

Item 7a

SEDGEFIELD BOROUGH COUNCIL AREA 1 FORUM

Council Chamber,
Town Hall,
Spennymoor

Monday,
25 October 2004

Time: 6.30 p.m.

Present: Councillor J.M. Khan (Chairman) – Sedgefield Borough Council and

Councillor Mrs. A.M. Armstrong	–	Sedgefield Borough Council
Councillor Mrs. B. Graham	–	Sedgefield Borough Council
Councillor M.T.B. Jones	–	Sedgefield Borough Council
Councillor Mrs. C. Sproat	–	Sedgefield Borough Council
Ms. C. Hardy	-	Durham Constabulary
Inspector S. Winship	-	Durham Constabulary
Sergeant S. Steen	-	Durham Constabulary
Councillor E. Foster	-	Durham County Council
Mrs C. Bell	-	Eden Residents Association
Mrs. P. Freeman	-	Eden Residents Association
R. Irving	-	Eden Residents Association
A. Stapleton	-	Eden Residents Association
Mrs. M. Khan-Willis	-	Police Authority
Mrs. E. Croft	-	Neighbourhood Watch
Mrs. M. Fordham	-	Sedgefield PCT
B. Parker	-	Sedgefield PCT
Mrs. G. Wills	-	Sedgefield PCT
Councillor S. A. Fleetham	-	Spennymoor Town Council
Councillor E. Summerson	-	Spennymoor Town Council
J. Smith	-	Tudhoe Community Centre
S. Bowes	-	Tudhoe Grange School
I. Geldart	-	Tudhoe Grange School
R. Jones	-	Tudhoe Grange School
N. Wood	-	Tudhoe Grange School
E. Hodgson	-	Local Resident
E. Mason	-	Local Resident
Mrs. E. Maddison	-	Local Resident
J.A. Ramsey	-	Local Resident
R. Stout	-	Local Resident

Apologies: A. Gray, B.M. Ord, G.W. Scott, K. Thompson and W. Waters (Sedgefield Borough Council)

AF(1)16/04 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST
Members had no interests to declare.

AF(1)17/04 MINUTES
The Minutes of the meeting held on 6th September 2004 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman. (For copy see file of Minutes).

AF(1)18/04

POLICE REPORT

Inspector S. Winship was present at the meeting to give details of crime figures for the area.

<u>Type of Crime :</u>	<u>August 2004</u>	<u>September 2004</u>
Total Crime	107	89
Overall detection rate as percentage	30.8	33.7
Dwelling burglary	6	5
Burglary other	4	3
Vehicle crime	15	9
Criminal damage	38	34
Violent crime	28	17
Theft	30	27

Specific reference was made to the problems caused by the misuse of fireworks and the effect this had on anti-social behaviour. It was explained that the police had an action plan in place and had worked alongside retail outlets to minimise potential problems.

Inspector Winship informed Members that good intelligence was required to reduce the problems associated with fireworks and encouraged the public to report incidents.

Members of the Forum were given details of The Licensing Act 2003. It was reported that the Licensing Act 2003 would transfer the entire role of the administration of Licensing from the Licensing Justices Magistrates Courts to Local Authorities. The Council would therefore become the Licensing Authority in Sedgefield Borough.

Members of the Forum were made aware that Beat Surgeries would be held in Asda and Co-op Supermarkets throughout November, 2004. The surgeries would be advertised when final dates were announced.

AF(1)19/04

SEDGEFIELD PRIMARY CARE TRUST

Gloria Willis, Melanie Fordham and Bob Parker attended the meeting to give an update local health matters and performance figures.

Reference was made to the PCT Third Listening Event which was held on 18th October, 2004 in Newton Aycliffe Youth Centre from 10.00 a.m. to 3.00 p.m. It was explained that this event had been a success with a number of people attending.

With regard to the report, "Achieving Patient Access Targets and Baseline Performance Requirements" it was noted that targets in respect of Access to a GP within 2 working days and a Primary Care Professional within 1 working day had continued to be met. It was explained that under the Access Initiative Scheme, Sedgefield PCT had been awarded £77,600 for the progress made towards improving access across all primary, acute and mental health services. This money had been spent on improving IT services.

With regard to practical development within the PCT, it was reported that five GP's had been appointed and posts for two part time equivalents had been advertised.

Detailed discussion took place in relation to the development of Spennymoor Health Centre under the LIFT Programme.

