

THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF THE DISTRICT COUNCIL OF EASINGTON
HELD ON THURSDAY 7 JULY 2005

Present: Councillor Mrs J Maitland (Chair)
Councillors D Armstrong, E Bell,
Mrs G Bleasdale, D Chaytor,
A Collinson, Mrs E M Connor,
R Davison, Mrs J Freak, J Goodwin,
J Haggan, H High, A J Holmes.
Mrs E Huntington, B Joyce, T Longstaff,
D Myers, A Napier, Mrs A Naylor,
C Patching, G Patterson, W R Peardon,
G Pinkney, F Shaw, Mrs B A Sloan,
P Stradling, D J Taylor-Gooby, R Taylor,
C Walker and P G Ward

1. **AIM HIGH-ROUTE BACK**

C Bartley, Project Manager and Anna Lynch, Director of Public Health and Health Development, Easington PCT were in attendance to give a presentation on the Aim High Routeback Project which aimed to assist those on incapacity benefit back into the workplace.

C Bartley advised that the Project was due to commence on 1 October 2005 and finish on 30 September 2007, subject to funding. The project was expected to cost around £1.6m. There would be a multi-disciplinary team of 12 health professionals involved in the project providing a range of services. The project would be open to anyone living or attending a GP surgery in the District and who were claiming incapacity benefits. £0.6m had been secured to date with a further £1m expected on 19 July 2005.

The project's overall aim was to improve the health of the local population by encouraging up to 500 people claiming incapacity benefits to work through a programme of 'condition management' and employment advice. It would aim to place 250 people into work with support for 13 weeks and encourage the take-up of activities such as further education, training or volunteer work. It would promote PCT services throughout the District and provide a vocational rehabilitation service for GP's and health professionals to use for their patients. The project worked with employers inside and outside the District to assist those on the scheme into jobs.

C Bartley briefly outlined the process by which clients accessed the service and how they progressed through the scheme into work.

In response to Members' questions, she advised that it was a voluntary project and they were currently consulting various agencies to help promote it. Leaflets and posters would be placed in GP surgeries and it was hoped that GP's would refer patients. Members welcomed the project which was the first national scheme of its kind and one which would receive a high profile.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

2. **SMOKE FREE NORTH EAST - REGIONAL TOBACCO STRATEGY 2005-2008**

The Chair introduced Claire Mathews, the Coronary Heart Disease Prevention Manager from Easington Primary Care Trust, who was in attendance to give a presentation on the Regional Tobacco Strategy for 2005-2008.

She commenced by explaining that smoking was a major cause of death and disability in Easington. She advised that the North East had one of the highest smoking rates in the country yet smoking was the biggest single preventable cause of premature death.

The Government's target was to reduce adult smoking rates from 26% in 2002 to 21% or less by 2010 with a reduction in prevalence among routine and manual groups from 31% in 2002 to 26% or less by 2010. This emphasised the need for an effective Tobacco Strategy.

At present, Easington had one of the most successful NHS Stop Smoking Services in the country, however, this could only be expected to deliver a prevalence fall of 0.33% to 0.5%. The Strategy's vision was to create a smoke free north east and to reduce smoking prevalence and associated disease, disability and death by preventing the uptake of smoking, encouraging smoking cessation and eliminating exposure to second-hand smoke.

To do this, it was proposed to establish a Tobacco Control Office, encourage lead organisations to influence policy issues, and have effective regional/local networks. It was also proposed to develop the stop smoking services by enhancing the performance of those already in existence, ensuring there was adequate funding, increasing referral rates, improving access and monitoring their success. The Strategy also aimed to reduce the promotion of tobacco in compliance with the national advertising ban, engage the media and support national campaigns, as well as promoting tobacco education. It also aimed to reduce the availability and supply of tobacco by enforcing legislation relating to smuggling.

