

# AREA 2 FORUM

Tuesday,

6 September 2005

6.30 p.m.

Ferryhill Leisure Centre

# AGENDA and REPORTS

## AGENDA

**1. APOLOGIES**

**2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

To notify the Chairman of any items that appear later in the agenda in which you may have an interest.

**3. MINUTES**

To confirm as a correct record the Minutes of the meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> June 2005. (Pages 1 - 4)

**4. POLICE REPORT**

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

**5. SEDGEFIELD PRIMARY CARE TRUST**

A representative of Sedgefield Primary Care Trust will attend the meeting to give an update on local health matters and performance figures.

**6. CHURCH LANE CAR PARK, FERRYHILL**

To consider the attached report of the Head of Strategy and Regeneration, which addresses a number of problems that have been associated with the above car park. (Pages 5 - 58)

**7. QUESTIONS**

The Chairman will take questions from the floor

**8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

1<sup>st</sup> November 2005 at 6.30 p.m. at Chilton and Windlestone Community College.

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

Members are respectfully requested to give the Chief Executive Officer notice of items they would wish to raise under the heading not later than 12 noon on the day preceding the meeting, in order that consultation may take place with the Chairman who will determine whether the item will be accepted.

N. Vaulks  
Chief Executive Officer

Council Offices  
SPENNYMOOR  
26<sup>th</sup> August 2005

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Any person wishing to exercise the right of inspection in relation to this Agenda and associated papers should contact Miss S. Billingham Tel 01388 816166 Ext 4240

## **Distribution List**

### **Sedgefield Borough Council**

Councillor Mrs. C. Potts (Chairman)

Councillor Mrs. K. Conroy (Vice-Chairman) and

Councillors B.F. Avery J.P., T.F. Forrest, J.E. Higgin,  
A. Hodgson, B. Meek, G. Morgan, D.A. Newell, R. A. Patchett and  
Ms. M. Predki

### **Durham County Council**

Councillor G. Porter

Councillor C. Magee

### **Bishop Middleham Parish Council**

Councillor Mr. L. Muncaster

Councillor Mr. V. Cook

### **Chilton Parish Council**

Councillor J. Lee

Councillor V. Collinson

### **Ferryhill Town Council**

Councillor J. Chaplin

Councillor A. Denton

Mrs. P. Crathorne

### **Cornforth Parish Council**

Councillor A. Denholm

Councillor L. Ord

### **Castles Residents Association**

Mrs. C. Hall

### **Lakes Residents Association**

Mrs. V. Birchall

### **Chilton- West Residents Association**

Mr. P. Crawforth

### **Ferryhill Station and Chilton Lane Residents Association**

Mrs. G. Hall

### **Dean Bank Residents Association**

B. Rutherford

### **Cornforth Partnership**

Mr. R.A. Sunman

### **Police**

Inspector G. Docherty

Sergeant Vincent

**Sedgefield Primary Care Trust**

Alyson Learmouth and Sylvia Slaughter

**Ferryhill Business and Enterprise College**

Mr. S. Gater

**CAVOS**

Chief Executive

**Community Network**

Anne Frizell

# Item 3

## SEDGEFIELD BOROUGH COUNCIL AREA 2 FORUM

Dean Bank and Ferryhill  
Literary Institute

Tuesday,  
21 June 2005

Time: 6.30 p.m.

**Present:** Councillor Mrs. C. Potts (Chairman) – Sedgefield Borough Council and

Councillor Mrs. K. Conroy	–	Sedgefield Borough Council
Councillor T.F. Forrest	–	Sedgefield Borough Council
Councillor J.E. Higgin	–	Sedgefield Borough Council
Councillor G. Morgan	–	Sedgefield Borough Council
Councillor M. Errington	-	Chilton Town Council
Councillor J. Lee	-	Chilton Town Council
Mrs. J. Weston	-	Dean Bank residents Association
Inspector A. Green	-	Durham Constabulary
Sgt K. Vincent	-	Durham Constabulary
Councillor A. Denton	-	Ferryhill Town Council
Dr. A. Learmonth	-	Sedgefield Primary Care Trust
Mrs. S. Slaughter	-	Sedgefield Primary Care Trust

**Apologies:**

Councillor B.F. Avery J.P.	–	Sedgefield Borough Council
Councillor A. Hodgson	–	Sedgefield Borough Council
Councillor B. Meek	–	Sedgefield Borough Council
Councillor D.A. Newell	–	Sedgefield Borough Council
Councillor R.A. Patchett	–	Sedgefield Borough Council
Councillor Ms. M. Predki	–	Sedgefield Borough Council
Councillor G. Porter	–	Durham County Council

**AF(2)1/05      DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Members had no interests to declare.

**AF(2)2/05      MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> April 2005 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman. (For copy see file of Minutes).

**AF(2)3/05      POLICE REPORT**

Sergeant K. Vincent and Inspector A. Green were present at the meeting to give details of the crime figures and local initiatives for the area.

Insp A. Green explained that he had recently taken up post to replace Insp Winship. He explained that he had been in service with Durham Constabulary for 15 years with an operational background.

It was reported that the crime statistics for the area were as follows: -

	<u>April</u>	<u>May</u>	<u>June</u>
Total No. of Crimes	103	156	99
Dwelling Burglary	5	12	7
Att. Burglary – Dwelling	0	3	2
Burglary – Other	7	8	8
Assaults	8	28	11
Theft of Motor Vehicle	3	4	4
Theft from Motor Vehicle	20	2	4
Attempted Thefts from Motor Vehicles	1	0	0
Theft – General	20	36	17
Drug/Substance Misuse	2	3	4
Criminal Damage	20	58	43
Youths Causing Annoyance	108	114	35
Motorcycle Complaints (Total 2003 – 43) (Total 2004 – 73)	20	16	4
Total No. Of Incidents	624	745	447
Total No. Of Arrest	52	30	46

The Forum was given details of a number of operations and initiatives that were ongoing throughout the area.

It was explained that a new PCSO had recently been appointed to assist the Beat Team and increase the numbers of patrols during the summer months to target any anti social behaviour.

Members were also informed of the procedures for holding events on the public highway. It was explained that there was strict legislation that needed to be followed. Organisers should consult with Durham County Council, Durham Constabulary, Sedgefield Borough Council and a Traffic Management Company in order for the event to be carried out correctly and safely.

Members expressed concern at the criminal damage that had been caused to a number of allotments, greenhouses and newly planted trees around the area. Sgt Vincent explained that the matter was being looked into and that the Town Council was considering the development of an allotment watch.

Concerns were also raised regarding the number quad bikes that were being misused and what powers the police had. It was explained that the police would talk to the owners to deter them from using the bikes in public areas and that they also had powers to seize the bikes if their advice was not taken and registration documents were not provided.

Cards detailing the new non-emergency contact number for the police were distributed to the Forum.

**AF(2)4/05**

**SEDGEFIELD PRIMARY CARE TRUST**

Dr. A. Learmonth and Mrs. S. Slaughter were present at the meeting to provide an update on local health matters and performance figures.

Detailed discussion was held regarding the progression of the Health Care Centre at Chilton. The Chairman of the Forum informed Members that she had received a letter from G. Wills, Chairman of Sedgefield Primary Care Trust to assure the Forum that the Health Care Centre would be developed and was constantly being reviewed.

