

# **AREA 4 FORUM**

Tuesday,  
25 September 2007

6.30 p.m.

Shildon Sunnydale  
Leisure Centre

## **AGENDA and REPORTS**



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**العربية (Arabic)**

إذا أردت المعلومات بلغة أخرى أو بطريقة أخرى، نرجو أن تطلب ذلك منا.

**বাংলা (Bengali)**

যদি আপনি এই ডকুমেন্ট অন্য ভাষায় বা ফরমেটে চান, তাহলে দয়া করে আমাদেরকে বলুন।

**(中文 (繁體字)) (Cantonese)**

如欲索取以另一語文印製或另一格式製作的資料，請與我們聯絡。

**हिन्दी (Hindi)**

यदि आपको सूचना किसी अन्य भाषा या अन्य रूप में चाहिये तो कृपया हमसे कहे

**polski (Polish)**

Jeżeli chcieliby Państwo uzyskać informacje w innym języku lub w innym formacie, prosimy dać nam znać.

**ਪੰਜਾਬੀ (Punjabi)**

ਜੇ ਇਹ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਤੁਹਾਨੂੰ ਕਿਸੇ ਹੋਰ ਭਾਸ਼ਾ ਵਿਚ ਜਾਂ ਕਿਸੇ ਹੋਰ ਰੂਪ ਵਿਚ ਚਾਹੀਦੀ, ਤਾਂ ਇਹ ਸਾਥੋਂ ਮੰਗ ਲਓ।

**Español (Spanish)**

Póngase en contacto con nosotros si desea recibir información en otro idioma o formato.

**اردو (Urdu)**

اگر آپ کو معلومات کسی دیگر زبان یا دیگر شکل میں درکار ہوں تو برائے مہربانی ہم سے پوچھئے۔

## 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 10<sup>th</sup> July 2007. (Pages 1 - 4)

**4. POLICE REPORT**

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

**5. COUNTY DURHAM PRIMARY CARE TRUST**

A representative from County Durham Primary Care Trust will attend the meeting to provide an update on local health matters.

**6. SEDGFIELD BOROUGH LOCAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME - APPLICATION - SHILDON SCOUTS MEMORIAL FIELD BUILDING - TECHNICAL STUDY**

Report of Head of Strategy and Regeneration. (Pages 5 - 8)

**7. QUESTIONS**

The Chairman will take questions from the floor.

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

To consider any other business which, with the consent of the Chairman, may be submitted. Representatives are respectfully requested to give the Chief Executive notice of items to be raised under this heading no 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.

**9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

20<sup>th</sup> November 2007 at 6.30 p.m. at Shildon Sunnydale Leisure Centre.

B. Allen  
Chief Executive

Council Offices  
SPENNYMOOR  
17<sup>th</sup> September 2007

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ACCESS TO INFORMATION

Any person wishing to exercise the right of inspection in relation to this Agenda and associated papers should contact Mrs. Gillian Garrigan Tel 01388 816166 Ext 4240, [ggarrigan@sedgefield.gov.uk](mailto:ggarrigan@sedgefield.gov.uk)

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Councillor B. Stephens (Chairman)

Councillor V. Chapman (Vice-Chairman)

Councillors D.M. Hancock, G.M.R. Howe, J. G. Huntington and Mrs. I. Jackson

**County Durham Primary Care Trust**

K. Vasey

**Shildon Town Council**

Councillors D.M. Hancock, J.G. Huntington and Mrs. I. Jackson

**Eldon Parish Council**

Councillor H. Robinson

**Durham County Council**

Councillor D. Bowman and Councillor K. Henderson

**Durham Constabulary**

**CAVOS (Community and Voluntary Organisations Sedgefield)**

Chief Executive Officer

**Sunnydale Residents Association**

K. Mulley

**New Shildon Residents Association**

Mrs. J. Johnson and Mrs. C. Thompson

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# Item 3

## SEDGEFIELD BOROUGH COUNCIL AREA 4 FORUM

Shildon Sunnydale  
Leisure Centre

Tuesday,  
10 July 2007

Time: 6.30 p.m.

