

Item 3

SEDGEFIELD BOROUGH COUNCIL AREA 5 FORUM

Town Council Offices,
School Aycliffe Lane,
Newton Aycliffe

Tuesday, 24 April 2007

Time: 7.00 p.m.

Present: Councillor Mrs. A.M. Fleming (Chairman) – Sedgefield Borough Council
and

Councillor Mrs. B.A. Clare	–	Sedgefield Borough Council
Councillor V. Crosby	–	Sedgefield Borough Council
Councillor M.A. Dalton	–	Sedgefield Borough Council
Councillor R.S. Fleming	–	Sedgefield Borough Council
Councillor G.C. Gray	–	Sedgefield Borough Council/Durham County Council
Councillor Mrs. J. Gray	–	Sedgefield Borough Council
Councillor M. Iveson	–	Sedgefield Borough Council
Councillor Mrs. E.M. Paylor	–	Sedgefield Borough Council
Councillor J.K. Piggott	–	Sedgefield Borough Council
P. Irving	–	County Durham PCT
Councillor Mrs. S.J. Iveson	–	Durham County Council
Acting Sergeant S. Rogers	–	Durham Constabulary
Councillors Mrs. S. Mlatilik	–	Great Aycliffe Town Council
Councillor Mrs. S.A.Sinclair	–	Great Aycliffe Town Council
Councillor C. Wheeler	–	Great Aycliffe Town Council
Councillor Mrs. M. Gray	–	Great Aycliffe Town Council
Councillor A. Tomlin	–	Great Aycliffe Town Council
Councillor Mrs. V. Raw	–	Great Aycliffe Town Council
Councillor Mrs. Clarke	–	Middridge Parish Council
J. D. Clare	–	Greenfield School
J. P. Rodwell	–	Agnew Community Association
Mrs. D. Bowman	–	Dales Neighbourhood Watch
D. Ibbotson	–	Local Resident
K. Hodgson	–	Local Resident
C. Melderis	–	Local Resident
J. Newby	–	Local Resident
S. Brady	–	Local Resident
B. Haigh	–	Local Resident
J. Mlatilik	–	Local Resident

Apologies: Councillor W.M. Blenkinsopp - Sedgefield Borough Council
Councillor Mrs. J. Croft – Sedgefield Borough Council
Councillor B. Hall – Sedgefield Borough Council
Councillor K. Henderson – Sedgefield Borough Council
Councillor J.P. Moran – Sedgefield Borough Council
Councillor Mrs. M.Dalton – Great Aycliffe Town Council

AF(5)32/06 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were received.

AF(5)33/06 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 13th March, 2007 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

AF(5)34/06 SMOKE FREE LEGISLATION

V. Jackson-Hopps, Senior Environmental Health Officer Sedgefield Borough Council, attended the meeting to inform the Forum of the new smoke-free legislation.

A copy of the fact sheet was distributed for Member's information to be found on www.smokefreeengland.co.uk.

Discussion was held regarding the involvement of the enforcement of the legislation, what property and premises would be affected, signage and any exemptions included in the legislation.

A query was raised regarding whether public houses etc., would place receptacles outside their premises for cigarette ends, etc. It was explained that such premises would not be under an obligation to do so and it would be at the discretion of each individual premises. However, they would be advised that this would be a good idea. It was noted that smoking would be allowed in beer gardens.

Discussion was also held regarding smoking in bus shelters and it was explained that smoking would not be allowed in bus shelters with enclosed sides and back. This would have implications for parish councils in relation to signage etc.

AF(5)35/06 POLICE REPORT

Sergeant Simon Rogers was present at the meeting to give details of crime figures for the area.

The figures for February and March 2007 were as follows :-

<u>Crime :</u>	<u>February :</u>	<u>March :</u>
Total Crime	134	192
Violent Crime	32	43
Burglary (Dwelling)	02	02
Burglary (Other)	11	14
Criminal Damage	35	53
Theft of Vehicle	06	03
Theft from Vehicle	07	13
Total Theft	45	67
Shoplifting	09	13
Rowdy/Nuisance	133	175

Details were also given of the figures for the year end as follows :-

Total Crime	Down 13%
Violent Crime	Down 27%
Sexual Offences	Down 43%
Robbery	Down 67%
Burglary (Dwelling)	Down 35%
Burglary (Other)	Down 13%
Vehicle – Theft/TWOC	Down 15%
Criminal Damage	Down 23%
Vehicle Interference	Down 79%
Shoplifting	Down 35%

It was explained that detection rate was 32%.

It was reported that with regard to drink driving offences, during the December period there had been eight positive breath tests.

Reference was made to problems which existed in relation to quad bikes, mini motorbikes etc., being ridden on footpaths, open spaces, etc. It was explained that, if the bikes were not stolen and they were being ridden on footpaths etc., for the first offence they would be given a warning. Second and subsequent offences would involve action such as the bike being confiscated. If the bike was confiscated the owner could pay £5.00 to retrieve the bike. The Forum was informed that five bikes had been confiscated in the last fortnight. Assistance from members of the public was sought to inform police when incidents were occurring, who the bike belonged to, etc.

Discussion was also held regarding anti-social behaviour which existed in the Langdale Place/Silverdale Place area. It was explained that the Police had distributed diary sheets to properties within the area for residents to complete when incidents were occurring. CCTV had recently been used to gather evidence etc. However, it was stressed that members of the public needed to provide the Police with information, statements, etc. Four arrests had been made for public order offences.

AF(5)36/06

COUNTY DURHAM PCT

Paul Irving, Assistant Director, attended the meeting to update members of the Forum on progress.

He explained that all Assistant Director posts had now been filled and that he had been appointed to the Assistant Directorship of Adult Services. The structure below Assistant Director level would be finalised that week and recruitment would commence 30th April, 2007.

Reference was also made to progress in relation to the Health Centre in Newton Aycliffe. It was explained that a meeting had been held the previous week when the Chief Executive of the PCT had visited and

spoken to staff at the Health Centre. The PCT were working with partners and had identified a Lead Director for the relocation of staff. The community would be involved with the relocation and informed of rescheduling of clinics etc. Progress was therefore beginning to be made on the scheme.

A query was raised regarding the location of PCT Board Meetings and publication of Notice of Meetings. It was stressed that it was important for Notices of Meetings to be published to allow members of the public the opportunity to attend meetings.

AF(5)37/06 LIP FUNDING - TREE REPLANTING

NB : In accordance with Section 81 of the Local Government Act 2000 and the Member's Code of Conduct, Councillor R.S. Fleming declared a personal and prejudicial interest in this item as a Member of Sedgefield Borough Council and left the meeting.

Discussion was held regarding the feasibility of applying for LIP funding for the purpose of tree replanting with native species to regenerate areas where trees had been felled.

It was agreed that an application for LIP funding be drawn up.

AF(5)38/06 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Next meeting to be held on 17th July, 2007 subject to confirmation at the Annual General Meeting of Council.

ACCESS TO INFORMATION

Any person wishing to exercise the right of inspection, etc., in relation to these Minutes and associated papers should contact Liz North 01388 816166 ext 4237 email:enorth@sedgefield.gov.uk