Mrs. S. Slaughter informed the Forum that funds had been released by the PCT in April to begin the process of purchasing the land. It was then agreed in May that the development was to be given the full go ahead. It was also explained that a feasibility study would be taking place in July to be completed in September and would consider all aspects of the development. Once that was complete a Business Case would be implemented to progress the development further.

Members expressed concern at the length of time the development was taking, pointing out that there were still problems in making appointments with a doctor and that people were continuing to find it difficult if it was necessary for them to travel to Ferryhill.

Dr Learmonth gave a presentation detailing the Director of Public Health Annual Report 2004/05 'The Health and Wellbeing of People in Sedgefield.' Copies of which were distributed at the meeting.

The presentation gave details of the Structure of the report, its 4 main aims, new features, the agencies who contributed to the development of the report, local statistical information and the priority areas.

Dr. Learmonth distributed the Board Report, 9<sup>th</sup> June 2004 detailing performance figures, making specific reference to the problems in meeting the target for the ambulance response time. Questions were raised as to whether satellite navigation could be installed in the ambulances, and what ways local knowledge could be developed to aid in the response time improving. It was explained that all concerns and comments would be taken back to the relevant Officers at the PCT for consideration.

It was also explained that the Local Delivery Plan 2005/2008 had been agreed. More information would be brought to the next meeting.

Detailed discussion was also given to ways of improving services, the practice based commissioning service, the progress of the Integrated Teams and the investment that had been made in developing the services for those suffering from mental health problems.

**AF(2)5/05      Local Strategic Partnership - Appointment Of Board Members and 'Alternate'**

Consideration was given to a letter from the Local Strategic Partnership Board. (For copy see file of Minutes).

It was agreed that Councillor A. Hodgson would continue to represent the Area 2 Forum at the Local Strategic Partnership Board and Councillor G. Morgan would continue in post as the alternate for the Area 2 Forum.

**AF(2)6/05      DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

6<sup>th</sup> September 2005 at 6.30 p.m. at West Cornforth Community 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 Miss S. Billingham Tel 01388 816166 Ext 4240



# Item 6

## REPORT TO AREA 2 FORUM

6<sup>th</sup> September 2005

## REPORT OF HEAD OF STRATEGY & REGENERATION

### **CHURCH LANE CAR PARK, FERRYHILL**

#### 1.0 **SUMMARY**

1.1 Sedgefield Borough Council is the owner of Church Lane car park, Ferryhill. For some time now, there has been concern at the lack of usage of the Church Lane car park, which, the consensus is that, it is linked to the congregation of young people and ongoing reports of anti social behaviour.

1.2 A number of potential solutions have been considered in the past, however, agreement about which option best addresses the problems without being detrimental to the amenity of local residents has been difficult to secure.

1.3 The Borough Council wishes to consider the options in conjunction with residents and interested parties, with a view to implementing an improvement scheme during 2005/6.

#### 2.0 **RECOMMENDATIONS**

2.1 In light of the information provided, the Area forum is requested to indicate its preferred option to address the problems associated with the Church Lane car park.

#### 3.0 **BACKGROUND**

3.1 Ferryhill Town Council has conducted a consultation exercise, with those residents surrounding the Church Lane car park in Ferryhill town centre, following complaints from residents regarding anti social behaviour and criminal damage to cars in that car park. Ferryhill Town Council subsequently requested that the Borough Council take action to improve the security of the car park in Ferryhill town centre accessed from Church Lane. The Borough Council conducted a survey of spaces available within the Market Place car park and found that although the car park was busy at various times of the day there were a few spaces available for use. A summary of the responses to the Town Council's survey is attached as Appendix 1, and the SBC survey details as Appendix 2.

3.2 This car park is currently underused. It is reported that residents and potential users fear that their vehicles will be stolen or damaged while

parked, even for a short time, in this car park. This places pressure on the Market Place car park in Ferryhill during the day. The Church Lane car park is reluctantly used on Fridays when the weekly market occupies the Market Place car park.

- 3.3 Complaints have been received by the Town Council from businesses and residents about perceived security/safety problems linked to youths congregating in the Church Lane car park. Businesses are also concerned that they are losing business because of the lack of usable parking spaces. The residents complain that town centre users park their vehicles in the residential areas if the Market Place car park is full rather than use the Church Lane car park.
- 3.5 A number of options have been discussed, however, there is currently no consensus over the way forward.

3.6 **OPTIONS**

- a. **Improve the lighting.** This option will discourage the use of the car park as a location for anti social behaviour by illuminating the activities of the youths congregating there. This does not increase natural surveillance but if used in conjunction with CCTV could improve conditions for residents.
- b. **Reduce height of wall and install railings.** To reduce the height and install railings to the top of the wall will allow for natural surveillance of the car park by local residents thereby discouraging use of the car park by youths. Most responses to the Town Council's survey state this is a good idea, although there is some concern by residents over the lack of police response to calls regarding anti social behaviour there.

Although professional thought there would be, residents did not report that the intrusion of light into their homes from car headlights would be a problem. This is yet to be tested.

There has been one response identifying the concern that youths currently sit on the car park wall and look into residents' homes. Installation of railings on a reduced wall would solve this problem.

The wall to the car park is a historic random rubble wall that leads to a listed building, St Luke's Church. Bearing in mind that the wall is historic and has been repaired in the past, it does not have any structural problems, the character of the wall has not been removed. The wall itself is not listed, however, if it is reduced in size this will mean that as a random rubble wall it will be more costly to do, requiring expertise.

- c. **Installation of a CCTV camera.** Most responses suggested that CCTV would be a popular option for residents viewing this as a panacea for the current problems being experienced. The cost of this option will include the installation of the equipment costs of monitoring and maintenance for which the Borough Council would be liable. This could mean this option is dependant on the Borough's ability to accept the ongoing maintenance costs.

The proximity of the CCTV camera to residential properties may contravene privacy legislation. This would need to be investigated.

- d. **Do nothing.** In light of the ongoing concerns from residents and other local people it is appears that there is a desire to see some form of improvement, and reduction in anti social behaviour. As such the views of participants at the Area Forum will determine whether or not 'To Do Nothing' is a practicable option.

**4.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 The Regeneration Services Capital Programme budget allows spend up to a maximum of £20,000.

4.2 Table 1 Options and associated approximate costings.

<b>Option</b>	<b>Approximate Cost</b>
a) Improve the lighting	£5,000
b) Reduce the height of the wall and add railings	£10,000
c) Install CCTV ( <b>NB</b> future maintenance costs are not included)	£18,000
d) Do Nothing ( <b>NB</b> future maintenance costs are not included)	£00.00

**5.0 CONSULTATIONS**

5.1 Consultation has taken place with: residents, Ferryhill Town Council (results attached as Appendix 2), the Area 2 Forum, the Strategy and Regeneration Capital Programme Working Group. Once a decision has been made by the Area 2 Forum residents will be advised of the proposals and timescales for work to commence.

**6.0 OTHER MATERIAL CONSIDERATIONS**

6.1 The likely timescale for these works to be completed will be March 2006 as considerations must include planning, and tendering processes.

6.2 Each of the above options on their own are likely to improve the quality of life of local residents who are currently suffering from the anti social behaviour of the youths congregating in the car park thereby reducing crime in that locality.