A Smoke Free North East Office would deliver a region wide comprehensive and co-ordinated tobacco control programme and would support local programmes of work in partnership with relevant agencies. The office would influence regional policy and provide strategic leadership, carry out research, promote a comprehensive media and public relations campaign and deliver on work which was either too difficult or expensive to co-ordinate locally.

Locally, a multi-agency network would be established (Smoke Free Easington) and a multi-agency local Tobacco Action Plan would be developed.

The consultation period on the proposed legislation to restrict smoking in enclosed public places as part of the Choosing Health White Paper would continue up to 5 September 2005 and a public event was to be held on 5 August 2005 at the Glebe Centre, Murton. Further methods of consultation included questionnaires and display stands in public places.

Following discussion, it was **RESOLVED** that the information given, be noted.

3. **THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE DISTRICT COUNCIL OF EASINGTON**

held on 2 June 2005, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were confirmed.

4. **THE MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF THE DISTRICT COUNCIL OF EASINGTON** held on 14 June 2005, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were submitted.

RESOLVED that the information contained within the Minutes, be noted.

5. **TREE PRESERVATION ORDER AT LADYWOOD, DURHAM LANE, EASINGTON VILLAGE**

Consideration was given to the abovementioned report of the Head of Planning and Building Control Services, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member.

The Principal Planning Services Officer advised that the report asked Members to consider whether or not to confirm a Tree Preservation Order (TPO) in respect of land at Ladywood, Durham Lane, Easington Village. This TPO had previously been agreed by Members on 4 November 2004, however, the landowner had not been properly advised at the time and was unable to make representations, therefore the matter was being reported again for further consideration.

The report recommended that the TPO be confirmed. It was considered that the subject trees provided a significant visual amenity within the surrounding area which was of particular importance within a Conservation Area. Furthermore, this amenity value tended to increase over time as trees became more mature. It was therefore considered expedient to make the Order having regard to the amenity value of the trees and having regard to the threat of felling which the trees were under.

Mr Miller, the applicant, asked if any Members had been given a copy of the original application submitted in 2003 and was concerned that he had only just received a copy of the report prior to this meeting.

He then proceeded to outline the series of events. An application had been made to remove the trees on 22 December 2003 and he had no contact from the Council until 2 February 2004 when a letter explained that a temporary Tree Preservation Order had been placed on the trees. He contacted the Council on 9 February 2004 and an Officer had visited his home but could not answer any questions. A site meeting was held on 19 February 2004 and agreement had been reached that if he applied for removal of one tree and no adverse comments were received he would be given permission to remove another. He explained that on 8 March 2004 he received permission to remove one tree. On 8 April 2004 he asked for a meeting with the Principal Planning Services Officer. No further contact was made by the Council despite several telephone calls and messages. He wrote to the Planning Section on 8 July 2004 and a meeting was held in August 2004. When he asked for a review a further visit was made on 20 September 2005 when he was told he would be unlikely to obtain planning permission. He was then advised that the TPO had been made permanent.

Mr Miller explained that he contacted his local Member in December 2004, following no response from the Council.

He then proceeded to outline why he felt that he had been unfairly treated. He stated that it was clear that the application had not been considered, there

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had been a lack of consultation, a failure to respond to him by the Planning Department, a lack of knowledge of the application by the Council, and there had been inconsistencies in the way it had been dealt with.

He asked Members to reconsider the application. He explained that the trees were to be replaced over 15 years and sycamores were not indigenous, were unattractive and were of no benefit to wildlife. He explained that if one tree was removed this would reduce the problems affecting his property. The wall was turning green and it was difficult to walk on the paths around the house. There had been no objections from neighbours. The application was not just to fell the trees but also to replace them with native trees. To conclude he advised that he was prepared to compromise in order to find a way forward.

