

**SEDGEFIELD BOROUGH COUNCIL  
AREA 4 FORUM**

Civic Hall,  
Shildon

Tuesday,  
22 April 2008

Time: 6.30 p.m.

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

Councillor V. Chapman	–	Sedgefield Borough Council
Councillor D.M. Hancock	–	Sedgefield Borough Council
Councillor G.M.R. Howe	–	Sedgefield Borough Council
Councillor J.G. Huntington	–	Sedgefield Borough Council
Councillor Ms. I. Jackson	–	Sedgefield Borough Council
P.C. S. Brown	-	Durham Constabulary
J. Johnson	-	New Shildon Residents Association
C. Thompson	-	New Shildon Residents Association
E. Carr	-	Shildon Community Safety Group
CA. Fletcher	-	Shildon Community Safety Group
C. Devonport	-	Shildon People's Centre
J. Milner	-	Shildon People's Centre
A. Robinson	-	Shildon People's Centre
D. Robinson	-	Shildon People's Centre
T. Robinson	-	Shildon People's Centre
K. Robson	-	Shildon People's Centre
C. Hind	-	Local Resident
J. Younghusband	-	Local Resident
A. Walker	-	Local Resident
J. Graham	-	Local Resident
H. Nicholson	-	Local Resident

**In**

**Attendance:** Mrs. G. Garrigan and Mrs. L. Goundry

**Apologies:** Councillor H. Robinson – Eldon Parish Council

**AF(4)31/07      DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor V. Chapman indicated that he would be declaring a personal and prejudicial interest in Item No : 5 – Shildon Local Improvement Programme Application – Shildon People's Centre as he was a Member of Durham County Council.

**AF(4)32/07      MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> March 2008 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**AF(4)33/07 POLICE REPORT**

Details of the crime figures for February and March 2008 were given:

<u>Type of Crime</u>	<u>February</u>	<u>March</u>
Recorded Crimes	98	86
Sexual offences	1	0
Burglary (Dwellings)	8	3
Burglary (Other)	2	5
Theft of Vehicle	6	2
Theft from Vehicles	6	6
Violent Crime	14	14
Robbery	0	0
Criminal damage	31	40
Shoplifting	14	2
Drugs offences	2	0
Domestic Incidents	28	No figures

*AGREED: That the information be received.*

**AF(4)34/07 SEDGEFIELD LOCAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME APPLICATION - SHILDON PEOPLE'S CENTRE**

**NB : In accordance with Section 81 of the Local Government Act 2000 and the Members Code of Conduct, Councillor V. Chapman declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the above item and left the meeting for the duration consideration of the item.**

Consideration was given to a report of the Assistant Chief Executive regarding the above. (For copy see file of Minutes).

C. Devonport was in attendance to present the application.

He explained that the Centre provided services for the young, older people and people with special needs. It was essential to refurbish the Centre to offer a more flexible service to meet the needs of local people and encourage new users to the Centre. The project aimed to reduce social isolation, increase social inclusion and community engagement through increased participation.

It was reported that funding amounting to £100,803 (98% of the total cost) had been requested to meet the cost of installing an internal lift to enable easier access to the first floor, the erection of a 7m x 7m conservatory, kitchen refit, flooring/carpets, double glazing, new boiler and furniture for the cells and café. The refurbishment work would enable the Centre to provide healthy eating courses, education courses, first aid courses, youth activity, yoga, key fit, mother and toddler, weight watchers, over 60's tea

club and cookery courses. It was noted that 12,536 people had visited the Centre during its first nine months.

Members expressed concern regarding the length of the lease in view of the amount of funding requested. It was suggested that Durham County Council should be approached with the view to obtaining a 20 year lease. It was, however, pointed out that the building could, in future, be gifted to the community.

*AGREED : That the application be supported, subject to the length of the lease being further considered during the appraisal process.*

**AF(4)35/07      DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

To be agreed at the Council's Annual Meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> May 2008.

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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 Mrs. Gillian Garrigan, Tel 01388 816166 Ext 4240, [ggarrigan@sedgefield.gov.uk](mailto:ggarrigan@sedgefield.gov.uk)