**7.0 OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY IMPLICATIONS**

7.1 The chosen option and associated works as part of the Strategy and Regeneration Services Capital Programme will be subject to the normal Overview and Scrutiny Arrangements.

**8.0 LIST OF APPENDICES**

8.1 Appendix 1 Summary of responses from residents conducted by Ferryhill Town Council.

8.2 Appendix 2 Summary of survey conducted by Sedgefield Borough Council on the use of the Market Place Car Park.

8.3 Appendix 3 Consultation responses from other stakeholders conducted by Ferryhill Town Council.

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**Contact Officer** Graham Wood Strategy and Regeneration  
Manager  
**Telephone Number** 01388 816166 Ext. 4205  
**E-mail address** [gwood@sedgefield.gov.uk](mailto:gwood@sedgefield.gov.uk)

**Wards:** Ferryhill

**Key Decision Validation:** this is not a key decision

**Background Papers:**

**Examination by Statutory Officers**

	Yes	Not Applicable
1. The report has been examined by the Councils Head of the Paid Service or his representative	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2. The content has been examined by the Councils S.151 Officer or his representative	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3. The content has been examined by the Council's Monitoring Officer or his representative	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
4. The report has been approved by Management Team	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**CHURCH LANE CAR PARK  
RESPONSES RECEIVED 25<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2005**

**10 residents submitted completed questionnaires.**

**Of these 8 people provided details of their names and addresses.**

1. Do you live in a property that directly overlooks the car park? YES: 7/NO: 2

2. How often do you use the Church Lane car park?

Daily: 0      Weekly: 0      Monthly: 0      Occasionally: 2      Never: 8

3. Do you think the existing Church Lane car park is secure? YES: 0/NO: 8

If **No**, please give a reason:

Full of Vandals

No cameras

Too often used as a public toilet

Too many people wander aimlessly around

The wall is too high to see what is happening

Youths play football/drink, rally drive and generally hang out there

Cannot see into car park. Gangs of youths drinking. Boys and girls at night

Gangs of youths playing football

Boy Racers

The wall should be removed to reduce vandalism

It would be more secure if you installed CCTV and then I don't think that people would use it.

Police never investigate or even bother to turn up to any reported wrongdoing. I have called the police on numerous occasions and have yet to see any meaningful activity from them, apart from in any one of our fast food outlets

Because it is dark and difficult to see the whole of the car park. It is also a haven for underage drinking.

4. In your opinion would the replacement of the perimeter wall with railings improve security in the car park?

YES: 7/NO: 3

Please give your reasons why:

**Yes:**

Could see in and ring police

You will be able to see what is going on when the gangs meet in the car park

Youths would no longer feel hidden from the public and we could see our cars if parked there

Visibility

The car park would be an open aspect

**No:**

Does not stop trouble. We are all sick and fed up contacting the police. The site should have been built on, not used as a playground.

Because it takes the privacy away from residents, and on evenings would you guarantee that people don't use it as a toilet which occurs frequently. Would you like that to happen at the front of your property?

If you think that Church Lane residents will act as unpaid security guards and report any criminal activities to the police you are wrong. Firstly, nothing would be done and secondly, they would themselves become targets for the scum that use the car park.

Because if someone is going to steal or damage a vehicle a wrought iron fence is no deterrent.

Please return to the Town Hall by **Monday 25<sup>th</sup> April 2005**

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**CHURCH LANE CAR PARK  
RESPONSES RECEIVED 25<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2005**

5. Would you use the car park more often if the perimeter wall were replaced with railings?

YES: 6/NO: 4

Friends would

6. Would you be in favour of replacing the perimeter wall with railings?

YES: 8/NO: 2

Please give your reasons:

**Yes:**

Stop being used as a vandals' den.

You would be able to see what is going on when the gangs meet in the car park.

In October onwards, youths throw bangers/snowballs, have sex, thinking they cannot be seen.

Everything and anything goes on in that car park because people think they cannot be seen.

Taking the wall down would be a benefit all round.

**Visibility**

At present the car park is only used on a Friday, otherwise our street is used as a car park.

Maybe will look better and hopefully children cannot sit on the top and look into our house.

**No:**

Lack of privacy. More rubbish blowing and snagging on the railings.

The hooligans that at present use the car park for using drugs, drinking etc, will then be able to see directly into the houses overlooking the car park, but without any solid obstacle from stopping them committing more vandalism than they already do to houses and cars in the street.

It's another waste of council tax or another attempt to use up last year's budget.

7. Any Other Comments:

Hurry Up!

It's about time you finally listened to the residents. We suggested the wall be lowered years ago and the headlights will not be a bother to us.

There is no way at the moment that I would put either of my cars in there, but I would if I could see and keep an eye on them. If you included a CCTV camera it would be even better.

It would be nice to have CCTV.

When my family come to stay they find difficulty parking in front of my house. There should be no double parking. Buses were stopped using Church lane some years ago.

Railings will not stop youths using this to do wheelies and skids. Also youths aged 15 upwards from Dean Bank playing football until dark from 3 p.m. onwards.

Why does the Town Council seem so interested in this venture when the car park belongs to the District Council. If you would like people to use the car park more make church lane Residents Only parking.

Have the police vacate the local fish shops and get on the streets and tackle the hooligan problem so evident in this town; instead of two of them walking away from a gang of yobs playing football and at times hurling abuse at passers-by, as they did on one day last week (in the car park, that is).

How about installing a CCTV camera linked to the same system as the rest of the town centre. This would probably cost the same but would be much more of a deterrent.

Thank you for completing this questionnaire.

Please return to the Town Hall by **Monday 25<sup>th</sup> April 2005**

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**PLANNING AND TECHNICAL SERVICES  
DEPARTMENT**

Council Offices  
Spennymoor  
DL16 6JQ

Mr J.R. Corrigan  
Executive Officer  
Ferryhill Town Council  
Town Hall  
**Ferryhill**  
Co. Durham

Telephone: (01388) 816166  
Fax: (01388) 824200  
Minicom: (01388) 815613  
Email: bkataky@sedgefield.gov.uk

Our Ref: PTS/BCK/FER.CAR.PARK  
ISSUES

Your Ref:

This matter is being dealt with by:  
Bill Kataky – Ext: 4522

14 July 2003

Dear Mr Corrigan,

**CAR PARK IN FRONT OF TOWN HALL AND TO THE REAR OF NAT WEST BANK,  
FERRYHILL TOWN CENTRE**

Thank you for your letter of 22 May 2003 in response to my earlier letter of 15 May.

Please accept my apology for the delay in responding further but this has been due to our conducting of a survey of the car parking situation within Ferryhill Town Centre to obtain a more informed analysis of the current situation.

The survey consisted of recording the use of the various car parks within the Town centre over a five-day duration between the hours of 12 and 2pm. A copy of our findings is attached for your information including some photographic record.

From this it would appear that on each occasion there have generally been adequate vacant spaces available. On this basis I would observe that perhaps the case for a lack of parking spaces within the central car park and the surrounding roads is not as clear cut as initially suggested by the Chamber of Trade and your Council. It would also appear that the car park at the rear of the Nat West Bank predominantly operates as an overspill car park, particularly on Friday when the weekly market occupies the central car park.

