourhood Priority to replace Drake Street.

A query was raised regarding anti-social behaviour and youths drinking in Whitworth Lane.

Members also reported that Dene Valley and Jubilee Park were areas of concern, as youths were congregating and drinking alcohol. Specific reference was made to the number of empty alcohol bottles found in both areas.

It was queried whether drug statistics could be produced for Area 1. In response Members were informed that figures would be produced for the next meeting of the Area Forum.

Consideration was given to all the suggested areas.

Members of the Forum agreed the following as Neighbourhood Priorities for Area 1:-

1. Dene Valley/Jubilee Park
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 October, 2008.

AGREED :

1. *That the information be noted.*
2. *That the Neighbourhood Policing Priorities for Area 1 Forum be as follows :-*

- *Dean Valley/Jubilee Park*
- *Kirk Merrington*
- *Tweed Road*

AF(1)10/08 SEDGEFIELD BOROUGH LOCAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME

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

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

Members were informed that the cut-off date for new LIP applications was 31st July, 2008. The Area 1 Forum had been allocated £836,000 of LIP capital resources between 2006 and 2009. It was reported that money allocated for Area 1 was over-subscribed by £310,317.

The project proposals to be considered were :-

- Kirk Merrington MUGA – Kirk Merrington Community Association
- Tudhoe Moor Play Area – Spennymoor Town Council
- Jubilee Park Play Improvements – Spennymoor Town Council
- Spennymoor Boxing Club – Spennymoor Boxing Academy

Members were informed that the following two projects were discussed at the Area Forum held on 16th June, 2008.

Information on these projects had been included in this report. Both projects had already been considered and supported by the Area Forum, however, had not yet been approved by Sedgefield Borough Council.

- New Life Christian Centre refurbishment – New Life Christian Centre
- St. Paul's Parish Hall Community Regeneration Project – Applicant - St. Paul's Parish Church

It was queried whether the criteria for LIP applications had changed. In response it was explained that there had been no changes in criteria for applications. However, more emphasis would be placed on match funding and deliverability of project.

A concern was raised regarding Jubilee Park Play Improvements and the number of youths the project would take off the streets. In response the applicant explained that the application would hopefully lead to a significant increase in youth users. The project would update and improve the amenities on the park, the main features on the scheme would include : junior play equipment, MUGA, skate park facility, fitness/adult equipment, one piece of toddler equipment, youth shelter, seating, litter bins, signage

and landscaping. The applicant identified that the project would have many impacts on the residents and community of Spennymoor including Healthy Community, Safer Community and reduction in Anti-Social Behaviour.

Neil McCormick, Spennymoor Boxing Club, explained that this project would also provide a reduction in anti-social behaviour. The existing gym would not provide enough space to allow new Members to join the Club. The project would consist of moving all of the existing gym to the present squash court area of Spennymoor Leisure Centre. The Club would not only provide exercise but also would teach discipline, manners and respect for the community. The aim would be 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.

Consideration was given to all the project proposals. Members of the Forum agreed to support all projects.

AGREED : That the projects be supported.

AF(1)11/08

QUESTIONS

Geoff Darkes, Greenway Residents Association, informed Members of a meeting to be held regarding Spennymoor Regeneration. The meeting would be held at Spennymoor Town Hall on 25th September, 2008 at 7.00 p.m.

AF(1)12/08

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Monday 27th October, 2008 at 6.30 p.m. at Community Centre, Tudhoe.

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 Tel 01388 816166 ext 4508 email: lkitto@sedgefield.gov.uk

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Item 5

AREA 1 FORUM

10th November 2008

Report of the Assistant Chief Executive

Sedgefield Borough Local Improvement Programme

Update on Project Activity

This report provides the Area Forum with an update on project activity as part of Sedgefield Borough Council's Local Improvement Programme (LIP).

The purpose of the LIP Programme is to improve community assets and support community engagement in the regeneration of local areas. As part of this, Local Communities can propose projects against set criteria agreed by Sedgefield Borough Council. Through this Programme resources will be released to improve sites and improve the usability of community facilities and buildings across the Borough.

The Area 1 Forum has been allocated £836,000 of LIP capital resources between 2006 and 2009. The Area Forum may recall that Area 1 was oversubscribed by £310,317 following the cut off date of 31st July 2008. Cabinet has now considered the project applications received from the Area 1 Forum locality and details of their decisions is outlined in this report.

PRIORITISATION PROCESS

In 2005 Cabinet agreed a Housing Land Capital Receipts strategy that outlined a range of project proposals and established the Local Improvement Programme. To be eligible for consideration under this strategy all projects need to meet the Government 'regeneration' definition as outlined below.

