

**SEDGEFIELD BOROUGH COUNCIL
AREA 2 FORUM**

Chilton and Windlestone
Community College

Tuesday, 26 February
2008

Time: 6.30 p.m.

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

Councillor B.F. Avery J.P	–	Sedgfield Borough Council
Councillor T. Brimm	–	Sedgfield Borough Council
Councillor Mrs. K. Conroy	–	Sedgfield Borough Council
Councillor Mrs. P. Crathorne	–	Sedgfield Borough Council
Councillor D. Farry	–	Sedgfield Borough Council
Councillor T.F. Forrest	–	Sedgfield Borough Council
Councillor J.E. Higgin	–	Sedgfield Borough Council
Councillor B. Lamb	–	Sedgfield Borough Council
N. Wiffen	-	Bishop Middleham Parish Council
L. Dixon	-	Chilton Community Partnership
A. Rutherford	-	Chilton Community Partnership
G. Attwood	-	Chilton Town Council
A. Bruce	-	Chilton Town Council
E. Bruce	-	Chilton Town Council
M. Errington	-	Chilton Town Council
M. Walton	-	Chilton Town Council
J. Weston	-	Dean Bank Residents Association
D. Bradley	-	Dean Bank Residents Association
Councillor J. Robinson, JP	-	Durham County Council
Inspector B. Bentham	-	Durham Constabulary
Sergeant A. Sampson	-	Durham Constabulary
P. Atkinson	-	Ferryhill Town Council
D. Barber	-	Ferryhill Town Council
E. A. Martin	-	Ferryhill Town Council
Z. Roddam	-	Ferryhill Town Council
B. Sheppard	-	Ferryhill Literary Institute
G. F. Hall	-	Ferryhill Station Residents Association
R. Greenwell	-	Ferryhill Resident
R. Foster	-	Ferryhill Town Youth

Apologies:

Councillor A. Hodgson	-	Sedgfield Borough Council
Councillor D.A. Newell	–	Sedgfield Borough Council
Councillor G. Porter	–	Durham County Council
Councillor P. McCourt	–	Ferryhill Town Council
Councillor S.C. Drew	–	Cornforth Parish Council
Councillor W.R. Wilson	–	Cornforth Parish Council
M. Chappell	–	Chilton Community Partnership
C. Heal	–	Chilton Community Partnership

AF(2)28/07 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Mrs. K. Conroy indicated that she would be declaring a personal and prejudicial interest in Item No : 5 – Sedgfield Borough Local

Improvement Programme – Bishop Middleham Village Hall – as she was a Member of Sedgfield Borough Cabinet.

AF(2)29/07 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 18th December 2007 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman. (For copy see file of Minutes).

AF(2)30/07 POLICE REPORT

Community Inspector Bill Bentham and Sergeant A. Sampson were present at the meeting to give a report on crime statistics, initiatives and road safety in the area.

The reported crime figures for December 2007 and January 2008 were as follows:

DECEMBER 2007

	Dean Bank	Ferryhill	West Cornforth	Chilton	Total
Reported Incidents	171	71	67	150	459
Burglary dwelling	2	2	0	3	7
Burglary other	0	0	0	2	2
Theft from motor vehicle	0	0	0	0	0
Theft of motor vehicle	0	0	0	0	0
Rowdy Nuisance	46	18	10	23	97

JANUARY 2008

	Dean Bank	Ferryhill	West Cornforth	Chilton	Total
Reported Incidents	156	105	91	188	540
Burglary dwelling	3	0	0	4	7
Burglary other	3	0	0	2	5
Theft from motor vehicle	0	0	0	0	0
Theft of motor vehicle	0	0	0	1	1
Rowdy Nuisance	44	28	18	56	146

Traffic related accidents throughout the whole of the area during the two month period:

Damage only accidents	21
Minor injury accidents	8
Serious injury accidents	0

It was reported that the number of burglaries had remained fairly static, which was unusual as January was generally the worst month of the year. The decrease could be attributable to Operation Darc. The number for burglaries in December was 33% lower than in 2007 and in January the figure was 70% lower. There had been a number of arrests for the offences and four people had been charged and were waiting to appear at Court.

Rowdy nuisance behaviour had increased throughout the whole area in January, with the exception of Dean Bank where the partnership operation Snowlake Town was continuing. It was noted that Snowlake Town Operation had already resulted in drugs valued at £10,000 being seized and 20 people arrested for various offences.

Specific reference was made to the Bottlewatch Scheme, which was now up and running. The scheme, which would hopefully lead to a reduction of anti-social behaviour, involved the marking of the labels of bottles of alcohol to identify the place of purchase. It was noted that it was a voluntary scheme, however, no off-licence had refused to take part.

The Forum was asked to set three neighbourhood priorities for Area 2 for the next six months. The following suggestions were put forward:

- Darlington Road /Dean Bank - problem with parked vehicles.
- Storehouse Allotments – youths congregating and consuming alcohol.
- Allotments - burglaries
- Dean Bank – substance misuse
- Dean Bank Bowls Pavilion - vandalism
- Black Path – congregation of youths.
- Bishop Middleham Nature Reserve – indecent behaviour, dumping of cars, needle finds.
- Motorists speeding in Chilton.
- Problem of motorbikes, Chilton.
- Problem with motorbikes – The Carrs

Consideration was given to all the suggested areas.

Members of the Forum agreed the following as neighbourhood priorities for Area 2 for the next six months:

- Bishop Middleham Nature Reserve – indecent behaviour dumping of cars, needle finds.
- Darlington Road and Dean Bank – problem with parked cars
- Problem with motorbikes in Chilton.

It was noted that all the areas put forward would be given attention, however, priority would be given to the above three.

With regard to the problem of burglaries in allotments, it was noted that an Allotment Watch Initiative would probably be launched over the whole area in the spring.

AF(2)31/07

**SEDGEFIELD BOROUGH LOCAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME -
BISHOP MIDDLEHAM VILLAGE HALL**

NB : In accordance with Section 81 of the Local Government Act 2000 and the Members Code of Conduct, Councillor Mrs. K. Conroy declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the above item and left the meeting for the duration of discussion on the item.

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

Alison Willis, Nicola Dexter and Joanie Sheehan, from Middleham Village Hall User Committee were in attendance to present the application.

It was reported that LIP funding was being requested to replace the flooring in the main hall and on the stage, the roof and heating system. The applicant would also like to provide new stage lighting and curtains.

It was noted that the project would improve the hall and the safety of all users, which would result in the provision of additional activities for young people.

The amount of funding requested was £39,391 which was 92% of the total project cost. The applicant aimed to secure £3,300 from other sources.

The Forum agreed to support the project.

With regard to Ferryhill Sports Facility Technical Study, it was noted that the study was nearing completion. The scheme design had been chosen and agreed with all parties. The project would include pitches/pavilion/improved drainage and redevelopment of pitches on the Ferryhill Athletic Ground. Visits had been made to similar projects in West Yorkshire.

It was reported that no LIP application had yet been submitted to the Council for the full project proposal.

AF(2)32/07

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 8th April, at 6.30 p.m. at West Cornforth Community Centre

ACCESS TO INFORMATION

Any person wishing to exercise the right of inspection, etc., in relation to these Minutes and associated papers should contact Mrs. G. Garrigan, Tel 01388 816166 Ext 4240, sbillingham@sedgefield.gov.uk