

Item 3

SEDGEFIELD BOROUGH COUNCIL AREA 4 FORUM

Shildon Sunnydale
Leisure Centre

Tuesday,
16 January 2007

Time: 6.30 p.m.

Present: Councillor D.M. Hancock (Chairman) – Sedgefield Borough Council and
Councillor J.M. Smith – Sedgefield Borough Council
Councillor Mrs. I. Jackson Smith – Sedgefield Borough Council
Acting Inspector S. Ball - Durham Constabulary
Councillor Mrs. D. Bowman - Durham County Council
J. Johnson - New Shildon Residents Association
C. Thompson - New Shildon Residents Association
E. Carr - Shildon Community Safety Group
C.A. Fletcher - Shildon Community Safety Group
S. Naylor - Shildon Salvation Army
M. Quigley - Tenants and Residents Association
East Thickley
C. Hind - Local Resident

Apologies: Councillor G.M.R. Howe - Sedgefield Borough Council
Councillor J.G. Huntington – Sedgefield Borough Council
Councillor Mrs. L. Smith – Sedgefield Borough Council
Councillor H. Robinson – Eldon Parish Council

AF(4)25/06 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST
Members had no interests to declare.

AF(4)26/06 MINUTES
The Minutes of the meeting held on 14th November 2006 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

AF(4)27/06 POLICE REPORT
Acting Inspector S. Ball was present at the meeting to give statistics for the area.
The reported crime figures for November and December 2006 were as follows:

	November 2006 :	December 2006 :
Total Crime	98	105
Violent Crime	18	8
Burglary (Dwelling)	7	4
Burglary (Other)	10	16
Criminal Damage	31	32
Vehicle Theft	8	4
Theft from Vehicle	8	18
Shoplifting	2	7
Total Theft	30	41
Rowdy/Nuisance Behaviour	84 (67 youth related)	79 (50% youth related)

It was pointed out that assistance had been provided by CID to deal with increased number of crimes in particular, burglary (other) and theft from vehicles. This support, coupled with intelligence from the community, had led to a number of arrests being made and an improved detection rate.

It was reported that Shildon now had 4 PCSOs, resulting in more officers patrolling the streets.

Acting Inspector Ball expressed his disappointment regarding the poor attendance at the meeting. He explained that the Police were committed to attending Area Forum meetings to give details of crime and police operations in the local area and to respond to the concerns of local residents.

Residents expressed concern regarding the problem of motorists parking on pavements and grassed verges in the New Shildon. It was reported that parking on footpaths was classed as 'an illegal obstruction of the highway' and the Police would take enforcement action, if necessary.

AF(4)28/06 COUNTY DURHAM PRIMARY CARE TRUST

It was noted that there was no representative of the Trust present to give an update on local health matters/performance figures.

Members of the Forum expressed their disappointment that despite the representations made by local authorities, trade unions and the Bishop Auckland MP, County Durham and Darlington Acute Hospitals NHS Trust had decided in December to close Ward 3 at Bishop Auckland General Hospital.

AF(4)29/06 LOCAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

Members of the Forum queried whether any projects in Shildon had obtained LIP funding.

It was reported that Town Council had submitted applications for funding for CCTV cameras for Hackworth Park and the redevelopment of Hackworth Park tennis courts.

The former had unfortunately not met the criteria for LIP funding. The latter, had been supported by the Forum at its November meeting and would be the subject of a report to Cabinet in February 2007.

AF(4)30/06 DILAPIDATED BUILDINGS

Local residents expressed concern regarding a number of buildings in Shildon that were in a dilapidated condition. The Chairman agreed to enquire whether the Council could take any action.

AF(4)31/06

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 6th March 2007 at Shildon Sunnydale Leisure Centre at 6.30 p.m.

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

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