

Item 10c

SEDGEFIELD BOROUGH COUNCIL AREA 5 FORUM

Town Council Offices
School Aycliffe Lane,
Newton Aycliffe

Tuesday,
25 January 2005

Time: 7.00 p.m.

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

Councillor Mrs. B.A. Clare	–	Sedgefield Borough Council
Councillor V. Crosby	–	Sedgefield Borough Council
Councillor Mrs. A.M. Fleming	–	Sedgefield Borough Council
Councillor R.S. Fleming	–	Sedgefield Borough Council
Councillor G.C. Gray	–	Sedgefield Borough Council
Councillor Mrs. J. Gray	–	Sedgefield Borough Council
Councillor J.K. Piggott	–	Sedgefield Borough Council
Mrs. D. Bowman	-	A.S.K. Dales Neighbourhood Watch
A. Robson	-	Burnhill Residents Association
M. Robson	-	Burnhill Residents Association
Mrs. M.J. Peterson	-	Burnhill Residents Association
M. Tomlin	-	Burnhill Residents Association
Chief Inspector G. Hall	-	Durham Constabulary
PC H. Plews	-	Durham Constabulary
Inspector E. Turner	-	Durham Constabulary
Councillor Mrs. M. Dalton	-	Great Aycliffe Town Council
Councillor Mrs. M. Gray	-	Great Aycliffe Town Council
Councillor Mrs. S. Iveson	-	Great Aycliffe Town Council
Councillor S. Mlatilick	-	Great Aycliffe Town Council
Councillor A. Tomlin	-	Great Aycliffe Town Council
J. Mlatilik	-	Member of the public

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 M. Iveson – Sedgefield Borough Council
Councillor J.P. Moran – Sedgefield Borough Council
Councillor Mrs. E.M. Paylor – Sedgefield Borough Council
Inspector A. Neal - Durham Constabulary
A. Clark - Sedgefield Primary Care Trust
N. Porter - Sedgefield Primary Care Trust

AF(5)23/04 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were given.

AF(5)24/04 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 30th November, 2004 were

confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

AF(5)25/04 POLICE REPORT

Inspector E. Turner was present at the meeting to give details of the crime statistics for the Newton Aycliffe area.

Members noted that the crime statistics were as follows :-

Total Crime	↓	17%
Violent Crime	↓	18%
Sexual offences	↓	59%
Robbery	↓	40%
Burglary	↑	2%
Burglary other	↓	40%
Criminal Damage	↓	19%
Shoplifting	↓	17%
Total Theft	↓	5%
Anti-Social Behaviour	↓	10%

Members were informed of Operation Dulcify, based in the West Ward targeting youths causing anti-social behaviour where a number of Acceptable Behaviour Orders had been issued. Work was also ongoing in partnership with Sedgfield Borough's Tenancy Enforcement Team in identifying problem tenants in the area. Operation Formidable was based within the Town Centre and the Shafto St. Marys Ward where extra police patrols had been enlisted to target shop lifters as well as anti social behaviour.

It was also explained that Off-licence Watch, a new initiative similar to pub watch would be starting in the near future. Shop owners, Police and Sedgfield Borough Council would be working together to combat under-age drinking.

Inspector Turner also pointed out that the telephone number to contact the Police had now changed. The new telephone number was now : 0845 6060365.

AF(5)26/04 SEDGFIELD PCT - PROGRESS UPDATE

P. Irving was present at the meeting to provide an update on local health matters.

It was explained that the PCT had become responsible for the out-of-hours service from 1st December 2004. To aid in the delivery of the service it was noted that three Emergency Care Practitioners posts had been established as well as advertisements being posted for additional GPs and Doctors.

In relation to the integrated team based at Tremeduna Grange at Trimdon Village it was explained that the service was working successfully, therefore four more integrated teams would be developed and implemented around the Borough. It was also planned that within the next financial year an integrated accident and emergency service would also be developed. Members would continue to be updated at future Forums.

