

**SEDGEFIELD BOROUGH COUNCIL
AREA 2 FORUM**

Dean Bank and Ferryhill
Literary Institute

Tuesday,
21 February 2006

Time: 6.30 p.m.

Present: Councillor Mrs. C. Potts (Chairman) – and

Councillor B.F. Avery	–	Sedgefield Borough Council
Councillor Mrs. K. Conroy	–	Sedgefield Borough Council
Councillor T.F. Forrest	–	Sedgefield Borough Council
Councillor J.E. Higgin	–	Sedgefield Borough Council
Councillor A. Hodgson	–	Sedgefield Borough Council
Councillor D.A. Newell	–	Sedgefield Borough Council
Councillor G. Morgan	–	Sedgefield Borough Council
Councillor R.A. Patchett	–	Sedgefield Borough Council
C. Heal	–	Chilton Community Partnership
A. Rutherford	–	Chilton Community Partnership
Councillor Mrs. M. Errington	–	Chilton Town Council
M. Taylor	–	Chilton West Residents Association
J. Weston	–	Dean Bank Residents Association
Councillor R. Greenwell	–	Ferryhill Town Council
C. McCaughey	–	Sedgefield Primary Care Trust
T. Wilkinson	–	Sedgefield Primary Care Trust
G. Wills	–	Sedgefield Primary Care Trust
Councillor S. Drew	–	West Cornforth Parish Council
M. Chappell	–	Patient and Public Involvement Forum
P. Banks	–	Local Resident
P. Forrest	–	Local Resident
T. Garrett	–	Local Resident
B. Gibson	–	Local Resident
B. Sheppard	–	Local Resident

Apologies: Councillor B. Meek - Sedgefield Borough Council
Councillor Ms. M. Predki – Sedgefield Borough Council
Councillor G. Porter – Durham County Council
Mrs. S. Slaughter – Sedgefield Primary Care Trust

AF(2)28/05 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST
Members had no interests to declare.

AF(2)29/05 MINUTES
The Minutes of the meeting held on 10th January, 2006 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

AF(2)30/05 POLICE REPORT
The Chairman of the Forum explained that a representative of Ferryhill Police was unable to attend. A summary report was, however, provided and was distributed to the Forum. (For copy see file of Minutes).

Concerns were raised regarding vandalism within Chilton. It was reported that a number of external lights had been smashed and plants pulled out and destroyed. It was requested that an officer patrol the area from the Centre towards Rushyford and monitor behaviour.

AF(2)31/05

SEDGEFIELD PRIMARY CARE TRUST

G. Wills, Chairman of Sedgefield Primary Care Trust, T. Wilkinson, Primary Care Projects Manager and C. McCaughey, Director of Primary Care were present at the meeting to update Members on local health matters.

G. Wills explained that the consultation process regarding the restructure of the Primary Care Trusts (PCT) had been carried out and would be completed at the end of the month.

It was also pointed out that Sedgefield Primary Care Trust (SPCT) had received the Practice Plus Award, which recognised the Trust as a very good employer.

Concerns were again raised by members of the Forum regarding the inability to make appointments at Chilton surgery together with its limited facilities. It was also pointed out that the surgery was closed every Tuesday and Thursday afternoon, together with one Wednesday afternoon every month for training purposes.

Residents of Chilton felt that although the population of Chilton was increasing, the health services available were decreasing.

C. McCaughey explained that the level of services available related to the population, and it was felt by SPCT that the ratio of doctors, nurses and services was correct. It was, however, agreed that the issue would be monitored and more information would be brought to a future meeting.

Detailed discussion was held with regard to the introduction of the new system of supplying oxygen cylinders, which was due to start in the months of April to May. Residents were concerned as to where the oxygen cylinders would be provided, as the final delivery date from the old supplier was 1st February 2006. Members of the Forum were reassured that the cylinders would continue to be provided by GPs until the start of the new system.

With regard to the development of the new Health Centre at Chilton, concerns were again raised regarding the lack of progress. C. McCaughey explained that a number of meetings had taken place both with the Chairman of the Workingmen's Club and Durham County Council regarding the old school site. Meetings had also taken place with those who would be working from the Centre. Members of the Forum were again re-assured that the development was a priority of SPCT and progress was being made. It was also pointed out that the restructure would not alter that. LIFT would also continue to be responsible for the development. C. McCaughey agreed to look into the matter and continue to attend the Forum meetings to provide up to date information.

T. Wilkinson also attended the meeting to discuss the Forum's concerns regarding dentistry.

The Forum was informed that the new contract, which would entail the PCT being responsible for dentistry, would come into effect on 1st April 2006.

It was explained that within the new contract, there would be three charge bands:

- Band 1 - £15
- Band 2 - £41.40
- Band 3 - £183.00

Exemptions would remain the same.

It was also pointed out that there was a leaflet that detailed all information on the new contract and was available from all dentists.

AF(2)32/05

PATIENT AND PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT FORUM SEDGEFIELD

M. Chappell was present at the Forum to inform Members of the workings of the Patient and Public Involvement Forum (PPIS).

It was explained that the Forum had been introduced on 1st December 2003 and was independent from the PCT. It had been established as a result of the demise of the Community Health Council to ensure the public had an alternative to air their concerns.

With regard to membership, it was explained that anyone could join the Forum providing they were over the age of 18 and a resident of Sedgefield Borough. The Forum also needed to have seven members, who would set their own agendas and develop their own Action Plan and Work Plan.

It was explained that the Forum had the right to enter and inspect a building where concerns had been raised, however, a public meeting must be held beforehand and owners of the building must be informed. They could not carry out spot checks.

Members were informed of the various issues that had been considered by the Forum since it had been established. It was also reported that during 2006/07 the emphasis would be on monitoring the provisions for the elderly.

It was explained that meetings were often held at various venues across the Borough and were publicised in local newspapers.

AF(2)33/05

QUESTIONS

Dog Fouling

Concern was raised at the limited number of dog fouling bins in the Chilton area. It was explained that it had been discussed at the previous Town Council meeting and a letter had been sent to the Borough Council.

Proposals For Church Lane Car Park – Ferryhill

Members of the Forum were informed that a meeting had taken place between Ferryhill Town Council, Sedgefield Borough Council, Durham County Council together with Traffic Officers and the Police Architectural Liaison Officer, where it had been agreed that work would be carried out to improve various physical, landscaping and off site works.

AF(2)34/05

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

18th April 2006 at 6.30 p.m. at Chilton and Windlestone Community College.

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, sbillingham@sedgefield.gov.uk