**Present:** Councillor B. Stephens (Chairman) – Sedgefield Borough Council and

|                            |   |  |
|----------------------------|---|--|
| Councillor V. Chapman      | – | Sedgefield Borough Council                       |
| Councillor J.G. Huntington | – | Sedgefield Borough Council                       |
| Councillor Ms. I. Jackson  | – | Sedgefield Borough Council                       |
| K. Vasey                   | – | County Durham Primary Care Trust                 |
| L. Robson                  | – | County Durham and Darlington<br>Foundation Trust |
| Acting Inspector S. Ball   | – | Durham Constabulary                              |
| J. Johnson                 | – | New Shildon Residents Association                |
| C. Thompson                | – | New Shildon Residents Association                |
| M. Stott                   | – | Pilgrim Club                                     |
| B. Carr                    | – | Shildon Community Safety Group                   |
| C. Fletcher                | – | Shildon Community Safety Group                   |
| Councillor D. Hancock      | – | Shildon Town Council                             |
| Councillor F. Timmiss      | – | Shildon Town Council                             |
| M. Quigley                 | – | SWDCU  |
| C. Hind                    | – | Local Resident                                   |

**Apologies:** Councillor G.M.R. Howe - Sedgefield Borough Council

**AF(4)1/07 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**  
Members had no interests to declare.

**AF(4)2/07 MINUTES**  
The Minutes of the meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> April, 2007 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**AF(4)3/07 POLICE REPORT**  
Acting Inspector S. Ball was present at the meeting to give the statistics for the area.

The reported crime figures for May and June, 2007 were as follows :-

|                     | <u>May</u> | <u>June</u> |
|---------------------|------------|-------------|
| Total Recorded      | 104        | 65          |
| Violent Crime       | 14         | 13          |
| Robbery             | 0          | 0           |
| Burglary (Dwelling) | 2          | 1           |
| Burglary (Other)    | 7          | 3           |

|                    |    |    |
|--------------------|----|----|
| Criminal Damage    | 35 | 16 |
| Vehicle Crime      | 13 | 11 |
| Theft of Vehicle   | 8  | 3  |
| Theft from Vehicle | 5  | 8  |
| Shoplifting        | 7  | 5  |
| Total Theft        | 38 | 32 |

With regard to the number of thefts that had been reported, it was pointed out that a large number were the theft of garden artefacts such as ornaments, barbecues and gas heaters that had been left outside. The importance of storing such items away out of view was reiterated.

The Forum was informed that a clean up operation would be taking place later in the month combining both the Police and Borough Council responsibilities.

Concerns were raised regarding parking in the area of Byerely Road. It was felt that the number of parked cars on both sides of the road was hazardous, disrupting traffic flow and causing obstructions for crossing the road, particularly for school children. It was explained that the issue had been raised with Durham County Council and the Police, however, during a site visit there were no apparent problems. Acting Inspector Ball agreed to take concerns back to the Traffic Management Officer at Durham County Council for further monitoring.

Concerns were also raised regarding youngsters congregating around “the Courts” area causing a nuisance. Acting Inspector Ball was not aware of any problems, however, would look into the matter. He pointed out that instances needed to be reported otherwise action could not be taken.

**AF(4)4/07**

**COUNTY DURHAM PRIMARY CARE TRUST**

K. Vasey, County Durham Primary Care Trust attended the meeting to answer any questions from the Forum relating to local health matters.

K. Vasey answered concerns from the previous meeting regarding doctor’s surgeries using premium rate telephone numbers. The Forum was reassured that calls were not charged at a premium rate. It was pointed out however that an article published in The Northern Echo stated that all 0844 numbers were charged at 5p per minute. It was also questioned why the number was changed from the local number. K. Vasey agreed to take concerns back to the relevant officer and look into the matter.

L. Robson, County Durham and Darlington Foundation Trust also attended the meeting to answer concerns regarding Bishop Auckland Hospital.

Concerns were raised regarding the management of the pharmacies where it was explained that, on occasions, due to staff shortages the ground floor pharmacy had been closed whilst the more inaccessible pharmacy upstairs was left open. It was also pointed out that pharmacists often went on the same lunch, which resulted in it being closed over lunchtime. As prescriptions from hospital could only be dispensed at hospital pharmacies, it was felt that it was unacceptable.

