

TEESDALE DISTRICT PARISH FORUM
Meeting held at Teesdale House, Barnard Castle
MONDAY 20 OCTOBER 2008
(6.30 – 9pm)

Present:

Teesdale District Officers:

R Bowles	Assistant Chief Executive
M Dennis	Chief Governance Officer
C Carter	Engagement Manager
M Wilson	Partnership Assistant
G Robinson	Democratic Services Officer

Teesdale District/Parish:

B Harrison	(Barnard Castle West)
JR Watson	(Barnard Castle West/Barnard Castle TC)
P Ryman	(Etherley/Etherley PC)
M English	(Evenwood, Ramshaw & Lands/Evenwood & Barony PC)
KJ Hodgson	(Gainford & Winston/ Gainford & Langton PC)
JM Salter	(Ingleton/Ingleton PC)
GK Robinson	(Lynesack/Lynesack & Softley PC)
R Betton	(Middleton-in-Teesdale)
AJ Cooke	(Streatlam & Whorlton/Stainton & Streatlam PC)

Parish:

M Wheeler	(Barnard Castle)
S Hugill	(Evenwood & Barony)
B Nicholson	(Evenwood & Barony)
P Wilson	(Forest & Frith)
S Platten	(Gainford)
H Plant	(Ingleton)
H Dick	(Romaldkirk)
E Chicken	(Staindrop)
C Trevor	(Whorlton & Westwick)
D Kinch	(Whorlton & Westwick)
M Taylor	(Winston)

Other:

K Tuck	(Durham Constabulary)
M Peace	(Durham Constabulary)
C Knox	(Durham Constabulary)
E Baker	(Community Safety Partnership)
J Simpson	(Durham Primary Care Trust)
S Owens	(Teesdale Local Strategic Partnership)
S Ragg	(County Durham Association of Local Councils)
W Roberts	(Northern Echo)
T Brookes	(Teesdale Mercury)

1 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillors GM Richardson (Hamsterley & South Bedburn/South Bedburn PC), PM Charlton (Cockfield/Cockfield PC), DAR Forster (Cotherstone with Lartington/Cotherstone PC), O Hedley (Staindrop), A Smith (Evenwood, Ramshaw and Lands), I Findlay (Forest & Frith)

2 MINUTES

That the minutes of the Parish Forum meeting held on 21 July 2008 were received

3 NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM

Councillor Tony Cooke addressed the meeting on the work undertaken by the Overview & Scrutiny Environment Panel to investigate pavement obstruction by cars. The Overview & Scrutiny Committee was currently working on a review and the recommendations will be published soon. Councillor Cooke also addressed the issue of pavement obstruction by refuse wheelie bins: a meeting had taken place between members of the Environment Panel and Street Care Services, and it was reported that this issue was now resolved.

Inspector Kevin Tuck, Durham Constabulary, updated the forum on the anti social behaviour issues and underage drinking in Staindrop. The issue were raised on 21 July 2008 at the Parish Forum and the Police agreed to tackle the problems in Staindrop as a priority. Inspector Tuck stated that meetings had been held with the Parish Council, Youth Workers and Residents. Since 22 July 2008 there had been 138 Police patrols, 3 alcohol seizures and 1 arrest. There had been a successful media campaign and it was felt that this issue need no longer be prioritised.

Also at the July meeting of the Parish Forum, it was agreed that underage drinking on the Scar Top be prioritised by the Police. Inspector Tuck stated that there had been 160 Police patrols, 29 alcohol seizures, 1 warning and 2 arrests (the arrests were not in connection with young people). There were a number of successful organisations within the town which play a major role for involving young people such as Teesdale Community Resources, YMCA and the Rugby and Cricket Clubs. Inspector Tuck believed that generally young people are well behaved and a credit to Teesdale. In 2006/07, 53 incidents per 1000 population occurred in Teesdale compared to the 123 across the force areas 2007/08, 49 incidents per 1000 population compared to 104 across the force areas and, so far for 2008/09, 25 incidents per 1000 population in Teesdale compared to the 54 across the force area.

