

Item 3

SEDGEFIELD BOROUGH COUNCIL AREA 4 FORUM

Shildon Sunnydale
Leisure Centre

Tuesday,
6 March 2007

Time: 6.30 p.m.

Present: Councillor D.M. Hancock (Chairman) – Sedgefield Borough Council and

Councillor J.G. Huntington	–	Sedgefield Borough Council
Councillor J.M. Smith	–	Sedgefield Borough Council
Councillor Mrs. I. Jackson Smith	–	Sedgefield Borough Council
Councillor Mrs. L. Smith	–	Sedgefield Borough Council
Acting Inspector S. Ball	–	Durham Constabulary
Councillor Mrs. D. Bowman	–	Durham County Council
E. Keller	–	Eldon Community Partnership
D. Pennington	–	Eldon Community Partnership
R. Scaife	–	Eldon Community Partnership
Councillor H. Robinson	–	Eldon Parish Council
J. Johnson	–	New Shildon Residents Association
C. Thompson	–	New Shildon Residents Association
D. Sadler	–	Nifty 50s
B. Carr	–	Shildon Community Safety
N. Carson	–	Shildon Community Safety
Councillor Mrs. L. Goldie	–	Shildon Town Council
Councillor M. Stott	–	Shildon Town Council
T. Seribetso	–	Town Crier
C. Hind	–	Local Resident

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

L. Agar	–	Shildon Centre
C. Wood	–	Shildon Centre

AF(4)32/06 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST
Members had no interests to declare.

AF(4)33/06 MINUTES
The Minutes of the meeting held on 16th January, 2007 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

AF(4)34/06 POLICE REPORT
Acting Inspector S. Ball was present at the meeting to give statistics for the area.

The reported crime figures for January, 2007 were as follows: -

	<u>January, 2007</u>
Total Crime	92
Burglary (Dwelling)	1
Burglary (Other)	6
Violent Crime	18
Criminal Damage	43
Theft of Vehicle	3
Theft from Vehicle	8
Shoplifting	2
Total Theft	20
Rowdy/Nuisance Behaviour	98

Members of the Forum raised concern regarding the withdrawal of Community Officers and Crime Prevention Officers, whose responsibilities included school visits, liaising with youngsters and educating the community. It was explained that as a result of the financial situation of the Police Force a number of staff changes had to take place. Both positions had been disbanded with PCSOs taking on their responsibilities to ensure that officers continue to be seen and integrated, working within the community.

Discussion was held regarding traffic management. Specific problems, such as speeding, parking and congestion in the areas of Burnie Gardens and Sunnydale Road raised concerns from a number of residents. Acting Inspector S. Ball agreed with the concerns and would raise the issues with the Traffic Management Officer, Durham Constabulary. It was also suggested that yellow lines be introduced in certain areas of the town.

Questions were also raised regarding parking facilities, whether a number of loading bays, which were relatively unused, could be turned into short stay parking. It was explained that it was a Durham County Council Highways matter.

AF(4)35/06 COUNTY DURHAM PRIMARY CARE TRUST

It was explained that the representative for County Durham Primary Care Trust was unable to attend and had submitted their apologies.

It was recognised that the PCT was going through a restructure, however concern was raised at the lack of attendance. It was hoped that a representative would attend future Forums.

AF(4)36/06 QUESTIONS

Dilapidated Buildings

With regard to dilapidated buildings in Shildon, it was pointed out that the matter was being dealt with by Sedgefield Borough Council Building Control.

Private Landlords Licence

Discussion was held regarding new licensing laws regarding Private Landlords. It was explained that the legislation would be rolled out to the Ferryhill and Chilton areas as a pilot to provide further powers to monitor and manage the landlords and their tenants. The Forum expressed support for the legislation.

AF(4)37/06**DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

17th April, 2007 at 6.30 p.m. at Shildon Sunnysdale Leisure Centre.

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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