In view of the above situation and my initial appraisal of the environmental loss to the street scene by a reduction in the height of the wall between the car park and Church Lane, I feel at this point unable to recommend that the Borough Council commit resources to such a scheme. However, I would be pleased to discuss the matter further with you when you have had the opportunity to fully consider the results of our research into the car parking issues in Ferryhill Town Centre.

Yours sincerely,



For Acting Planning Manager

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Date	Time	Location of Car Park	Number of vacant spaces	Parking Limitations
29/05/2003 Thur	13.07	Town Centre, opposite front of Town Hall (3 disabled spaces exist)	18 (including 2 disabled)	None
		7 Main St. to 27 Market St. (Laybys)	8	1 hour
		Rear Nat. West. Bank	(7 vehicles parked)	None
02/06/2003 Mon		Eamont Rd.	2	None
	13.16	Town Centre, opposite front of Town Hall	5 (including 1 disabled)	None
		7 Main St. to 27 Market St. (Laybys)	4	1 hour
03/06/2003 Tue		Rear Nat. West. Bank	(6 vehicles parked)	None
		Eamont Rd.	5 ( 8 vehicles parked )	None
	12.19	Town Centre, opposite front of Town Hall	8 (non disabled)	None
05/06/2003 Thur		7 Main St. to 27 Market St. (Laybys)	6	1 hour
		Rear Nat. West. Bank	(3 vehicles parked)	None
		Eamont Rd.	0	None
25/06/2003 Wed	13.46	Town Centre, opposite front of Town Hall	6 (non disabled)	None
		7 Main St. to 27 Market St. (Laybys)	3	1 hour
		Rear Nat. West. Bank	(4 vehicles parked)	None
25/06/2003 Wed		Eamont Rd.	5 ( 8 vehicles parked )	None
	11.50	Town Centre, opposite front of Town Hall	6 (non disabled)	None
		7 Main St. to 27 Market St. (Laybys)	3	1 hour
		Rear Nat. West. Bank	(2 vehicles parked)	None
		Eamont Rd.	1 (11 vehicles parked )	None

No photos taken

Photos taken

Photos taken

Photos taken

Photos taken

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Our Ref: JRC/SH/SH12

10 March 2003

Sedgefield Borough Council  
F.A.O. John Wilkinson  
Estate Manager  
Council Offices  
Spennymoor  
Co Durham

Dear Mr Wilkinson

**Re: Car Park to the rear of Nat West Bank, Ferryhill, Co Durham & to the rear of Blamires Printers, Ferryhill**

At a recent Chamber of Trade meeting a large amount of concern was expressed with regards to the car parking provision within the town of Ferryhill. Members are particularly concerned at the lack of parking available in the Town Centre car park provided by the Town Council as many vehicles are left to park there all day this causes a problem for people who wish to call into the Town Centre quickly to buy produce etc. and is possibly putting them off from using the shops in the Town Centre altogether. It also results in many unscrupulous drivers abandoning their cars illegally in front of the shops. As a means of combating this Members have discussed the idea of using a disc scheme for the Town Centre Car Park to limit parking here to a maximum of 2 hours however before doing so they felt that some improvements needed to be made to alternative car parks before users of the Town Centre are forced to use them.

To this end we are currently exploring the possibility of providing some CCTV coverage for the car park to the rear of the Nat West Bank however in addition to this and possibly as a cheaper means of improving security Members wondered if it would be possible to reduce the height of the wall on the southern boundary of the car park and to replace it with railings to increase the natural surveillance for this area. I should therefore be obliged if you could look into this matter for me at your earliest convenience.

With regards to the second car park provided by Sedgefield Borough Council to the rear of Blamires Printers Members expressed concern at the poor line markings and the poor maintenance standards around this area where the weeds etc. have been allowed to become overgrown. I wonder therefore if you could forward this correspondence onto the appropriate Officer to ensure that this matter is looked at with a view to rectifying the problems for this unsightly car parking area.

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Thank you very much for your assistance in this matter, if you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

Mr J R Corrigan  
Executive Officer

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# DURHAM CONSTABULARY



Aiming for  
EXCELLENCE

Mr. J. R. Corrigan,  
Executive Officer,  
Ferryhill Town Council,  
Ferryhill,  
Co. Durham.  
DL17 8JL

Dear Mr. Corrigan,

I am writing to you in response to a number of complaints being made to me in my role as the community Police Officer for Ferryhill concerning the problem of anti social behaviour in the Natwest car park at the rear of the Market place in Ferryhill.

I have monitored the situation over a period of a month and I can confirm that there is a problem with regards to youths acting in an anti social manner in the above mentioned area. These actions include under age drinking , minor acts of vandalism, and the smashing of glass bottles.

Anti social behavior is a problem at present in Ferryhill and is an area where we need to work together to find solutions. I am fully aware that the Town Council is committed to working with the Police in reducing the fear of crime and I believe that there is a solution to this problem that currently exists.

The car park at the rear of the Natwest bank is currently a car park that is not used by motorists, this is mainly due to local residents believing that the area is unsafe. The car park is surrounded by a high brick wall and the lighting is extremely poor , visibility into the area is none existent and there is no cctv overlooking the area. In my opinion I can understand the fears of drivers parking their vehicles in the area and can also see that the abandoned car park is an ideal site for local youths to congregate and cause acts of anti social behaviour.

I have looked at a number of options and I know believe that a solution to the problems would be to lower the wall around the car park thus making the area visable to all persons around or nearby the area. The response I believe would eliminate the majority of problems in the area, both parking and acts of anti social behaviour. To ensure the safety of the car park I would also suggest an increase in lighting and if possible cctv.

Please bring this letter to the attention of the local council because I believe that by working together on this issue we can reduce the fear of crime to the community surrounding the car park and also make use of a currently under used piece of land.

Yours sincerely,

PC 394 Metcalfe  
Ferryhill Police Office.

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# FERRYHILL WORKING PARTY ON ROAD SAFETY

C/o The Town Hall, Ferryhill, Co Durham, DL17 8JL  
Tel: 01740 652157  
Fax: 01740 657905

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Our Ref: JRC/DC/DC15/

27 October 2003

Sedgefield Borough Council  
F.A.O. The Head of Planning & Technical Services  
Council Offices  
Spennymoor  
Co Durham

Dear Sir

**Re: Natwest Car Park, Ferryhill**

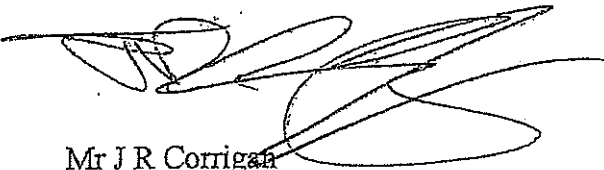
The Ferryhill Working Party on Road Safety at a recent meeting discussed the proposal by the Ferryhill Chamber of Trade to introduce a disk scheme in the main car park of Ferryhill and to also ask that the wall around the Natwest car park be reduced in height and railings inserted to make the car park more user friendly.

The Ferryhill Working Party on Road Safety resolved to support this proposal in full, as they fear for the future of traders in the town centre if adequate accommodation is not made within the Natwest car park for the overflow of long stay cars, thus freeing up space in the main town centre car park for short-term visitors, who make up the majority of shoppers

Hopefully Sedgefield Borough Council can support this scheme and look to reduce the height of the wall around the car park and introduce some railings.