Inspector Martin Peace, Durham Constabulary, addressed the Forum on the use of Quad/Motor Bikes in Evenwood. To tackle the issues, a press release had been issued, further patrols of the area by both foot and car, and funding had been sought from the Community Safety Partnership to fund a police bike to patrol the area. There had been 6 instances of using a vehicle anti socially and 1 seized vehicle. Inspector Peace reported that no further calls had been reported on the log and it was felt that this issue need no longer be prioritised.

The Police were thanked for the work undertaken in Staindrop, Barnard Castle and Evenwood.

New Issues raised:

- Barnard Castle town centre – Dealing with increased alcohol misuse, anti social behaviour, domestic violence in the run up to Christmas
- Commercial Vehicles parking on Footpaths
- Mis-use of mobile phones whilst operating agricultural vehicles in Hutton Magna
- Barnard Castle Market Day (Wednesday & Saturday) – Traffic issues. Parking on cobbles, removing bollards etc

AGENDA ITEM NO: 5(vii)

- Speeding in Gainford
- Householder parking restrictions in Evenwood
- Bottleneck scheme – Tackling underage drinking in Evenwood/Etherley area
- Speeding in Ramshaw
- Mud on Highways

Following a final round up, it was agreed that the Barnard Castle town centre issues in the run up to Christmas and the bottleneck scheme in Evenwood/Etherley area would be priorities to be dealt with by the police. Teesdale District Council would tackle the traffic problems associated with the Wednesday and Saturday Market. The Police agreed to monitor speeding through Ramshaw as it was time specific and parking issues in Shirley Close, Evenwood. Inspector Tuck emphasised that all issues would be monitored and action would be taken as necessary.

4 PARISH COUNCIL MATTERS

Local Government Reorganisation

Steve Ragg, Executive Officer, County Durham Association of Local Councils, and Rachel Bowles, Assistant Chief Executive, Teesdale District Council, provided members with an update following the Area Action Partnership consultation events. The discussion ensued around the area and functions of the AAPs and the future of the Parish Forum and Local Strategic Partnership. Rachel Bowles informed the Forum that further consultation was planned for October/November to seek the views of the Parishes within the North East of Teesdale as to which AAP they wish to come under i.e Teesdale or Bishop Auckland. A report would be prepared for the Durham County Council Cabinet in January which would cover the final geography and governance arrangements.

Parish Representation on the Local Strategic Partnership

The Chief Governance Officer presented a report which asked the Forum to consider nominations, which had been received from Parish Councils for representation to sit on the Local Strategic Partnership (LSP). At the 2008 annual meeting of the LSP it was agreed to increase Parish representation from 5 to 10. The District is sub-divided into five geographical areas, with each area allocated two places on the LSP Board.

AGREED:

Barnard Castle

- (1) That Tony Cooke be appointed
- (2) That Barnard Castle Town Council be invited to appoint a second representative

Upper Teesdale

- (3) That Harry Dick (Romaldkirk) and Gaynor Taffurelli (Mickleton) be appointed
- (4) That Liz O Sullivan (Mickleton) be a substitute member for this area

Eastern

- (5) That David Kinch (Whorlton & Westwick) and Mike Taylor (Winston) be appointed
- (6) That Simon Platten (Gainford & Langton) be a substitute member for this area

Southern

- (7) That the Parish Councils in this area be invited to submit nominations

Gaunless Valley

- (8) That David Wallace (Lynesack & Softley) and Arnold Smith (Evenwood & Barony) be substitute members for this area.

AGENDA ITEM NO: 5(vii)

(9) That a ballot be undertaken among Parish Councils in this area to determine which two of the other four nominations be appointed to the LSP

Maintenance of Public Footpaths in Rural areas

Councillor Tony Cooke presented a report which addressed concerns surrounding the care and maintenance of public pavements and footpaths in Teesdale. The Overview & Scrutiny Environment Panel obtained evidence of the problem by undertaking site visits and arranged a meeting with the Durham County Council Area Traffic Engineer. The recommendations will be published as part of the review – unauthorised parking and obstruction of the pavements, use of and the provision and maintenance of footpaths/pavements.

Funding for Dropped Kerbs

David Kinch (Whorlton & Westwick) informed the Forum of funding which is available for Parish Councils to install dropped kerbs. Parish Councils interested in securing funding should contact Simon Owens, Chair of the Local Strategic Partnership, or Keith Jameson, Durham County Council Area Highways Engineer.

6 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Monday 16 February 2009 at 6.30pm.