

THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING

OF THE COASTAL AREA FORUM

HELD ON WEDNESDAY 30 MARCH 2005

AT POPLAR HOUSE, WELFARE CLOSE, EASINGTON COLLIERY

Present: Representing District Council

Councillor P Stradling (Chair)
Councillors A Burnip, R Burnip, Mrs E Connor,
G Patterson and D Raine

Also Present: Councillor M Robinson – Horden Parish Council
Councillor W B Underwood – Monk Hesleden Parish Council
J Turnbull – Monk Hesleden Parish Council
W S Day – Easington Village Parish Council

Residents: H Archbold, R Williams, T Phillips,
D Graham, N Graham and D Hughes

1. A FOLLOW UP FROM LAST MEETING

(i) Vandalism to Shop in Middle Street

Mr Archbold reported that the problems discussed at the last meeting had been partially addressed and works were ongoing to address the problems.

AGREED that the information given, be noted.

(ii) Underage Drinking/Anti-Social Behaviour

G Davies, a representative from the Police, was in attendance at the meeting and provided details of the action taken to date to address the problems of underage drinking and anti-social behaviour in Blackhall.

A resident expressed concern that the problem of youths congregating and drinking in the streets had not improved.

The Chair advised that a progress report had been expected from the Anti-Social Behaviour Unit in this regard and requested that G Lodge obtained further details from the resident following the meeting and investigate the matter further.

Residents expressed disappointment that the minutes of the last meeting had not been circulated with the agenda.

AGREED that the Police and G Lodge provide a progress report in relation to the anti-social behaviour and underage drinking to the next meeting of this Forum.

2. YOUR QUESTION TIME - YOUR SAY IN SERVICE DELIVERY – YOUR CALL

A resident reported that the speeding problems at Blackhall Rocks continued to which the Chair advised that this issue would be investigated by a representative from Durham County Council.

A resident queried the powers of the Street Wardens to which the Chair advised that details would be provided by the Environmental Health and Licensing Manager at the next meeting of this Forum.

Councillor E Connor explained that the ongoing problems of dog fouling and parking on footpaths in Horden continued. A resident suggested that the Police and the Council provided a policy in relation to parking on footpaths.

The Chair advised that local Ward Members had recently discussed the problem of parking on footpaths at the last Area Forum meeting where the installation of bollards to alleviate this problem was considered. A Member added that a number of kerbs had been dropped in Seaside Lane, Easington.

AGREED that:-

- (i) the information given, be noted.
- (ii) the Environmental Health and Licensing Manager provide details of the powers of the Street Wardens at the next meeting of this Forum.

3. BETTER AREA FORUMS – YOU DECIDE

M Lavender advised that the reasons behind the decision to re-brand the Area Forums was to better engage and consult with the community to obtain their views on issues which directly affected them. Details were provided of initiatives being introduced to better engage with the community, which included youth and the Youth Strategy. The Authority was also looking at focus groups and citizens panels as well as e-government issues, which would allow services to be provided on-line.

It was explained that the Authority proposed to develop a Consultation and Engagement Strategy by the end of September 2005.

It was hoped that in future the Area Forums would be less formal, receive better publicity, be held in more accessible venues, which complied with the Disability Discrimination Act, and the content of the meetings would be relevant to the area it was being held in. The use of voting technology would also be used if available and appropriate.

A resident advised that whilst it was acknowledged that future Area Forums should be less formal, it was felt that the minutes of the previous meeting should be available to all attendees, due to the timescale between meetings, and for the benefit of attendees who had missed the previous meeting.

Following discussion, it was **AGREED** that the minutes of the previous meeting be circulated with the agenda.

4. TOGETHER – REDUCING ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

G Lodge gave a detailed presentation on Anti-Social Behaviour.

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AGREED that the information given, be noted.

5. **GOING GREEN – OUR RECYCLING SERVICE**

Councillor G Patterson gave a presentation on the District Council's recycling service.

AGREED that the information given, be noted.

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