L. Robson explained that the pharmacy upstairs in the hospital was better equipped to cover both in and out patients therefore was the most efficient to stay open. With regard to staffing over lunch periods the matter would be taken up with the Pharmacy Manager.

Discussions were also held regarding Pharmacists salaries, where it was pointed out that those working within the private sector were on higher salaries than those working in the public sector. It was unfortunately a problem around the country as those working in the public sector had a national pay rate set by the Government. Members of the Forum expressed their concerns regarding the issue.

Consideration was also given to ward closures in hospitals within the North East. It was explained that the Foundation Trust was working on improving its efficiency, with a new Five Year Plan being developed to ensure the organisation was kept financially viable.

With regard to the movement and closure of wards, it was explained that services had been moved to the better-equipped hospitals. Some had moved from Bishop Auckland to Darlington and vice versa as there was a need to keep specialist areas. As a result of ward closures, Members of the Forum outlined experiences, specifically of being turned away as there were no beds available in any of the North East hospital and admission had ceased. L. Robson re-assured the Forum that she had not been aware of all hospitals stopping admissions, only that one may need to and then the patient would be admitted to another.

Concerns were finally expressed regarding the maternity ward and the problems that had been associated with Bishop Auckland not admitting known complicated pregnancies and transferring those where complications occurred. It was explained that there were not enough admissions to warrant keeping both Darlington and Bishop Auckland open as two main maternity wards. As Darlington was better equipped its maternity ward would be the main maternity hospital. It was pointed out however that Bishop Auckland still received 300 admissions.

It was pointed out that the Prime Minister had identified health as a priority area therefore there would be a number of changes introduced. It was therefore suggested that the MP for Bishop Auckland be invited to discuss the plans and identify where Shildon would fit in to the Governments plans.

**AF(4)5/07**

**QUESTIONS**  
**Health Profile 2007**

Reference was made to the Sedgefield Health Profile 2007, which gave a snapshot of health in the area. The Forum's attention was drawn to the map highlighting income inequalities, which identified Shildon as one of the most income deprived areas in the Borough. It was therefore suggested that the MP, officers from the PCT and the Borough Council be invited to a future meeting to discuss what steps could be taken to target and significantly improve health issues in the area.

### **Shildon Sunnydale Leisure Centre**

Questions were raised as to why, on a number of occasions, the lights in the above car park had not been switched on. It was agreed that concerns would be taken back to the Director of Leisure Services.

### **Grass Cutting**

It was pointed out that the grass verges around Dabble Duck Industrial Estate were in need of cutting. It was explained that there was an issue of ownership and responsibility, however, concerns would be taken back to the relevant department.

### **Street Signs**

It was explained that the new Brosley Estate was still not signposted. It was agreed to highlight the issue with the relevant officer and identify who was responsible for signposting the estate.

**AF(4)6/07**

### **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

25<sup>th</sup> September, 2007 Shildon Sunnydale Leisure Centre at 6.30 p.m.

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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, [sbillingham@sedgefield.gov.uk](mailto:sbillingham@sedgefield.gov.uk)

# Item 6

AREA 4 FORUM

25<sup>th</sup> September 2007

## Report of the Head of Strategy and Regeneration

### Sedgefield Borough Local Improvement Programme

#### **Application - SHILDON SCOUTS MEMORIAL FIELD BUILDING – Technical Study.**

This report highlights a Local Improvement Programme (LIP) application submitted to and initially appraised by the Strategy and Regeneration Section. The report provides information to the Area 4 Forum for their consideration and comments, which will be used to further develop the project proposal prior to it being taken through Sedgefield Borough Council's decision-making process.

The Area 4 Forum has been allocated £456,000 of LIP capital resources between 2006 and 2009. A total of £152,000 has been allocated to the year 2007/08 of which £0 has been approved to date. A project was allocated in the previous year for this area, and there is some additional under-spend resulting from last year, which will be available to the Area Forum for additional project activity.

