

**SEDGEFIELD BOROUGH COUNCIL
AREA 2FORUM**

Chilton and Windlestone
Community College

Tuesday,
16 December 2008

Time: 6.30 p.m.

Present: Councillor Mrs K. Conroy (In the Chair) – Sedgefield Borough Council and

Councillor B. Avery J.P.	–	Sedgefield Borough Council
Councillor T. F. Forrest	–	Sedgefield Borough Council
Councillor Mrs. D. Barber	–	Ferryhill Town Council
Councillor Mrs. Z. Roddam	–	Ferryhill Town Council
J. Weston	–	Dean Bank Residents Association
M. Mitchell	–	Chilton West Residents Association
B. Sheppard	–	Dean Bank and Ferryhill Literary Institute
P. Forrest	–	Local Resident

In

Attendance: J. Stubbs (Sedgefield Borough Council)

Apologies:

Councillor C. Potts	-	Sedgefield Borough Council
Councillor T. D. Brimm	–	Sedgefield Borough Council
Councillor Mrs P. Crathorne	–	Sedgefield Borough Council
Councillor D. Farry	–	Sedgefield Borough Council
Councillor J. E. Higgin	–	Sedgefield Borough Council
Councillor A. Hodgson	–	Sedgefield Borough Council
Councillor B. Lamb	–	Sedgefield Borough Council
Councillor D. A. Newell	–	Sedgefield Borough Council
Councillor S. C. Drew	–	Cornforth Parish Council

AF(2)20/08 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were received.

AF(2)21/08 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 4th November, 2008 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman. (For copy see file of Minutes).

Concern had been expressed at the previous meeting of the Forum regarding the progress with Chilton Health Centre. It was reported that a meeting to discuss progress had been held in November. Land for the facility had been purchased and a model of the surgery had been constructed. The Health Centre would be a two storey building with a fitness room included and all delegates were happy with the progress being made.

AF(2)22/08 POLICE REPORT

Sergeant W. Edwards was present at the meeting to give a report on crime statistics, initiatives and road safety in the area.

The reported crime figures for November 2008 were as follows :-

<u>November 08:</u>	<u>Dean Bank:</u>	<u>Ferryhill:</u>	<u>West Cornforth:</u>	<u>Chilton:</u>	<u>Total:</u>
Reported Incidents	154	96	104	154	508
Burglary Dwelling	1	0	2	0	3
Burglary Other	0	0	0	1	1
Theft from Motor Vehicle	0	0	2	0	2
Theft of Motor Vehicle	1	1	0	1	3
Rowdy Nuisance	25	21	19	34	99

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

Damage only accidents	24
Minor injury accidents	1
Serious injury accidents	0

It was reported that crime was considerably lower at present than during the summer months. A number of recent operations and pro active work by the Police had resulted in a number of target criminals being held in prison or moving out of the area.

With regard to anti-social behaviour, the current level of incidents within the Ferryhill area was slightly below average in comparison to previous years. There had been an increase in Chilton, however, this had significantly reduced as a result of work carried out with the help of new PCSO, Sharon Bowman. Another PCSO, Martin Dauber, had been recruited and would be working with Sharon in Chilton. The Ferryhill area had a total of 8 anti-social behaviour orders currently in force. The Police would continue to encourage courts to use the full powers available.

Although crime remained low, the fear of crime still remained high within the area and two initiatives had been planned to assist in this regard. Victims of pedal cycle theft over the past 12 months were to be contacted to receive free padlocks, lights and marking equipment. There was also scope to include any bicycle owners, not just the victims of crime. Although the area did not have a problem with knife crime, the neighbourhood policing team were planning a knife amnesty for Ferryhill in January.

Members were informed that the only increase in crime over the past few months related to shoplifting. Operation Christmas Pudding was being conducted jointly with Spennymoor Police to tackle the problem and a number of arrests had already been made.

It was reported that after a regrettable incident at a farm in Bishop Middleham, all the local farms had now been signed up to a Farmwatch

of Sedgefield area.

With regard to the parking of work vans at Opal Avenue in Chilton, it was reported that PCSOs regularly patrolled the area and had moved vehicles on where possible. PCSO Bowman had been tasked with contacting the manager of the industrial estate to seek permission for vans to be parked there overnight.

With regard to anti-social behaviour at West Chilton Terrace, Members were informed that since the last Forum meeting, patrols had been targeted and increased. As a result there had been a significant decrease in reports of anti-social behaviour, and one particularly problematic occupant had moved away.

It was reported that with regard to off-road motorcycles in Ferryhill, reports had been received of scooters causing problems in the car park at the leisure centre. Targetted patrols had been carried out using headcams to gather evidence and a number of youths had been banned from the car park unless using the facilities.

A dedicated motorbike section officer had been appointed for the whole of the Sedgefield area and he had spent some time patrolling the area. Problems were being reported in respect of the footpath running between Ferryhill and Spennymoor and work was ongoing between the Police and Durham County Council in relation to this footpath being blocked.

AF(2)23/08 NAMING OF DEVELOPMENT

Consideration was given to a report of the Building Control Manager regarding a request received from Walter Cook Properties to officially name and number the above development. (For copy see file of Minutes).

Unfortunately there were no members from West Cornforth present at the meeting. Therefore the members of the Forum decided that it would not be appropriate to make a recommendation.

AF(2)24/08 QUESTIONS

Future of Area 2 Forum

A query was raised regarding the number of Area 2 Forum meetings that remained in the run up to Local Government Re-organisation. Members were informed that the February meeting of the Forum would be the last.

AF(2)25/08 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 17th February, 2009 at 6.30 p.m. at Dean Bank and Ferryhill Literary Institute.

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