I look forward to hearing from you at your earliest possible convenience.

Yours sincerely



Mr J R Corrigan  
Secretary

Copy to all Ferryhill Borough Councillors

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# DURHAM CONSTABULARY

Operations Division  
Police Headquarters  
Aykley Heads  
Durham  
DH1 5TT

Web site: [www.durham.police.co.uk](http://www.durham.police.co.uk)  
E-mail: [michael.straugheir@durham.pnn.police.uk](mailto:michael.straugheir@durham.pnn.police.uk)

Tel No: (0191) 3864929  
Fax No: (0191) 3752150  
DX: 68851, Durham 8



Aiming for  
EXCELLENCE

Mr. J. R. Corrigan,  
Executive Officer  
Ferryhill Town Council,  
Town Hall,  
Ferryhill,  
Co. Durham. DL17 8JL.

Your Ref: JRC/SH/SH18  
Our Ref: HQ/TRA/109/D/7 (203/04)

Date: 9 March, 2004

15 MAR 2004

**This matter is being dealt with by Mr. Michael Straugheir,  
extension/direct dial 0191 3752058 .**

Dear Mr. Corrigan,

**RE. PROPOSED LIMITED WAITING ORDER**  
**MARKET PLACE CAR PARK, FERRYHILL**

I refer to your consultation dated 25<sup>th</sup> February, 2004, relative to a proposal by Ferryhill Town Council to introduce limited waiting on Ferryhill Market Place about which we comment as follows.

We understand that there is a concern about security in relation to the use of the National Westminster Bank car park. This issue should therefore be addressed in order that motorists are confident in using this car park and that car crime does not become a reality.

In relation to the proposal for limited waiting on the market place we would not be in a position to 'Police' this restriction. However we take the view that if you do introduce restrictions that they should be 'policed'. Not to do this effectively can lead to abuse not only of this specific restriction but of surrounding restrictions as most motorists will not be aware of the different authorities responsible for the restriction.

We also note that you make no mention of when the restrictions would apply, for example: 8am-6pm weekdays etc. as we are also aware that on Market Day the stall holders park all day. You also make no mention of disabled motorists who if not encouraged to park elsewhere can 'legally' park on yellow line waiting restrictions without contravening those restrictions. However as you will appreciate this can cause other problems.

I trust you find our comments pertinent in this matter but should you feel that we can be of further assistance please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

M. STRAUGHEIR  
Traffic Management Officer (Operations Division)



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**FERRYHILL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**  
**Chairman Mr John Allison**  
**8 Market Street**  
**Ferryhill**  
**County Durham**

25 March 2004

Sedgefield Borough Council  
F.A.O. Bill Kataký  
Council Offices  
Spennymoor  
Co Durham

Dear Mr Kataký

**Re: Nat West Car Park Provision within Ferryhill Town Centre**

Further to previous correspondence with regards to the above please find attached herewith a comprehensive survey undertaken recently by Ferryhill Town Council into the car provision within the Town Centre area of Ferryhill.

The contents of this survey were discussed by the Ferryhill Chamber of Trade recently and they feel it confirms fears they have previously held that currently a barrier exists to increase trade within the Town Centre due to poor security around the Nat West Car Park owned by yourselves. This view has been confirmed by both the Town Centre Manager from Sedgefield Borough Council and the local police as well as Ferryhill Town Council.

Members are very concerned that the current condition of the car park means that shoppers who visit the Town Centre and cannot park either in the Market Place or in the adjacent streets are not stopping in the Town Centre and are therefore not using the local retailers. This clearly has an impact on the future viability of the retailers and the Town Centre as a whole.

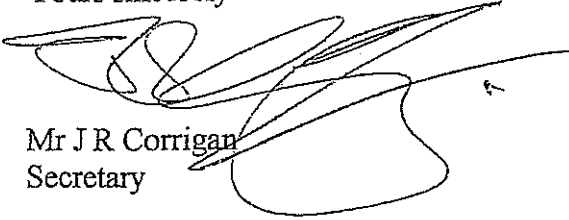
Members of the Chamber of Trade have therefore asked that I write to yourself and request that you look into this matter urgently with a view to replacing the existing high wall around the car park with railings in order that the natural surveillance and thereafter the security around the car park is

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improved. Their views were confirmed recently when the car park was a subject of a criminal damage incident in that a car was vandalised and totally destroyed beyond repair without the knowledge of the local residents. This car was subsequently removed by Sedgefield Borough Council.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'J R Corrigan', written over a large, light-colored scribble or stamp.

Mr J R Corrigan  
Secretary

cc. Cllr B Fleming - Leader

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27 JUL 2002

47 Market Street  
Ferryhill  
Co. Durham  
DL17 8JH

01740 656341

Dear Sir/ Madam

I am writing to you on the behalf of myself and fellow residents concerning the parking problems we are experiencing in Market Street and Chapel Street in Ferryhill.

The main problems we are experiencing are as follows:

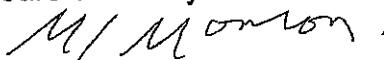
- 1) Between the hours of 8am and 6pm we are very unlikely to get a parking space anywhere on our streets and therefore have to park in the village car park or neighbouring streets.
- 2) Employees of local firms and buisnesses use our street as their regular parking plot.
- 3) People visiting the local shops and the market park on the streets as well.

Having previously written to Durham County Council concerning the above problems they suggested a drive to my property, however, I feel the cost of this is above my means and I do not wish to spoil the landscape of my garden. Furthermore, the majority of my neighbours have not got the land to do this.

My last concern is that the county's reasoning of the above streets being classed as residential is unjustified. These streets are in an exceptional busy area in a town centre, the problem of parking is not with other neighbours but with buisnesses, firms, clinic, and the general public.

The residents feel that these streets should qualify for residents only parking. Please find a petition enlosed.

Yours sincerely



Mrs. M. L. Morton

(On behalf of the residents of Market Street and Chapel Street).

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Our Ref: JRC/DC/DC23/

9 August 2004

Mrs M L Maughan  
47 Market Street  
Ferryhill  
Co Durham

Dear Mrs Maughan

**Re: Car Parking Problems Market Street and Chapel Terrace**

Thank you for your recent letter with regard to the above, the contents of which I note.

Ferryhill Town Council, the Ferryhill Chamber of Trade and the Ferryhill Road Safety Working Group have all raised similar queries with regard to this problem with Sedgefield Borough Council, as all bodies believe that the car parking problems in the Market Place and in the Market Street and Chapel Terrace area would be substantially alleviated if the car park to the rear of the Natwest Bank was made more user friendly than it currently is.

As you are no doubt aware during the week almost no vehicles park in this car park, which is capable of holding approximately 50 vehicles, and has been described by the local police as a potential crime haven as there is no natural surveillance on this site with the high walls enclosing it.

Accordingly, the above bodies have all requested that Sedgefield Borough Council reduce the height of the wall and replace it with railings so that the vehicles inside the car park can be observed by the houses adjacent and passers by, thus increasing the natural security of the car park. However, Sedgefield Borough Council has refused to do this, as they state there is not a car parking problem in Ferryhill.

