

# Item 3

## SEDGEFIELD BOROUGH COUNCIL AREA 2 FORUM

Dean Bank and Ferryhill  
Literary Institute

Tuesday,  
24 June 2008

Time: 6.30 p.m.

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

Councillor B.F. Avery J.P	–	Sedgefield Borough Council
Councillor Mrs. K. Conroy	–	Sedgefield Borough Council
Councillor D. Farry	–	Sedgefield Borough Council
Councillor T.F. Forrest	–	Sedgefield Borough Council
Councillor A. Hodgson	–	Sedgefield Borough Council
Councillor B. Lamb	–	Sedgefield Borough Council
Inspector B. Bentham	–	Durham Constabulary
Sergeant A. Sampson	–	Durham Constabulary
Councillor Mrs. E.A.Martin	–	Ferryhill Town Council
Councillor Mrs.Z. Roddam	–	Ferryhill Town Council
Councillor Mrs. D. Barber	–	Ferryhill Town Council
J. Corrigan	–	Ferryhill Town Council
P. Mountford	–	Ferryhill Town Council
S. Avery	–	Ferryhill Town Council
Councillor N. Wiffen	–	Bishop Middleham Parish Council
M. Errington	–	Chilton Town Council
J. Pallister	–	Dean Bank and Ferryhill Literary Institute
B. Sheppard	–	Dean Bank and Ferryhill Literary Institute
A. Rutherford	–	Chilton Partnership
D. Bradley	–	Dean Bank Residents Association
J. Weston	–	Dean Bank Residents Association
R. Greenwell	–	Local Resident
G. Barker	–	Local Resident
M.D. Watson	–	Local Resident
R. Foster	–	Ferryhill Town Youth
G. Todd	–	Ferryhill Town Youth
D. Foster	–	Ferryhill Town Youth
R. Beal	–	

**In**

**Attendance:** N. Woodgate

**Apologies:** Councillor Mrs.P.Crathorne - Sedgefield Borough Council  
Councillor J. Robinson, J.P. - Durham County Council  
C. Heal - Chilton Community Partnership  
M.Taylor - Chilton West Residents Association  
K. Storey -  
K. Lynn - Cornforth Partnership  
A. Maddison -

**AF(2)39/07 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

The following Member declared an interest in Item 6 – Local Improvement Programme :-

Councillor D. Farry - Personal/Prejudicial – relative involved in Application

The following Members declared an interest in Items 5 and 6 – Local Improvement Programme :-

Councillor Mrs. K. Conroy - Prejudicial – Cabinet Member  
 Councillor A. Hodgson - Prejudicial - Cabinet Member

**AF(2)40/07 MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> April, 2008 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**AF(2)41/07 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 April, 2008 and May, 2008 were as follows :-

<b><u>April, 2008:</u></b>	<b><u>Dean Bank:</u></b>	<b><u>Ferryhill :</u></b>	<b><u>West Cornforth:</u></b>	<b><u>Chilton :</u></b>	<b><u>Total :</u></b>
Reported incidents	239	108	103	192	642
Burglary (Dwelling)	0	1	0	2	3
Burglary (Other)	1	1	0	2	4
Theft from Motor Vehicle	0	2	0	1	3
Theft of Motor Vehicle	1	1	0	1	3
Rowdy Nuisance	69	21	14	47	151

<b><u>May, 2008:</u></b>	<b><u>Dean Bank:</u></b>	<b><u>Ferryhill :</u></b>	<b><u>West Cornforth:</u></b>	<b><u>Chilton :</u></b>	<b><u>Total :</u></b>
Reported incidents	219	114	109	184	626
Burglary (Dwelling)	6	0	2	0	8
Burglary (Other)	3	0	1	0	4
Theft from Motor Vehicle	1	0	1	0	2
Theft of Motor Vehicle	1	0	0	0	1
Rowdy Nuisance	43	16	11	41	111

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

Damage Only Incidents	28
Minor Injury Accidents	4
Serious Injury Accidents	0

It was reported that burglaries in April continued the trend of previous months and were low. Two people had been arrested for offences in Chilton. There had been a sharp increase in dwelling burglaries in Dean Bank in May, however, six people had been arrested for these offences. Rowdy and nuisance behaviour in Dean Bank had increased in April, however, had reduced to its previous low levels in May.

