

Item 9a

SEDGEFIELD BOROUGH COUNCIL AREA 2 FORUM

West Cornforth Community
Centre

Tuesday,
6 November 2007

Time: 6.30 p.m.

Present: Councillor Mrs. C. Potts (Chairman) – Sedgefield Borough Council and

Councillor Mrs. K. Conroy	– Sedgefield Borough Council
Councillor Mrs. P. Crathorne	– Sedgefield Borough Council
Councillor D. Farry	– Sedgefield Borough Council
Councillor T.F. Forrest	– Sedgefield Borough Council
Councillor J.E. Higgin	– Sedgefield Borough Council
Councillor A. Hodgson	– Sedgefield Borough Council
Councillor B. Lamb	– Sedgefield Borough Council
Councillor J. Robinson, JP.	– Durham County Council
Councillor G. Porter	– Durham County Council
G. Muncaster	– Bishop Middleham Parish Council
N. Wiffen	– Bishop Middleham Parish
M. Errington	– Chilton Town Council
Councillor W.R. Wilson	– Cornforth Parish Council
Councillor Mrs. E. Martin	– Ferryhill Town Council
W. Benson	– Durham Constabulary
M. Taylor	– Chilton West Residents Association
J. Weston	– Dean Bank Residents Association
D. Bradley	– Dean Bank Residents Association
G. Hall	– Ferryhill Station Residents Association
C. Heal	– Chilton Partnership
T. W. Garrett	– Ferryhill Partnership
M.D. Watson	– F.A.A.
B. Sheppard	– Ferryhill and Dean Bank Literary Institute
B. Catterall	– Local Resident
D. Waistell	– Local Resident
R. Greenwell	– Local Resident
S. Drew	– Local Resident
G. Barker	– Local Resident
B. Gibson	– Local Resident

Apologies: Councillor B.F. Avery, J.P. - Sedgefield Borough Council
Councillor T. Brimm – Sedgefield Borough Council
Councillor D.A. Newell – Sedgefield Borough Council

AF(2)15/07 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors Mrs. K. Conroy and A. Hodgson indicated that they would be declaring an interest in Item 6 – Application – Dean Bank and Ferryhill Literary Institute- Improvements to the Community Centre. The interest was personal and prejudicial as Members of Sedgefield Borough Cabinet.

AF(2)16/07 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 11th September were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman. (For copy see file of Minutes).

AF(2)17/07 POLICE REPORT

Inspector W. Bentham attended the meeting.

He explained that he was the newly appointed Inspector for the area having recently worked in Bishop Auckland and Newton Aycliffe areas.

It was reported that in relation to crime figures there had been a reduction of around 15% reported incidents.

The crime figures reported were as follows :-

	<u>July :</u>	<u>August :</u>	<u>September :</u>
Vehicle Crime	9	11	12
Violent Crime	30	31	29
Burglary (Dwelling)	7	7	6
Burglary (Other)	5	2	11
Rowdy Nuisance	142	112	159
Sexual offences	3	2	2
Criminal Damage	43	59	51
Damage accidents	12	15	13
Minor injuries	3	1	4
Serious injuries/ death	0	1	0

It was noted that an operation had recently been held in relation to drug dealing in Dean Bank. Arrests had been made and an amount of drugs had been seized. More cases would be forthcoming as a result of that operation.

Discussion was held regarding incidents of anti-social behaviour in various locations throughout Area 2 and Inspector Bentham assured the Forum that the Police were taking steps to deal with the problem. He explained that they were actively targeting a number of offenders to issue Behaviour Contracts and Anti-Social Behaviour Orders. It was, however, recognised that the problem would never been totally eradicated.

Discussion was also held regarding the sale of alcohol to underage youths. Inspector Bentham made reference to Operation Bottleneck, a project which was being run in the West End of Newcastle. He reported that funding was available to run such a project in the area, and within the next few weeks, following the publication of publicity material, etc., a similar project would be starting in the area.

AF(2)18/07

COUNTY DURHAM PCT

Councillor Conroy that she had held discussions with County Durham PCT regarding attendance at Forum meetings. The PCT had indicated that they were unable to send a representative to every meeting of every Forum. However, if there was a specific problem or issue they would endeavour to send the appropriate person to the Forum meeting. It was noted that there was to be a meeting with the PCT on 30th November regarding the proposed Chilton Health Centre.

AF(2)19/07

NAMING OF DEVELOPMENT LAND AT CHURCH LANE, FERRYHILL - BESPOKE HOMES (NE) LTD

Consideration was given to a report of the Acting Building Control Manager (for copy see file of Minutes) relating to the naming of the above-mentioned site.

It was suggested, that as the development was adjacent to St. Lukes Church, it be named St. Lukes Place.

AF(2)20/07

SEDGEFIELD BOROUGH LOCAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME - DEAN BANK AND FERRYHILL LITERARY INSTITUTE IMPROVEMENTS TO THE COMMUNITY CENTRE

NB : In accordance with Section 81 of the Local Government Act 2000 and the Member's Code of Conduct Councillors Mrs. K. Conroy and A. Hodgson declared personal and prejudicial interests in this item and left the meeting for the duration of the discussion and voting thereon.

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

B. Sheppard, Dean Bank and Ferryhill Literary Institute, was in attendance to present the application.

The Forum was reminded that the Area 2 Forum had been allocated £836,000 of LIP Capital Resources between 2006 and 2009. A total of £278,700 had been allocated for the year 2007/8. A number of projects had been supported to the value of £249,855 and there was some additional underspend resulting from last year which would be available to the Area Forum for additional project activities.

It was explained that the project aimed to provide a two storey extension to provide a learning suite. This would involve the re-alignment of the public/emergency staircase. A total of 19.8 sq.mts. additional space would be provided. The project would also create a raised stage in the main hall.

The Forum agreed to support the project.

AF(2)21/07 MAKE A CHILD SMILE

Reference was made to a charity event which had been held to raise money for the above charity. It was agreed that a letter of congratulations be sent to the organisers, Mr. and Mrs. D. Foster.

ACCESS TO INFORMATION

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