I will, however, forward a copy of your letter and petition to the relevant Officer at Sedgefield Borough Council in order that they can be made aware of the problems you are suffering from due to the lack of parking provision in the town centre, as well as local businesses who feel that the town centre car park is currently beyond operational capacity as this is having an adverse effect on their trade.

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I will, however, forward your petition to Sedgefield Borough Council and request that they again review the policy of taking no action to make the Natwest car park user friendly.

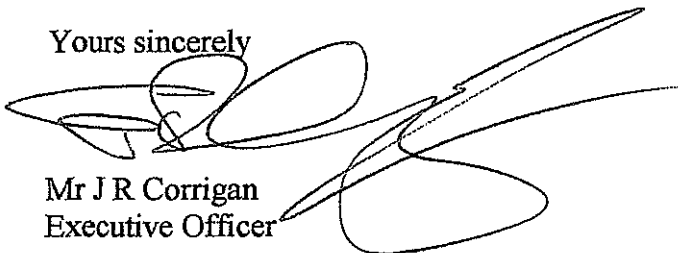
With regard to the introduction of a Traffic Regulation Order to make this area for residents only parking the difficulty with this is that generally speaking such orders are only implemented where there is a pay and display car park, which in turn finances the provision of car park attendants who enforce the residents parking zones. However, in the absence of a pay and display car park in Ferryhill there is no revenue to finance car park attendants to police any residents parking zone. To introduce a zone without any means of enforcing it would possibly have an impact in the short-term, but once it became known that the residents zone was not enforced its effectiveness would be far less.

I am also aware that as you state the vehicles that park in your area belong to people that work in local businesses many of the Members of the Chamber of Trade have said that once the Natwest car park is made user friendly they would require all of their staff to use this area to park in as an alternative to the Market Street car park and on street parking which they currently use.

I hope therefore you can see the proposals put forward to make this car park safer should help alleviate the problems that you are currently encountering.

If you wish to make any comments on this, please do not hesitate to write to me again, in order that I may relay this back to the Road Safety Committee and the Ferryhill Chamber of Trade, as well as the Town Council. I look forward to hearing from you at your earliest convenience.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J R Corrigan', written over a large, stylized flourish that extends across the signature line and slightly below it.

Mr J R Corrigan  
Executive Officer

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# Shopping centres go far, with cars

VICK MORRISON

R-FRIENDLY towns are joining the battle to attract shoppers in defiance of attempts to promote public transport, according to a survey. The study claims the best forming shopping centres are those that cater for cars, through easy access and parking.

The report, the result of research into 250 town and city sites, also suggests towns are management schemes are being introduced have not been successful. Chartered town planner John Liddwood, who carries out the survey every two years, in the findings signalled that attempts to take cars out of town centres could have severe effects on traders.

He said: "Having bought cars, consumers want to use them, so if a council promotes restrictions on car users then shoppers will go elsewhere.

"If councils adopt policies to deter cars away without thinking them through, then they won't be surprised if reviving in the centre dies away."

But he said the research also showed that where town centre managers were in place, shops are performing better than in other towns.

Survey results suggested that shoppers rated facilities higher in towns where management schemes were in place and takings were higher. He said Middlesbrough was one of the worst performers, with takings declining in 50 per cent or more of stores, and with parking problems a frequent complaint among shoppers.

He said: "The parking policies in Sunderland are much more favourable than in Middlesbrough, and if the council doesn't set out its parking scheme, it shouldn't be surprised if stores are taking less money."



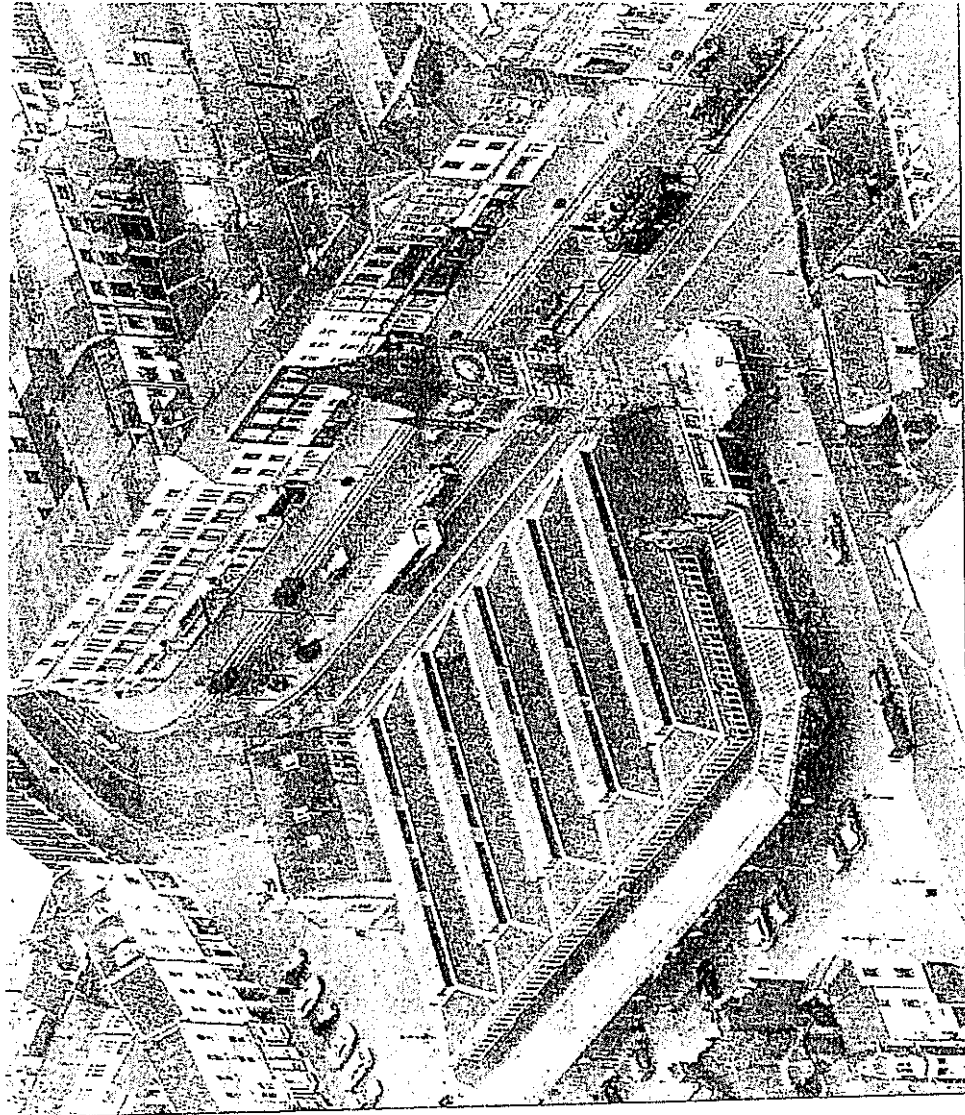
Managing well: Darlington's town centre manager Louise Payne says promoting the town has paid off

Paul Nixon, development manager for Middlesbrough Town Centre Company, said they recognised there was a parking problem but rejected the claim that shops were not performing well.

