

# Item 13c

## SEDGEFIELD BOROUGH COUNCIL AREA 5 FORUM

Town Council Offices,  
School Aycliffe Lane,  
Newton Aycliffe

Tuesday,  
22 January 2008

Time: 7.00 p.m.

**Present:** Councillor Mrs. D. Bowman (Chairman) – Sedgefield Borough Council and

Councillor W.M. Blenkinsopp	–	Sedgefield Borough Council
Councillor P. Gittins J.P.	–	Sedgefield Borough Council
Councillor G.C. Gray	–	Sedgefield Borough Council
Councillor B. Haigh	–	Sedgefield Borough Council
Councillor Mrs. I. Hewitson	–	Sedgefield Borough Council
Councillor T. Hogan	–	Sedgefield Borough Council
Councillor Mrs. H.J. Hutchinson	–	Sedgefield Borough Council
Councillor Mrs. S. J. Iveson	–	Sedgefield Borough Council
Councillor Mrs. E.M. Paylor	–	Sedgefield Borough Council
Councillor A. Warburton	–	Sedgefield Borough Council
Councillor S. Bambridge	–	Great Aycliffe Town Council
Councillor R. Bowman	–	Great Aycliffe Town Council
Councillor P. Ducker	–	Great Aycliffe Town Council
J.P. Rodwell	–	Agnew Community Association
J.D. Clare	–	Greenfield School and Community Arts College

**In Attendance:** A. Blakemore, S. Barry and Ms. E.A. North

**Apologies:**

Councillor V. Crosby	-	Sedgefield Borough Council
Councillor Mrs. L. M.G. Cuthbertson	–	Sedgefield Borough Council
Councillor Mrs. J. Gray	–	Sedgefield Borough Council
Councillor Mrs. S. Haigh	-	Sedgefield Borough Council
B. Craggs	-	Linden Place Residents Association
Councillors Mrs. B.A. Clare	-	Great Aycliffe Town Council
Councillor Mrs. A. Clarke	-	Middridge Parish Council

**AF(5)19/06 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**  
No declarations of interest were received.

**AF(5)20/06 MINUTES**  
The Minutes of the meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> November, 2007 were confirmed as a correct record.

**AF(5)21/06 POLICE REPORT**  
Sergeant Rogers was present at the meeting to give details of the crime figures for the area.

The figures for November and December, 2007 were as follows :

<u>Type of Crime :</u>	<u>November :</u>	<u>December :</u>
Total recorded crime	160	97
Total violent crime	37	23
Violence against a person	32	21
Robbery	Nil	1
Burglary (Dwelling)	5	3
Burglary (Other)	7	2
Criminal Damage	42	28
Theft of Vehicle	5	1
Theft from Vehicle	8	4
Shoplifting	16	11
Total Theft	54	33
Rowdy Nuisance Behaviour	129	92

Reference was made to the request for information to be given on a ward-by-ward basis. The following information was given :-

<u>Ward:</u>	<u>September:</u>	<u>October:</u>	<u>November:</u>	<u>December:</u>
Silverdale Place	23	37	18	11
Shafto St. Mary	215	204	183	164
West Ward	189	157	171	124
Neville Simpasture	150	140	133	119
Middridge	133	135	102	75
Woodham	66	73	95	67

It was noted that the total number of incidents had fallen from 753 in September to 545 in December.

Reference was made to incidents in the area of Tescos and the Town Centre Park particularly in relation to anti-social behaviour. It was explained that PCSOs did patrol the area and that CCTV cameras were operational in the areas.

Concerns were raised regarding the lack of feedback on reported incidents. The issue had been raised at a meeting of the Police Consultative Group. It was pointed out, however, that the Area Forums were the vehicle for receiving feedback on incidents and raising issues.

**AF(5)22/06**

**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(5)23/06**

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Next meeting to be held on 11<sup>th</sup> March, 2008.

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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 Liz North 01388 816166 ext 4237 email [enorth@sedgefield.gov.uk](mailto:enorth@sedgefield.gov.uk)