It was explained that the PCT had partnered with an organisation called Bradford Northern to complete the project.

It was reported that the development of the Health Centre was a highly ambitious and complex scheme and was therefore running approximately ten months behind schedule. Spennymoor Health Centre did however, remain a high priority.

Members were informed that the PCT were carrying out feasibility studies on all development sites. It was anticipated that these results would set the schemes for the next few years.

It was pointed out that public, formal and statutory consultation would be carried out when the feasibility studies were complete.

AF(1)20/04

CRIME AND DISORDER AUDIT

Miss C. Hardy, Community Safety Partnership analyst and Sergeant S. Steen attended the meeting to give an interactive presentation in relation to the above.

Members were informed that the Crime and Disorder Audit took place every three years. The last Audit took place in 2001 and the Sedgefield Borough Community Safety Strategy 2002 – 05 was developed from the findings.

The Sedgefield Community Safety Partnership had undertaken a review of Crime and Disorder between April 2001 and March 2004.

Reference was made to the following: -

Findings

Between 1st April 2001 and 31st March 2004 crime in Sedgefield Borough went up by 10%. This was mainly as a result of changes in the National Crime Recording Standards.

The findings indicated that the majority of crime in Sedgefield Borough was Criminal Damage and Violence against a Person.

Criminal Damage

Criminal Damage had gone up in Sedgefield Borough between 2001 and 2004 by 19%.

Sedgefield Borough had a higher rate of Criminal Damage per 1,000 population than the rest of County Durham and across England and

Wales.

Criminal Damage made up the largest proportion of all crime in Sedgefield Borough.

Theft

Shoplifting in Sedgefield Borough had reduced by 42% since 2001-02. Other theft crimes, such as theft of pedal cycles or cash had increased by 10%.

Violent Crime

In Sedgefield, Violence against a person had risen by 38% since 2001.

This was mainly as a result of the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standards, which had led to a 47% rise in violence against a person across England and Wales.

Vehicle Related Crime

Members noted that theft from motor vehicles had decreased by 1% since 2001 and theft of motor vehicles had decreased by 9%.

It was pointed out that out of 15 Community Safety Partnerships, Sedgefield Borough had the 4th lowest rate of vehicle related crime.

Burglary

Dwelling burglary had reduced by 15% in Sedgefield Borough from 2001 and non-dwelling burglary had reduced by 30%.

Sedgefield Borough had the 4th lowest rate of burglaries when compared to other Community Safety Partnerships.

Anti-Social Behaviour

Members noted that incidents of anti-social behaviour had decreased by 6% since 2001.

Youths Causing Annoyance was the single largest category that made up anti-social behaviour in Sedgefield Borough with 3,310 incidents being recorded by the Police in 2003/04.

It was emphasised that Anti-Social Behaviour was high on the Government's agenda.

Misuse of Drugs and Alcohol

Drugs and alcohol related crime in Sedgefield Borough was low. The majority of crime and anti-social behaviour, however, was linked to drugs and alcohol misuse.

The Government had published a national alcohol strategy to address the impact of alcohol on our communities and Community Safety Partnerships had been asked to consider including the misuse of alcohol within their 2005/08 strategies.

After the presentation, Members of the Forum were asked nine questions which they answered through an Audience Response System.

It was explained that the nine questions would be asked at all five Area Forums throughout Sedgefield Borough and the findings would form part of the strategy for 2005/08.

AF(1)21/04 YOUTH ENGAGEMENT SERVICE

Apologies were received from Michael Robinson from the Youth Engagement Service.

AF(1)22/04 NEIGHBOURHOOD WARDEN STEERING GROUP

It was agreed that Councillor J. Khan be appointed as representative for the above Group.

AF(1)23/04 LOCAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

Consideration was given to the Minutes of the meeting of the Local Strategic Partnership held on 21st July, 2004 (for copy see file of Minutes)

AF(1)24/04 LOCAL ROAD SAFETY ISSUES

Consideration was given to the Minutes of the Spennymoor Road Safety Local Working Party held on 8th July, 2004. (For copy see file of Minutes).

AF(1)25/04 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Monday 13th December, 2004 at 6.30 p.m. in the Council Chamber, Sedgefield Borough Council Offices, Spennymoor.

ACCESS TO INFORMATION

Any person wishing to exercise the right of inspection, etc., in relation to these Minutes and associated papers should contact Miss L. Moore Spennymoor 816166, Ext 4240

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