

# Item 8a

## SEDGEFIELD BOROUGH COUNCIL AREA 1 FORUM

Conference Room 1,  
Council Offices,  
Spennymoor

Monday,  
10 December 2007

Time: 6.30 p.m.

**Present:** Councillor A. Smith (Chairman) – Sedgefield Borough Council and

Councillor Mrs. A.M. Armstrong	–	Sedgefield Borough Council
Councillor Mrs. B. Graham	–	Sedgefield Borough Council
Councillor A. Gray	–	Sedgefield Borough Council
Councillor J.M. Khan	–	Sedgefield Borough Council
Councillor Mrs. E. Maddison	–	Sedgefield Borough Council
Councillor B.M. Ord	–	Sedgefield Borough Council
Councillor Mrs. E.M. Wood	–	Sedgefield Borough Council
Inspector Bill Bentham	–	Durham Constabulary
Sergeant M. Hall	–	Durham Constabulary
A. Lamb	–	Greenways Residents Association
Councillor Miss. S. Armstrong	–	Spennymoor Town Council
Councillor J. Graham	–	Spennymoor Town Council
Councillor C. Maddison	–	Elected Member Tudhoe/Low Spennymoor Ward, Spennymoor Town Centre
M. Forbes	–	Ox Close Primary School
J. Smith	–	Ox Close Nursery School
I. Geldard	–	UK Youth Parliament
E. Jowett	–	Member of the Public
B. Argyle	–	Spennymoor Resident

### In

**Attendance:** A. Blakemore, Mrs. G. Garrigan, Mrs. L. Goundry and Miss. L. Kitto  
(Sedgefield Borough Council)

**Apologies:**

Councillor C. Nelson	-	Sedgefield Borough Council
Councillor K. Thompson	-	Sedgefield Borough Council
Councillor W. Waters	–	Sedgefield Borough Council
I. Lessiter	–	St. Pauls Gardens Residents Association
D. Gordon	–	Local Resident

### AF(1)21/07 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillors Mrs. A.M. Armstrong, Mrs. B. Graham and J.M. Khan indicated that they would be declaring a personal and prejudicial interest in Item No: 5 - Local Improvement Programme - Application, Ox Close Nursery Parents Room as they were Members of Sedgefield Borough Council Cabinet.

Councillor Mrs. E. Maddison indicated that she would be declaring a personal interest in Item No. 4 – Naming of Development on Land at Whitworth Park, Spennymoor as she was a member of Spennymoor Town Council.

**AF(1)22/07 MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 29<sup>th</sup> October 2007 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman. (For copy see file of Minutes).

**AF(1)23/07 NAMING OF DEVELOPMENT ON LAND AT WHITWORTH PARK, SPENNYMOOR**

**NB : In accordance with Section 81 of the Local Government Act 2000 and the Member's Code of Conduct, Councillors Mrs. E. Maddison declared a personal interest in the above item. She remained in the meeting but took no part in the discussion on the item.**

Consideration was given to a report of the Building Control Manager regarding a request received from Barratt Homes to officially name and number the above development. (For copy see file of Minutes)

Members noted that Spennymoor Town Council had suggested the names of the six miners killed in Whitworth Colliery Pit.

As only four streets needed to be named, Members of the Forum agreed to select the names through a random draw. The following names were drawn:

- Bray
- Morgan
- Nelson
- Rothery

The Forum requested that the remaining two names – Goundry and Lowe be used for other streets, if required.

**AF(1)24/07 SEDGEFIELD BOROUGH LOCAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME - APPLICATION - OXCLOSE NURSERY PARENTS ROOM**

**NB : In accordance with Section 81 of the Local Government Act 2000 and the Members' Code of Conduct, Councillors Mrs. A.M. Armstrong, Mrs. B. Graham and J.M. Khan declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the above item and left the meeting for the duration of discussion on the item.**

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

The Headteacher, Jane Smith, Oxclose Nursery, Spennymoor was in attendance to present the application.