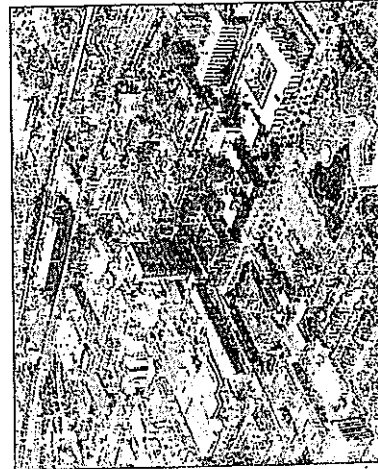
He said: "We are getting a very different picture, and a number of the big multiples are out-performing their national average. But there is a need to ensure adequate car parking because without that people will take another option."

A Middlesbrough Borough Council spokesman said parking in the town was under review.

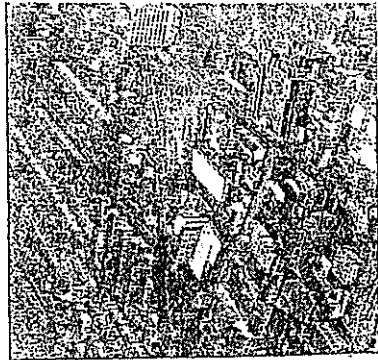
The study also highlighted problems in Bishop Auckland, County Durham, with parking, public toilets and the environment.



Promotion pays off: Darlington is one of the region's town centres that has benefited from policies highlighted in a national shopping report



Slammed: Middlesbrough town centre 'one of worst performers'



Complaints: Bishop Auckland town centre has performed poorly

Margaret Ellis, chairwoman of Bishop Auckland Chamber of Trade, said: "Car parking is a major problem for us, and the town has been totally neglected for many years.

"It used to be a thriving market town but it needs a massive injection of money."

She said the town was looking to appoint its first centre manager, after winning funding for the scheme.

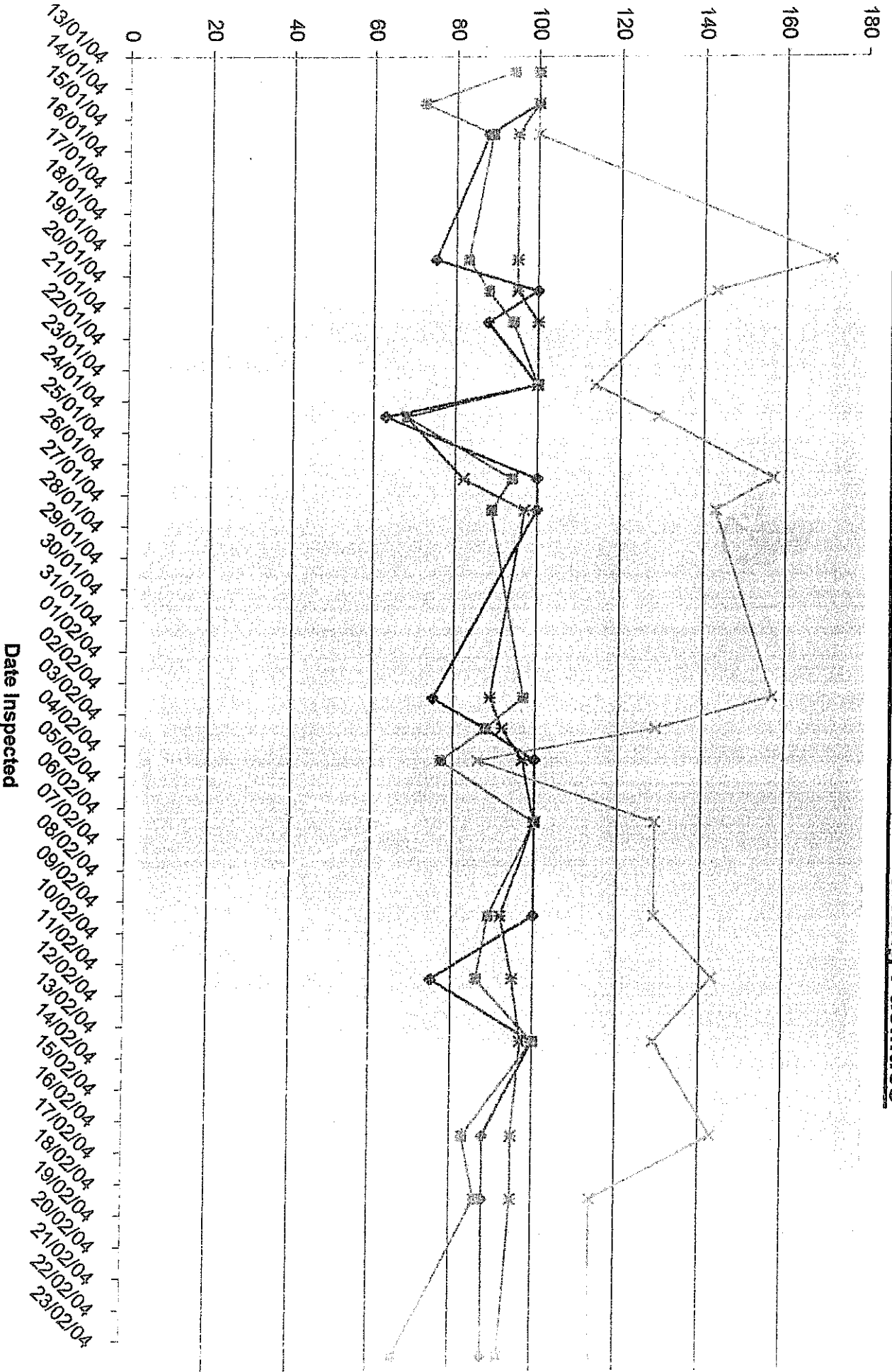
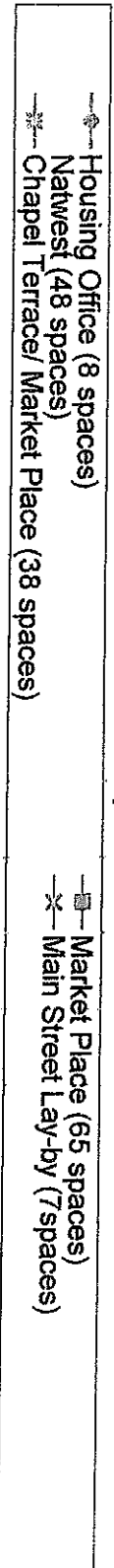
Louise Payne, town centre manager in Darlington, said the creation of the post nearly three years ago had made a significant impact on town-centre trading.

She said: "We have done a great deal of work in promoting the town as a whole with community events, particularly at Christmas."

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# Occupancy of Ferryhill Town Centre Car Parking Facilities



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For Service and Enterprise

GLYN HALL, F.C.I.E.H.  
Director of Neighbourhood Services  
Council Offices  
Spennymoor  
DL16 6JQ

20 DEC 2004

Chamber of Trade,  
Town Hall,  
Ferryhill,  
DL17 8JL

Telephone: (01388) 816166  
Fax: (01388) 824200  
Minicom: (01388) 815613  
Email: janderson@sedgefield.gov.uk

Our Ref: NS/Eng.127/JJA.172  
Your Ref:

This matter is being dealt with by:  
**John Anderson**  
**Team Leader - Engineering Services**  
**Extn. 4529**

Dear Sir / Madam,

17th December 2004.

RE : CAR PARK – CHURCH LANE, FERRYHILL.

