

Item 13a

SEDGEFIELD BOROUGH COUNCIL AREA 3 FORUM

Concert Room,
Trimdon Labour Club

Wednesday,
9 January 2008

Time: 7.00 p.m.

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

| | | |
|----------------------------|---|----------------------------------|
| Councillor D.R. Brown | – | Sedgefield Borough Council |
| Councillor D. Chaytor | – | Sedgefield Borough Council |
| Councillor Mrs. L. Howvels | – | Sedgefield Borough Council |
| Councillor T. Ward | – | Sedgefield Borough Council |
| J. F. Irvine | – | Clerk to Fishburn Parish Council |
| L. Oliver | – | Trimdon Parish Council |
| L. Cheyne | – | Visitor |

Apologies: Councillor J. Robinson, J.P. - Sedgefield Borough Council
Councillor J. Wayman J.P - Sedgefield Borough Council
Councillor M. Thompson - Trimdon Parish Council
Councillor L. Burton - Trimdon Parish Council
Anne Oliver - Local Resident
Lynne Ackland - Sedgefield Community College
Councillor M. Robinson - Sedgefield Town Council
L. Swinbank - Sedgefield Town Council
D. Waters - Sedgefield Community Association
J. Bowles - Sedgefield Residents Association
Sergeant O'Connor - Durham Constabulary

AF(3)19/07 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST
No declarations of interest were received.

AF(3)20/07 MINUTES
The Minutes of the meeting held on 14th November 2007 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

AF(3)21/07 POLICE REPORT
J. Seymour, the Trimdon Beat Officer, was present at the meeting to give details of the crime figures and local initiatives in the area.

It was reported that the crime statistics were as follows :-

| <u>Type of Crime:</u> | <u>Sedgefield:</u> | <u>Fishburn:</u> | <u>Trimdon Village:</u> | <u>Trimdon Grange/ Trimdon Station:</u> |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------|------------------|-------------------------|---|
| Theft | 8 | 3 | 2 | 4 |
| Criminal Damage | 9 | 7 | 6 | 1 |
| Burglary (Dwelling) | 2 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Burglary (Other) | 2 | 0 | 1 | 4 |
| Assault | 3 | 1 | 2 | 1 |
| Vehicle Crime | 6 | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Rowdy Nuisance Calls | 33 | 12 | 27 | 7 |
| Total Incidents Reported : | 283 | 79 | 104 | 49 |

It was reported that an arrest had been made in relation to dwelling house burglary in Sedgefield and that there had been no significant problems over the Christmas and New Year period.

Members were given details of how to access information concerning crime statistics for the Borough through the GIS system.

A query was raised regarding problems letting a house in Trimdon Grange as a result of problem neighbours. Members were informed that the issue had been resolved.

AF(3)22/07

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 had 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 was 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 recorded 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(3)23/07

QUESTIONS

A query was raised regarding PCT involvement in Area Forum Meetings. It was suggested that a report or briefing sheet be produced if a representative was not to be present at meetings.

It was agreed that the PCT would be invited to the next meeting to discuss GP Surgeries.

AF(3)24/07

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Next meeting to be held on 27th February 2008.

ACCESS TO INFORMATION

Any person wishing to exercise the right of inspection, etc., in relation to these Minutes and associated papers should contact Julie Stubbs Tel 01388 816166 ext 4508 email juliestubbs@sedgefield.gov.uk