The nursery was requesting funding to provide a purpose-built venue for parents/community use. It would be used for parenting classes, family

learning lessons, confidential meetings, distance learning and informal drop-in sessions. An initial community consultation had been undertaken, which showed an overwhelming positive response to the provision of the Parents room and the ideas on what could be provided as part of the project.

The total cost of the project was £63,835. The amount of funding requested for the project was £43,835. The nursery would contribute £20,000. The revenue costs would be absorbed into the nursery's annual budget.

The Forum agreed to support the project.

## **AF(1)25/07 CRIME AND DISORDER LOCAL PRIORITIES**

Allan Blakemore, Community Safety Manager, gave a presentation regarding the above.

It was explained that Sedgefield Community Safety Partnership was in the process of setting priorities for 2008/09 and was consulting residents on their local priorities.

It was explained that the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 as amended by the Police and Justice Act 2006 imposed a duty on the Council to share data for the purpose of reducing crime and disorder and replaced the three year audit and strategy process with an annual strategic assessment.

The presentation outlined the intelligence driven and national priorities, which were:

- **Domestic Abuse**  
This was identified as a national priority. Two women die every week in Great Britain as a result of domestic violence.
- **Domestic Burglary**  
Domestic burglary was very low in Sedgefield Borough, however residents did have a high degree of fear of being a victim of this particular crime. Borough average is 8.3 burglaries per 1,000 households in 2006/07 compared to the national average of 13 burglaries per 1000 households.
- **Substance misuse**  
Substance misuse related to Class A, B and C drugs, alcohol and smoking
- **Vehicle Crime**  
Vehicle crime relates to the organised stealing of vehicles for resale after changing identification, taking vehicles without owners' consent (better known as "joyriding"), theft from vehicles and vehicle interference.

- **Criminal Damage**  
Criminal damage was the highest record of crime across Sedgefield Borough, usually accounting for 40% of total recorded crime. It was linked to night time economy and anti-social behaviour.
- **Anti-Social Behaviour**  
The usual profile figures were follows:
  - Rowdy and inconsiderate behaviour - 73%
  - Nuisance neighbours - 10%
  - Vehicle nuisance/Inappropriate use - 9%
  - Noise - 3%
  - Street drinking - 2%
  - Animal related problems - 2%
  - Substance misuse - 1%

Questionnaires were then circulated at the meeting for completion. It was pointed out that by providing postcodes on the questionnaires, the Community Safety Partnership would be able to map localised priorities, whilst preserving anonymity. It was noted that the information would be shared with Durham Constabulary to assist in the setting of neighbourhood priorities for action.

**AF(1)26/07**

**POLICE REPORT**

Inspector Bill Benson, Community Inspector for Spennymoor and Ferryhill was present at the meeting to give a report on crime statistics, initiatives and road safety for the area.

The reported crime figures for October and November 2007 were as follows:

	<u>October :</u>	<u>November :</u>
Vehicle Crime	8	10
Violent Crime	14	10
Burglary (Dwelling)	5	7
Burglary (Other)	1	3
Rowdy/Nuisance	127	85
Sexual Offences	2	1
Criminal Damage	43	35

With regard to road traffic accidents the figures were as follows:

Damage only accidents	19	12
Minor injuries	4	8
Fatalities	0	1

Concern was expressed regarding the number of youths drinking alcohol in public places. Specific reference was made to 'Bottlewatch' scheme, which was to be introduced. The scheme, which would hopefully lead to a

reduction of anti social behaviour, involved marking the labels of bottles and cans of alcohol to identify the place of purchase. The Police would then be able to identify the place of sale in respect of any alcohol seized from juveniles. It was noted that quotations were currently being sought for marking the bottles/cans.

The Forum was also given details of Operation Hawkeye and the week of action in Tudhoe, which had commenced that day.

It was noted that thefts from shops had increased in the run up to Christmas and consequently there would be increased police patrols of the Town Centre.

It was reported that it was intended to discuss and set the three neighbourhood priorities for Area 1 at the next meeting of the Forum in February 2008.

**AF(1)27/07**

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Monday 11<sup>th</sup> February 2008 at 6.30 p.m. at Spennymoor Town Hall.

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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, Spennymoor 816166 Ext 4240

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