The Council has received several reports of vandalism to cars and previously recycling bins within the enclosure of the car park off Church Lane, Ferryhill. The wall, to the south side of the car park, adjacent to Church Lane, is elevated above the footpath level, thus obscuring the observation of any misbehaviour taking place. Vandalism is therefore not discouraged by exposure and the risk of being witnessed.

In the interests of public safety, and to discourage acts of vandalism, the Borough Council are therefore considering reducing the height of the wall on the south side of the car park to approximately 0.3m (1'-0") above the car park surface level, and mounting a 1.2m (4'-0") high metal vertical railing fence (painted black) on the top of the wall. This will hopefully discourage any misbehaviour within the car park, as the area will be clearly visible to residents and passers by.

If you have any comments, or wish to discuss the proposal, please contact either of the following officers:

- John Anderson - 01388 816166 Extn 4529
- Gordon Lennon - 01388 816166 Extn 4266

Yours faithfully,

John Anderson (Engineering Services Officer).

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30 JUN 2005

Mr M KELL

6 BALMORAL Rd

June 30<sup>th</sup> 2005

FERRYHILL

6 DURHAM

DL17 8QT

Dear Sir,

I wish to complain about the near impossibility to park a car in the 'Market Place' - Could a 'two hour limit' be introduced?

It appears as though drivers are 'car sharing' to work places in B'p Auckland + Durham thus avoiding car parking fees at those places.

Twice within the last two weeks local shops lost my trade because it was impossible to park. (I am 72 yrs old) at the market place.

Again - would the council consider a parking 'time limit' at the Market place, thus benefiting local shoppers + shops - yours  
M Kell.

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**Section 17 Crime and Disorder Act 1998**

*Miscellaneous  
and supplemental*

Duty to consider  
crime and disorder  
implications.

17. - (1) Without prejudice to any other obligation imposed on it, it shall be the duty of each authority to which this section applies to exercise its various functions with due regard to the likely effect of the exercise of those functions on, and the need to do all that it reasonably can to prevent, crime and disorder in its area.

(2) This section applies to a local authority, a joint authority, a police authority, a National Park authority and the Broads Authority.

(3) In this section-

"local authority" means a local authority within the meaning given by section 270(1) of the Local Government Act 1972 or the Common Council of the City of London;

"joint authority" has the same meaning as in the Local Government Act 1985;

"National Park authority" means an authority established under section 63 of the Environment Act 1995.

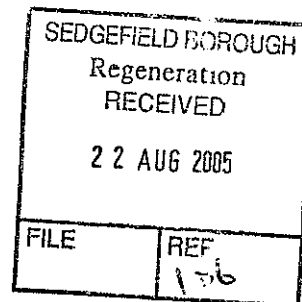
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Ferryhill Town Council  
Town Hall, Ferryhill, County Durham. DL17 8JL  
Telephone: (01740) 652157 Fax: (01740) 657905  
Email: info@ferryhill.gov.uk

Sedgefield Borough Council  
FAO Mr Graham Wood  
Regeneration Section  
Council Offices  
Green Lane  
Spennymoor  
DL16 6JQ



17<sup>th</sup> August 2005

Dear Graham

**Re CAR PARKING IN FERRYHILL – NAT WEST CAR PARK**

Further to our recent telephone conversation with regard to the above please find attached copies of a number of the documents we have in our possession with regard to the above.

You indicated that this matter is to be discussed at the next Area 2 forum which is due to be held at Ferryhill Leisure on Tuesday the 6<sup>th</sup> September at 6.30pm. I would be obliged if you would bring the attached information to the attention of this meeting in order that an informed decision can be taken.

- 1 Copy of letter to John Wilkinson SBC regarding a request from Chamber of Trade to reduce the height of the wall dated 10<sup>th</sup> March 2003.
- 2 Letter from PC Metcalfe re safety of Nat West car park
- 3 Letter from Ferryhill Working Party on Road Safety to SBC supporting request from Ferryhill Chamber of Trade to reduce height of wall around the car park.



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- 4 Letter from Mr M Straughier regarding the need to make Nat West Car Park safer by reducing the wall prior to introducing a limited waiting order in the marketplace car park dated 9<sup>th</sup> March 2004.
- 5 Copy of letter from Ferryhill Chamber of Commerce to SBC advising of the concerns of Chamber of Trade, SBC Town Centre Manager, Local Police and Ferryhill Town Council with regard to the security in the car park due to the high surrounding wall, dated 25<sup>th</sup> March 2005.
- 6 Petition from residents of Market Street regarding the parking problems around the Town Centre and a response dated 9<sup>th</sup> August 2004.
- 7 Reply to petition from Ferryhill Town Council dated 9<sup>th</sup> August 2005.
- 8 Copy of extract from Northern Echo regarding need for parking spaces in a town centre.
- 9 Chart covering period of 13<sup>th</sup> January 2004 to 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2004 for main car parking areas in Town Centre demonstrating the lack of use of Nat West car park.
- 10 Letter from SBC to local residents outlining the problems encountered in the car park due to the high wall, dated 17<sup>th</sup> December 2004.
- 11 Copy of the survey results from the 11 properties which directly look onto the car park, dated 25<sup>th</sup> April 2005.
- 12 Copy of report submitted to Town Council meeting regarding the survey dated 25<sup>th</sup> April 2005.
- 13 Letter from Mr M Kell complaining about the “near impossibility” to park in the Town Centre, dated 30<sup>th</sup> June 2005
- 14 Copy of Section 17 Crime and Disorder Act 1998.

As can be seen from the attached documents the reasons for the repeated requests by Ferryhill Town Council, Ferryhill Chamber of Trade, Ferryhill Road Safety Group and the Local police to reduce the wall height do have some commonality and can be summarised as follows.

- 1 The main Market place car park is constantly full; a lot of the users are there all day.
- 2 This has an impact on the local traders as many visitors can not get parked and therefore do not stop to trade and do not return.

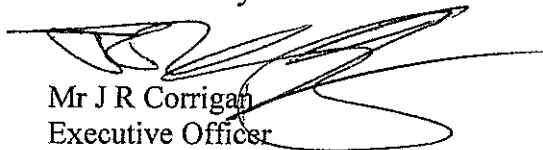
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- 3 Many instances of illegal double parking occur in Market Street Causing a traffic hazard.
- 4 Many car owners prefer to park in front of residential houses in Church Lane and Market Street rather than in the Nat West car park causing residents inconvenience.
- 5 The Chamber of Trade and Town Council would like to introduce limited waiting of 2 hours in the Market Place car Park, but are reluctant to do so until the wall surrounding the Nat West Car Park is removed thus creating natural surveillance to car users there and preventing the above problems being exasperated by such an action.
- 6 The Car Park currently suffers from numerous incidents of anti social behaviour and crime, thieves operate there and have used the hidden location to access nearby shop premises illegally, vehicles have been broken into and vandalised on more than one occasion vehicles have been burnt out completely. I am aware that concerns have been raised about this problem at a recent Crime reduction Partnership, Helen Stewart is pursuing this matter further I believe.

Of course in addition to the above Sedgefield Borough Council have a duty to apply Section 17 CDA 1998 to all their services.

If you have any queries with regard to any of the above please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours Sincerely



Mr J R Corrigan  
Executive Officer

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