In response, the Principal Planning Services Officer apologised to Mr Miller for the delays which had been due to workload and staffing issues within the Unit. However, he advised that the original application had been fully assessed. Officers made their conclusions based on the evidence put forward and concluded that the trees should remain on the site. He acknowledged Mr Miller's offer of a compromise but in terms of the TPO he did not feel that this was possible. The TPO either had to be confirmed or rejected. Officers' views were that the impact of the trees was a maintenance issue as they were not causing structural damage. If this had been the case some agreement could have been reached.

Following discussion, it was **RESOLVED** that the matter be referred to the Development Control and Regulatory Panel for consideration and a site visit, and the Panel's decision be reported back to full Council for endorsement.

6. **STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2004/2005**

Consideration was given to the report of the Director of Finance and Corporate Services on the Statement of Accounts for 2004/2005, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member.

It was reported that the Accounts and Audit Regulations issued by Central Government set out the requirements for the production and publication of the Statement of Accounts. It required that the Statement be presented to Members for approval prior to 31 July 2005. The detailed outturn position was reported at the Executive on 5 July 2005 and those details set out in that report had been reflected in the Statement.

That Statement of Accounts had been circulated separately and attached as Appendix 1 to the report was a brief explanation of the purpose of each one.

RESOLVED that the Statement of Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2005 be approved.

7. **CRIME AND DISORDER STRATEGY 2005-2008**

Consideration was given to the report of the Executive Member for Community and Culture on the Crime and Disorder Strategy for 2005-2008, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member.

It was reported that under the provisions of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, Councils were identified as 'responsible authorities' for preparing a three year Crime and Disorder Strategy for their locality. Other responsible authorities

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included the Police, Fire and Rescue Service, the County Council and the PCT. This was the third strategy to have been produced for the District using information from the Crime and Disorder Audit covering the period 2001 to 2004 which identified crime and disorder trends for the District.

RESOLVED that the Easington Crime and Disorder Strategy for 2005-2008 be approved.

8. RACE EQUALITY SCHEME 2005-2008

Consideration was given to the report of the Executive Member for Organisational Development on the Race Equality Scheme for 2005-2008, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member.

It was reported that there was a requirement to revise and publish a Race Equality Scheme every three years and essentially it set out what the Council had achieved to date and provided a three year Action Plan.

A copy of the Scheme was attached to the report for Members consideration.

RESOLVED that the District of Easington Council Race Equality Scheme for 2005-2008, be approved.

9. DISTRICT OF EASINGTON SCRUTINY ANNUAL REPORT 2004/2005

Consideration was given to the report of the Scrutiny Support Manager on the District of Easington Scrutiny Annual Report for 2004/2005, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member.

The Scrutiny Support Manager explained that in accordance with the Council's Constitution, Scrutiny Committees had to report annually to Council on their work and make recommendations for future work programmes. A joint report had been produced on behalf of the four Scrutiny Committees and aimed to demonstrate that the Committees worked together in ensuring that they complemented the strategic work of the Executive and that the corporate priorities and performance targets agreed by the Council were met.

The report detailed the principles behind effective scrutiny within the Council, highlighted the co-ordinating role of the Scrutiny Management Board, reviewed the work undertaken by the Scrutiny Committees during 2004-5, set out the proposed areas of work which formed the future work programmes and proposed further ways which the scrutiny process could be developed.

RESOLVED that the District of Easington Scrutiny Annual Report for 2004/2005, be agreed.

10. PROCUREMENT - TRADING AND CHARGING POLICY

Consideration was given to the report of the Executive Member for Organisational Development on the proposed Trading and Charging Policy, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member.

The report provided an overview of local government trading and charging powers and outlined the considerations in adopting a policy for the Council in the context of the National Procurement Strategy.

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A copy of the Policy was attached to the report for Members' consideration.

RESOLVED that the Trading and Charging Policy, be adopted.

11. FAIRTRADE RESOLUTION

Consideration was given to the report of the Executive Member for Organisational Development which sought approval to a Fairtrade Resolution for the District of Easington, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member.