#### **Project Background**

- **Name of Project:** Shildon Scouts Memorial Field Trust Building – Technical Study
- **Location:** West Road Shildon.
- **Name of Applicant:** Shildon Scouts Memorial Field Trust.
- **Brief Description of Project:**

This application is requesting funding to carry out a Technical Study with a view to looking at options of refurbishing the existing vandalised changing room facility based at Shildon Scouts Memorial Field. The project will look at the possibility to include provision for football, both male and female, an area suitable for indoor games such as kwik cricket, short tennis, indoor hockey, netball and badminton which could also be used as a community space. The applicant will work with partners to invest in the new facilities, skills and programmes.

- **Requested from LIP: £4,113 (100%) Technical Study**
- **Total Estimated Project Cost: £4,113**

- **What will the LIP be used for:**

The aim of this stage of the project is appraise the project and consider costed options for the refurbishment of the existing vandalised changing facility. To develop plans/designs of the options to be considered, provide budget costs and an indicative timetable for the project.

**Impact of the Project:**

The applicant has stated that the project should have a beneficial effect on the local community targeting mainly children and voluntary organisations. The building has been vandalised to such an extent that the changing rooms have now become unusable. The building does not have any female toilet or changing facilities therefore is has been unable to offer it for use to mixed groups of the community, change of this facility would enable it to be offered to female football teams, and other groups interested in sports activities. If the option of a meeting room was considered to be possible this would then open the facility to a wider range of the community as there is a lack of suitable venues in this area of the town for community activities. It is hoped that the project would reduce anti social behaviour and vandalism if the facility were to be used on a more regular basis.

- **Evidence of need and community support:**

The applicant has stated that as the facility has been unused for two years due to massive vandalism and that by undertaking the study it is recognised that further consultation with various partners and residents will need to be undertaken in considering the most appropriate option. The applicant has stated that they have had some favourable feedback from some groups in the town. At least one scout group has expressed an interest in using the facility. The Pilgrim Club are interested in using the facility on a regular basis for some of their activities and other users say they will consider using the facility if it becomes available. There is interest for summer activities i.e. sports days and other one off activities and an interest as a venue for children's parties as there is a lack of suitable venues in this area of the town for community activities. The trustees have a representative on the Shildon Children and Young Peoples Action Network programme (SCYPAN) and consultation will take place with this organisation.

Subject to endorsement by the Area Forum at this stage, the Strategy & Regeneration Division will work with the applicant during the full appraisal process to explore the links with other facilities, and also look at a more detail predicted programme of use for the facility in order to maximise the overall impact of the project.

- **Value for money and Revenue implications:**

By carrying out this stage of the project this will help to establish a full project cost for all elements of the scheme and inform the options available.

A key issue in considering any future project proposal is to ensure that the increased revenue costs associated with maintaining a facility of this nature can be met.

**Statutory Approvals:**

- Requirement of Planning Permission will be a major consideration addressed by undertaking the Technical Study.

Subject to discussion and agreement by the Area Forum to progress the project proposal, the applicant will work with the Strategy and Regeneration Division to inform a full appraisal of the LIP application prior to it being taken through Sedgefield Borough Council's decisions making.

**Recommendation from the Strategy and Regeneration Section:**

That the Area Forum considers:

- The project proposal, and how it would meet the priority needs of the Area 4 locality.

If the Area Forum wish to support the undertaking of the Technical Study then a further more detailed report will be brought to the Area Forum once this Study has been completed to enable the Forum to consider the overall cost implications of the proposed final project.

**Material considerations:**

**Other applications received from Area 4:**

In taking the above decision the Area Forum is requested to consider the implication of the funding level requested against the following projects that have been received for future determination by the Forum.

Sildon Vintage Vehicles Ltd Technical Study requesting £14,675.

**Projects endorsed by Area Forum and awaiting decision by SBC.**

Pilgrim Club Technical Study requesting £9,000

**Projects Approved to date:**

|         |                         |            |
|---------|-------------------------|------------|
| 2006/07 | Hackworth Tennis Courts | £34,999.00 |
|---------|-------------------------|------------|

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