

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE

COASTAL AREA FORUM

HELD ON WEDNESDAY 2 JULY 2008

AT POPLAR HOUSE, WELFARE CLOSE, EASINGTON COLLIERY

Present:

Representing the District Council:

Councillor P. Stradling (Chair)
Councillors R. Burnip, R. Crute,
A.J. Holmes and D. Maddison

Representing the County Council:

Councillor D. Boyes

Representing Parish Councils:

Mr. W.S. Day - Easington Village Parish Council
Councillors W.B. Underwood and Mrs S. Peacock - Monk
Hesleden Parish Council

R. Adey and J. Bowman - Durham Constabulary
R. Moore, J. Moore, E. Kiers and Mr. Stephenson

1. OPENING INTRODUCTION

The Chair welcomed everyone to the Coastal Area Forum.

2. FOLLOW UP FROM THE LAST MEETING AND CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES

(i) Confirmation of the Minutes

The Minutes of the last meeting held on 2 April 2008, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were agreed.

(ii) West Street, Blackhall

Councillor Cox had previously raised installing chicanes on West Street with the County Council. Chicanes were more bulky and evident and a number would need to be installed because of the length of the road, making the parking more of a problem. The overall cost of the chicanes would be impossible to meet from the budget available.

AGREED that the information given, be noted.

(iii) Thorpe Road, Easington Village

The owner of the empty house in Thorpe Road had been contacted and agreed to attend to the rear garden.

AGREED that the information given, be noted.

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(iv) **Dog Bins/Litter on Castle Eden Walkway**

No bins could be provided on the walkway but one had been placed at either entrance. The Coastal Rangers had arranged for a litter pick in the area.

Mr. Moore explained that the bins should be emptied more frequently. P. Penman explained that he would investigate further.

AGREED that the information given, be noted.

(v) **Dog Fouling at Craig Terrace, and Carlton Terrace**

The Environmental Wardens had been instructed to carry out regular patrols in the area.

The Chair asked if anyone had been fined in the area. P. Penman explained that he would investigate this further.

AGREED that the information given, be noted.

(vi) **Bin Store, Blackhall Primary School**

An investigation had been carried out into the erection of a bin store in the grounds of Blackhall Primary School. The resident who it directly affected had been contacted and a solution was now being sought.

AGREED that the information given, be noted.

(vii) **Thorpe Road, Easington Village**

The problem around the school had been allocated to an Officer at Durham County Council but unfortunately he had been on sick leave and no progress had been made.

AGREED that the information given, be noted.

(viii) **Litter - Easington Colliery**

P. Penman explained that litter had been cleaned from outside the fencing although the Council had no jurisdiction inside and this was Rail Track's responsibility. With regard to the graffiti on the viaduct, Ian Hault, the Environmental Services Manager, had contacted Rail Track who had been unable to find a contractor. Before a service notice was issued, a contractor must be available for the works. A contractor had now been identified, therefore, if Rail Track did not action work in the next two months, the contractor would be employed and a service notice served upon them.

Councillor Boyes explained that there was a noticeable difference on the outside of the fence and queried if pressure could be put on Rail Track to clean the litter on the inside of the fence. P. Penman explained that the Council could request them to do it but they did not have a duty to remove it. A complaint would be forwarded to Rail Track.

AGREED that the information given, be noted.

(ix) **Easington Village Green**

P. Penman explained that the Masons Arms had been contacted and were aware of the complaints. If they breached the conditions, the licence could be revoked but evidence was required. The premises licence holder had been reminded that the windows should remain closed and if there were any more queries or complaints, they should be directed to Carol Ridley, Principal Environmental Health Officer at the Council.

Bill Day explained that there were regular complaints about people standing on the footpath with drinks, pedestrians often had to go on the road to pass them. He had been informed that the outside of the Masons Arms was to be re-decorated.

AGREED that the information given, be noted.

(x) **Manhole Cover, Hesleden Road**

Mr. Moore explained that the manhole cover was still not repaired. The Democratic Services Officer advised that the manhole cover had been reported on numerous occasions and a reference number had been given. She explained that she would contact the Highways Action Line for an update on progress.

AGREED that the information given, be noted.

3. **YOUR QUESTION TIME, YOUR SAY IN SERVICE DELIVERY, YOUR CALL**

(i) **Thorpe Road, Easington Village**

Mr. Stephenson explained that he was a resident of Thorpe Road and they were still experiencing difficulties with school children using the gate onto Thorpe Road and had a huge problem with litter along the back street. He explained that their quality of life was deteriorating through the school children and the environmental problem of litter. He had spoken to numerous Officers at the District Council, photos had been taken and promises made but the place was still full of litter and dirty.

Residents often received abuse from the school children at the side of Thompson's Shop. He called upon the local Councillors to help the residents have the gate closed forever. The gate was put in against the wishes of Easington Village Parish Council and residents.

With regard to safety, the road had had seven fatalities, before long someone would be killed. Mr. Thompson did put bin liners on the fence for the children to put their rubbish in but in the back street, there was chewing gum, cigarette ends and litter.

P. Penman explained that the Environmental Wardens had monitored the area. The Pride in Easington team had been into the school to educate the children and the area was cleaned of litter on a regular basis.

P. Penman explained that the area along Thorpe Road was cleaned twice per day and Mr. Thompson had a responsibility within 50 metres of the

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property for the things he was selling. Thorpe Road received as much attention as any other street in the District but he would address the litter in the back street.

Mrs. Kiers referred to the parking on Thorpe Road and explained that vans and cars were often parked on the footpath and they could not see to cross the road.

The Chair suggested that the residents contact their local County Councillors regarding the gate at the school.

AGREED that the information given, be noted.

(ii) **North Terrace, Easington Village**

Mr. Hudson explained that the trees from Doctor Porter's garden were causing a problem when the leaves dropped in the Autumn. He normally picked them up himself but this was becoming more difficult. He also had trees growing out of his chimney. The leaves were causing a problem and the sinks were blocked a lot of the time.

P. Penman explained that the leaves on the road and the path were the responsibility of the Council. He explained that he would ask the Tree Officer to visit Mr. Hudson to carry out an assessment of the area.

AGREED that the information given, be noted.