It was reported that fairtrade covered a range of activities aimed at helping producers and workers in developing countries. The report outlined the benefits of fairtrade together with details of the proposed resolution for Members consideration.

RESOLVED that the Fairtrade Resolution as set out in Appendix 1 to the report, be endorsed.

12. REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES

Nominations were sought for a representative to Easington Council of Voluntary Services Executive Committee.

RESOLVED that Councillor J Goodwin be nominated to sit on the Easington Council of Voluntary Services Executive Committee.

13. TO SEAL DOCUMENTS

RESOLVED that the action taken in affixing the Common Seal to the following documents, be endorsed:-

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| 18718 | Transfer of Part of Registered Title(s) made between EDC (1) and Edward and Denise Harrison (2) relating to 4 Ellesmere Drive, Seaham |
| 18719 | Transfer of Part of Registered Title(s) made between EDC (1) and James Studham Whitehead and Glynis Whitehead (2) relating to No. 36 Moncrieffe Terrace, Easington Colliery |
| 18720 | Transfer of Part of Registered Title(s) made between EDC (1) and Sharon Purvis (2) relating to No. 23 Ennerdale Close, Peterlee |
| 18721 | Transfer of Part of Registered Title(s) made between EDC (1) and Pamela Margaret and Keith White (2) relating to No. 9 Ruskin Crescent, Thornley |
| 18722 | Deed of Variation made between EDC (1) and William Alfred Bennett, Carol Charters, Raymond Davison, Robin John Todd (2) relating to land to the North of Front Street, South Hetton |
| 18723 | Deed of Grant made between EDC (1) and William Alfred Bennett, Carol Charters, Raymond Davison and Robin John Todd (2) relating to land to North of Front Street, South Hetton |

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- 18724 Transfer of Part of Registered Title(s) made between EDC (1) and Michael Gary Monaghan (2) relating to No 72 Dene Villas, Horden
- 18725 Transfer of Part of Registered Title(s) made between EDC (1) and Lisa Marie Glendinning (2) relating to No 109 Oak Road, Easington
- 18726 Transfer of Part of Registered Title(s) made between EDC (1) and Gordon and Susan Carol Banks (2) relating to No 13 Mendip Close, Peterlee
- 18727 Transfer of Part of Registered Title(s) made between EDC (1) and Joy Beverley Garside (2) relating to No 9 Brendon Place, Peterlee
- 18728 Transfer of Part of Registered Title(s) made between EDC (1) and Jacqueline Anne Schofield (2) relating to No 54 Grisedale Road, Peterlee
- 18729 Transfer of Part of Registered Title(s) made between EDC (1) and Harry Sanderson and David Arthur Webster (2) relating to No 27 Newark Close, Peterlee
- 18730 Transfer of Part of Registered Title(s) made between EDC (1) and Janet Ritchie (2) relating to No 29 Jack Lawson Terrace, Wheatley Hill
- 18731 Lease made between EDC (1) and Vanessa Bainbridge and Christopher Keniry (2) relating to Flat No 4 Hulme Court, Peterlee
- 18732 Transfer of Part of Registered Title(s) made between EDC (1) and Clifford and Tracey Morris (2) relating to No 20 Waveney Road, Peterlee
- 18733 Transfer of Part of Registered Title(s) made between EDC (1) and Peter James Pearce and Phillip Pearce (2) relating to No 35 Hawthorn Cottages, South Hetton
- 18734 Transfer of Part of Registered Title(s) made between EDC (1) and David and Diane Cheswick (2) relating to No 32 Ryton Crescent, Seaham
- 18735 Transfer of Part of Registered Title(s) made between EDC (1) and George Michael Mawhinney (2) relating to No 9 Dobson Terrace, Wingate
- 18736 Transfer of Part of Registered Title(s) made between EDC (1) and Doreen Salt (2) relating to No. 199 The Avenue, Seaham
- 18737 Transfer of Part of Registered Title(s) made between EDC (1) and Gaynor Cliff (2) relating to No 74 Cheviot Place, Peterlee
- 18738 Transfer of Part of Registered Title(s) made between EDC (1) and John Richard Head Waller and Amy Waller (2) relating to No