It was explained that the Local Development Delivery Plan 2006/2009 was being considered and would need to be finalised within the next few months. More information would be brought to a future meeting.

It was pointed out that the Patient Survey of 2003/2004 had been reviewed and Action Plan compiled that had identified three areas to work, which were:

- Access to GPs,
- Specialist information that needed to be made available during in and out patient appointments, and
- Access and information to dentists within the area.

A number of questions were raised regarding the new roles of Pharmacists as well as the GP Referral scheme held within Sedgefield Borough Leisure Centres and within Audiology Units. It was explained that all questions would be taken back to N. Porter and more information would be brought to a future meeting.

AF(5)27/04 STREETS SAFE INITIATIVE

It was explained that Chief Inspector Hall had been invited to meeting to give a presentation on the Street Safe Initiative and outline the background, aims, themes etc., and some success which had been achieved so far. (For copy see file of Minutes).

Chief Inspector Hall explained that there had been a significant reduction in crime in the area over the last year with a good detection rate. There were more Police officers than ever before and there had been significant achievements in fighting crime. However, despite this the area had one of the highest levels of fear of crime and in particular anti-social behaviour in the country.

The aim of the initiative was for the force to work with the community to address issues of crime, fear of crime, anti-social behaviour and quality of life. The Forum was informed that the initiative aimed to increase reassurance through visibility, accessibility and familiarity. It would recognise the contribution of prevention, investigation and detection of crime with successful apprehension and prosecution of offenders, increase confidence in the judicial system and address anti-social behaviour issues. It was also hoped that it would aid in gathering community intelligence from Residents Associations, use problem-solving initiatives to tackle anti-social behaviour and enhance community engagement.

The initiative had a number of themes including Police presence in the community, environment and physical factors, effective response and communication and public engagement.

For the initiative to be successful, there needed to be partnership working with other agencies such as local authorities, community groups etc.

A video was then shown detailing some of the areas where the initiative had been put in place.

In conclusion the initiative was about being responsive, professional, positive and doing the job properly. Chief Inspector Hall explained that the Forums would be an excellent facility to advertise the initiative and questioned whether the Members of the Forum would agree to continue to receive updates on it. It was agreed that the Street Safe Initiative would continue to be reported at Area Forums.

AF(5)28/04 NAMING OF DEVELOPMENT ERECTION OF 19 DWELLINGS ON LAND OFF BURNHILL WAY/SID CHAPLIN DRIVE NEWTON AYCLIFFE

Consideration was given to a report of the Director of Neighbourhood Services regarding a request received from Broseley Homes Limited to name the above development. (For copy see file of Minutes).

Members of the Forum suggested Merlin Court as a name for the new development.

AF(5)29/04 LSP PARTNERSHIP BOARD

The Minutes of the meeting held on 20th October, 2004 were noted.

AF(5)30/04 NEIGHBOURHOOD WARDEN STEERING GROUP

Mr. M. Robson be appointed as the representative for the Area 5 Forum at the Neighbourhood Warden Steering Groups.

AF(5)31/04 QUESTIONS

Blue Bridge

Members commented on the requirement that the redevelopment of the Blue Bridge needed to be completed to a high standard as it was positioned at the entrance to the town. It was explained that the County Council had started work to make it secure and progress would be monitored.

Burnhill Way

It was pointed out that at its meeting on 27th July 2004 (Minute number AF(5)6/04 refers) a request was issued at the Area 5 Forum regarding the maintenance of trees and shrubs in the above area. It was questioned whether work was planned to start. It was explained that

there were no plans for the immediate future, however, the Town Council would be the best place to submit the request.

Trees at Rylestone Close

Concerns were raised as to the size a number of trees had been allowed to grow to near the above residential area. It was questioned whether the trees could be felled because of their size. It was explained that the matter would be dealt with.

AF(5)32/04 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

15th March, 2005 at 7.00 p.m. at Town Council Offices, School Aycliffe Lane, Newton Aycliffe.

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 01388 816166 ext 4240

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