Inspector Bentham and Sergeant Sampson then gave a presentation concerning performance. It was revealed that total crime had reduced by 20.9% over the course of the year. This was the largest decrease in County Durham, well above the national average of 8%, and below the levels in 2005. The detection rate had increased by almost 5%.

With regard to the South area priorities in 2007/08, vehicle crime had reduced by 27.4%, violent crime by 18.3%. Despite increased resources that had been made available, domestic abuse rates had increased slightly. Rowdy and nuisance behaviour had decreased by 17.5% and burglary (other) had reduced by 42.9%. The high numbers of burglary dwellings in May and June of 2007 were reported to be the result of one person. However, this person had been apprehended and there had been a significant drop during July. Overall the figures for this priority had reduced by 11.9% over the course of the year.

The Police response to crime was outlined, and consisted of the following :-

- Dedicated CID
- Operation Maximino
- Operation Dark
- Citizens Focus
- Bottlewatch
- Operation Reynoldsville
- Operation Nero
- Anti-social Behaviour Orders
- Targetting of Offenders

The Police's tasks in addressing the South Area priorities for 2008/09 were given as :- Responding to Domestic Violence, Allotment Crime, the Forum's Neighbourhood Priorities and Hate Crime Perception.

It was explained that in relation to Hate Crime Perception, there had been few reported incidents despite the reputation of the area. Therefore, it would be necessary to either encourage the reporting of incidents, if they were taking place, or work to change peoples perceptions if they were not.

Inspector Bentham asked that Members of the Forum encourage public attendance at Forum meetings, inform him of problems and continue to offer support.

It was reported that Sedgefield area was currently No. 2 on the league table nationally and it was hoped that the No. 1 position could be reached.

Following the presentation, an update on neighbourhood priorities was given. With regard to parking on Darlington Road, Ferryhill, it was reported that problems were the result of double parking when delivery vehicles were loading and unloading to the shops. A loading bay had been requested on the east side of the street. However, this was refused. Tickets would continue to be issued to drivers. It was suggested that the issue could be taken to the Highways Section at Durham County Council.

With regard to off-road bikes in Chilton, Members of the Forum were informed that there had been few reported incidents so far this year. One bike had been seized in relation to anti-social use. The Beat Team would continue to be aware of the issue.

It was reported that in respect of lewd/indecent behaviour at Bishop Middleham Nature Reserve, there had been no specific incidents witnessed or reported to the Police. Site visits had been carried out and the situation would continue to be monitored.

Sergeant Sampson informed the Group that the above issues would continue to be monitored, but that they were all long term issues. She then asked the Group to supply three new, shorter term priorities, which could be focussed upon over the next six months. The following suggestions were put forward :-

- Fly tipping
- Parking of work vans on footpaths at Opal Avenue in Chilton
- Scrap collection
- Off-road motor cycles in Ferryhill
- Anti-social behaviour in West Chilton Terrace

Consideration was given to all suggested areas and Members of the Forum agreed the following as Neighbourhood priorities for Area 2 for the next six months.

- Off-road motor cycles in Ferryhill
- Parking in Opal Avenue, Chilton
- Anti-social behaviour in West Chilton Terrace

Concern was expressed over thefts of petrol and diesel as the number of incidents was expected to rise.

**NB : In accordance with Section 81 of the Local Government Act 2000 and the Members Code of Conduct Councillors Mrs. K. Conroy and A. Hodgson declared a prejudicial interest in the above item and left the meeting for the duration of the discussion and the voting thereon.**

Consideration was given to a report of the Assistant Chief Executive (for copy see file of Minutes) outlining a Local Improvement Programme (LIP) application.