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7 Walpole Avenue, Seaham

- 18739 Transfer of Part of Registered Title(s) made between EDC (1) and Claire Dixon and Trevor Adam McDonald (2) relating to No 21 Rutherford Avenue, Seaham
- 18740 Cancellation of entries relating to a registered charge relating to 39 Paradise Crescent, Easington – Title No DU 134 397
- 18741 Transfer of Part of Registered Title(s) made between EDC (1) and Susan Pollard and Martin Pollard (2) relating to No. 9 Watson Close, Seaham
- 18742 Agreement relating to land lying to North of Front Street, South Hetton between EDC (1) and Redhand Limited (2)
- 18743 Deed of Variation between EDC (1) and Redhand Limited (2) in relation to land to the North of Front Street, South Hetton
- 18744 Deed of variation between EDC (1) and the trustees of South Hetton Community Association (2) in relation to land to the North of Front Street, South Hetton
- 18745 Transfer of part of registered title(s) made between EDC (1) and Trevor and Alicia Croft (2) relating to No. 95 Yoden Road, Peterlee
- 18746 Transfer of part of registered title(s) made between EDC (1) and Ian Scothern (2) relating to No. 62 Charters Crescent, South Hetton
- 18747 Transfer of part of registered title(s) made between EDC (1) and Andrew and Pauline Mullender (2) relating to No. 93 Wordsworth Avenue, Wheatley Hill
- 18748 Transfer of part of registered title(s) made between EDC (1) and Dawn Headford (2) relating to No. 47 Elliot Road, Peterlee
- 18749 Transfer of part of registered title(s) made between EDC (1) and Kevin Paul and Elsie Gladys Whitehead (2) relating to No. 117 Bruce Glacier Terrace, Shotton Colliery
- 18750 Transfer of part of registered title(s) made between EDC (1) and Maureen Starling (2) Relating to No. 52 Conyers Crescent, Horden
- 18751 Transfer of part of registered title(s) made between EDC (1) and Edwin and Carol Ann Liddle (2) relating to No. 5 Watkin Crescent, Murton
- 18752 Transfer of part of registered title(s) made between EDC (1) and Terrence and Claire Suggitt (2) relating to No. 33 Beech Grove, Trimdon Station
- 18753 Transfer of part of registered title(s) made between EDC (1) and John Phillip and Andrea Dodsworth (2) relating to No. 32 Beech

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Grove, Trimdon

- 18754 Transfer of part of registered title(s) made between EDC (1) and Allan James and Denise Ashby (2) relating to No. 16 Rydal Crescent, Peterlee
- 18755 Transfer of part of registered title(s) made between EDC (1) and Kevin Michael and Kate Ellen McCarthy (2) relating to No. 11 Toft Crescent Murton
- 18756 Transfer of part of registered title(s) made between EDC (1) and Francis Carr (2) relating to No. 14 Eastlea Road, Seaham
- 18757 Transfer of Part of registered title(s) made between EDC (1) and John Thomas English (2) relating to No 46 Quinn Square, South Hetton
- 18758 Transfer of Part of registered title(s) made between EDC (1) and Clair and John Rutherfords Sturdy (2) relating to No 25 Fern Crescent, Seaham
- 18759 Transfer of Part of registered title(s) made between EDC (1) and Graham Brack (2) relating to No 6 Tempest Road, Seaham
- 18760 Order under Section 21 of the Town Police Clauses Act 1847 for the Prevention of Obstruction of those streets set out in the Order – 2 July 2005 Parade from Shotton Community Centre to Shotton Community Park

JE/KA/COM/DIST/050801
9 August 2005