Regeneration –

*“any project for the carrying out of works or activities on any land where –
(a) the land, or a building on the land, is vacant, unused, under-used, ineffectively used, contaminated or derelict; and
(b) the works or activities are carried out in order to secure that the land or the building will be brought into effective use.”*

This definition is the starting point for consideration of all LIP projects. Projects that don't meet this definition have been discouraged from applying.

Criteria

When assessing LIP project requests the following criteria has formed the basis to the project appraisal.

Project Criteria

- Social Impact and additional outcomes against priorities in the community strategy
- Clear identified need
- Clear consultation

- Links to other regeneration activity
- Deliverability of the scheme within LIP timeframe
- Value for Money
- Leverage of match funding where possible
- Achievable match funding strategy has been identified
- Principal of fair-share across communities within Area Forums
- Opportunity to phase the project to reduce the funding needed to implement the scheme without affecting the outcomes
- Strategic fit with Council plans, strategies and aspirations

Given the budget pressure and the need to ensure that LIP money is targeted at projects that will have clear community outcomes, there has been the need to sort projects into 3 main categories;

- Priority Projects
- Reserve Projects
- Non-Priority Projects for Rejection

It is recognised that some of the projects identified for approval still need confirmation of some technical issues such as match funding confirmation or planning permission considerations.

One Area Forum suggested a standardised reduction of grant based on the percentage of the oversubscription of all bids. This has been considered by the Capital Programme Team, however, it is recognised that some projects have already scaled back their ambitions to meet a reduced financial allocation. With other projects a reduction in grant allocation would lead to an increased risk of failing to deliver within the timeframe available. All projects have therefore been assessed on an individual basis.

Reserve Projects

Where an excess of eligible project requests have been received within an Area Forum locality it is proposed that a reserve list of projects be considered.

The identification of reserve projects is strongly linked to the risk analysis and contingency planning that has been carried out through project appraisal.

Non-Priority Projects

A number of projects have been submitted that whilst meeting the core LIP 'regeneration' definition as detailed above; and whilst hitting some of the key LIP criteria, haven't demonstrated or evidenced significant outcomes or impact when assessed against other project opportunities.

This list also includes projects where the timescale for project delivery is unclear or where timescales clearly exceeds the ability for Sedgefield Borough Council to progress the individual project request within its lifespan. Other considerations have included the respective 'buy in' to the project from the local community, support for the project from the respective management committee and also the match funding strategy identified linked to successful

project delivery. The Capital Programme Team have committed to work with these projects to develop bids for other funding where appropriate.

RESOURCES

The LIP budget was allocated on an Area Forum basis based on the number of households within each Forum area. The budget for LIP is fixed and can not be increased to meet the oversubscription of schemes.

Match Funding – The ability of projects to lever in additional match funding is a central consideration for all LIP projects. However, match funding decisions are outside Sedgfield Borough Council control and can therefore skew project timescales. Given the need to make progress within a tight timescale prior to Local Government Reorganisation, a deadline of the turn of the year has been set to receive clarification from projects that are dependent on external match funding decisions. The programme will be reviewed at this stage to assess progress and any risks to project delivery.

The Capital Programme Team considers that we should make every effort to give projects the time to secure match funding but we also recognise that if the funding isn't secured in time, or decisions result in no match funding being allocated to these projects then we will have to re-look at the priority project list and consider additional reserve schemes where appropriate.

The Current Position Within Area 1 Forum:

LIP Approvals

Tudhoe Moor Family Centre	£15,227
Middlestone Moor Play Area	£39,655
Spennymoor Settlement	£142,000
Ox Close Nursery	£43,835
Ox Close Community Garden	<u>£57,548</u>
	£298,265

Approvals 23rd October 2008

St Paul's Parish Hall	£200,000
Kirk Merrington MUGA	£40,324
Spennymoor Boxing Club	<u>£150,000</u>
	£390,324

Reserve Projects

Tudhoe Moor Play Area	£106,615
Jubilee Park Improvements	<u>£210,897</u>
	£317,512

**Further discussions are planned with Spennymoor Town Council applicant for the 2 identified reserve schemes to consider the components of the scheme further and assess opportunities to lever in section 106 monies towards the proposals.

Non-Priority Projects for Rejection

New Life Christian Centre	£151,400
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Recommendation from the Strategy and Regeneration Section:

That the Area Forum notes the information provided on the current position of the Local Improvement programme within Area 1.

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