Members of the Forum were informed that no further applications for LIP funding could be received after 31<sup>st</sup> July, 2008. The Area 2 Forum had been allocated £836,000 of LIP Capital resources between 2006 and 2009, subject to budget approval. A number of projects to the value of £370,498 had been supported so far and there would be some additional underspend resulting from last year which would be available for additional project activity.

The project would include the provision of a new clubhouse, incorporating changing and social facilities, improvements to the drainage of existing pitches, creation of two new pitches, new car parking and associated landscaping to meet planning requirements. £320,000 (31%) of the total estimated project cost had been requested from LIP funding.

Members were informed that the project was vital to the Club's continued and future role in the community. The Club would be able to encourage the development of physical activity as well as assist in the reduction of anti-social behaviour by giving young people a useful activity to occupy their time. The need for a new football pitch in Ferryhill was identified in Sedgefield Borough Council's Playing Pitch Strategy.

As a result of the size of the project, the applicant's aim was to secure funding of £689,994 from the Football Association's Football Foundation Grant Scheme. However, the funding could only be applied for after LIP funding was granted. Ferryhill Town Council had contributed £25,000 to the project for the purchase of derelict Ferryhill Athletic Ground, which would be redeveloped.

Members of the Forum were then given the opportunity to ask any questions and make comments.

*AGREED: That the project be supported.*

**AF(2)43/07**

**LOCAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME - DEAN BANK AND FERRYHILL LITERARY INSTITUTE - GALA ROOM - EXTENSION OF FACILITY**

**NB :** In accordance with Section 81 of the Local Government Act 2000 and the Members Code of Conduct Councillor D. Farry declared a personal interest in the above item. He remained in the meeting but took no part in the discussion or voting thereon.

**In accordance with Section 81 of the Local Government Act 2000 and the Members Code of Conduct Councillors Mrs. K. Conroy and A. Hodgson declared a prejudicial interest in the above item and left the meeting for the duration of the discussion and the voting thereon.**

Consideration was given to a report of the Assistant Chief Executive (for copy see file of Minutes) outlining a Local Improvement Programme (LIP) application.

Jim Pallister from the Literary Institute was present at the meeting to present the application.

It was reported that the project would replace the previous learning room LIP application and would involve the removal of the wall between the Gala and Cabin rooms and replace it with soundproof sliding doors. This would give flexibility for the room to be used as one large space or two smaller rooms. An acoustic floor system would also be installed to the room directly above. £35,825 (78%) of the total project cost of £45,825 had been requested from LIP funding.

Mr. Pallister informed Members of the Forum that a number of requests to hold functions had been refused as the rooms were not large enough, resulting in a loss of income. It was hoped that the project would enable the Centre to offer better equipped and larger rooms to attract more users/ activities.

The applicant had committed £5,000 of their own funds to the project and there was a further £5,000 available from the Neighbourhood Enhancement Programme.

*AGREED: That the project be supported.*

**AF(2)44/07**

**NAMING OF DEVELOPMENT**

**Land at Chapel Row, Ferryhill Station – Three Rivers Housing Association Limited**

Consideration was given to a report of the Building Control Manager regarding a request received from the appointed builders, Rok Plc, to officially name and number the above development. (For copy see file of Minutes).

As part of a consultation exercise, Rok Plc., had run a competition in Ferryhill Primary School, whereby children could make suggestions for street names. Rok chose six names from the suggestions, which were :-

- Daisy Street
- Foxenham Street
- Holly Rise
- Hope Rise
- Newlands Rise
- Primrose Lane

Ferryhill Town Council had also been consulted and had suggested the following names :-

- Joe Chaplin – long serving Town Councillor who recently deceased
- Jim Young – long serving Town Councillor who recently deceased
- Station View

Members of the Forum discussed each of the options.

*AGREED : That the names Newlands Rise and Hope Rise be recommended.*

**AF(2)45/07      DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> September, 2008 at 6.30 p.m. at Chilton and Windlestone Community College.

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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. J. Stubbs, Tel 01388 816166 Ext 4508, [juliestubbs@sedgefield.gov.uk](mailto:juliestubbs@sedgefield.gov.uk)

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