



East Durham Trust
Moving our community forward

Murton Agenda for Action

The venues in Murton and South Hetton were the only feasible locations for the meetings, being the main or only community venues in those locations. The venue at Seaham was chosen as central locations including the Leisure centre were unavailable. However the spread of attendees and the take up of the offer of free transport at the event proved that holding the meeting in a less than central location did not present too much of a barrier.

Marketing and publicity

The meetings were advertised using a variety of methods, as outlined below:

- **Press releases** – to Peterlee Mail, Sunderland Echo, Northern Echo etc
- **Mailshots** – a letter was sent to all previous Neighbourhood Forum attendees as well as all Parish/ Town councillors in the areas concerned.
- **Canvassing support from Trust members** – members of East Durham Trusts engagement team spoke to members in each of the locations to secure their support and to ask them to pass on the word to others.
- **Advertising** – an ad was placed for two consecutive weeks in the Seaham and Houghton Star
- **Leafleting** – local community contacts in each location helped to spread the word by distributing leaflets to local contacts and by displaying a publicity poster in community venues/ pubs/ doctor's surgeries.

Format for the meetings

People were asked to arrive at the Glebe Centre for tea and coffee at 6.00pm, and were able to sit at any one of a number of tables around the room. An external facilitator gave an outline of how the event would work. Trust and DoE staff were on hand to facilitate and feed back when the group broke up into small groups to list their priorities. The external facilitator then summed up the feedback/ key priorities. The itinerary was:

- 6.00 Arrival
- 6.10 Malcolm Fallow: Introduction, welcome and purpose of the meeting
- 6.15 Facilitator: What we think we know about things to improve in Seaham / Murton / South Hetton now
- 6.35 Small groups: Ideas and areas where a real difference can be made in the next year

- 6.45 Collecting the ideas together and suggesting the top priorities
- 7.30 Sharing our views with the whole group
- 7.45 Facilitator: summing up, explaining how things will work, what will happen next and who to contact
- 8.00 Malcolm Fallow/ Facilitator: thanks to those who attended, close of meeting

Attendance

At the Murton event approximately 25 people attended and of these 9 left their contact details in order to be kept up to date with progress with the *Agenda for Action*. The age range at the event was varied, with a good attendance from young people thanks to assistance from Groundwork East Durham. Again, in terms of gender the audience was fairly evenly split. There was a significant presence from local councilors and community activists, but some new faces, particularly young people.

Outcomes – The Broader Statements

As a medium sized neighbourhood, the priorities in Murton were a mixture of wider regeneration issues (which cannot fully be tackled in a short time period by an *Agenda for Action*), and very specific locality issues which were unique to the area. The overall regeneration issues are listed below and the specific issues follow which make up Murton's Agenda for Action follow on the next page.

- Better provision for young people – more access and more choice of activities
- Environmental improvements – park & other recreation area
- Upgrading of retail provision in the area
- Improved transport links
- Increased police presence
- Affordable housing



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- Improve range of activities and diversions for young people, including access to a youth worker, better volunteering opportunities, and somewhere for them to go (suggestions included a skateboard park and BMX track)
- Upgrade the current park to improve the range of activities (linked to above) – including swings, football pitches etc.
- Development at Woods Terrace to improve retail provision – including establishing a retailers forum for local retailers, promotion of local produce, and improvements to shop fronts.
- Transport service to Durham/ Peterlee more closely linked to working times and college times.

- Police presence to be increased, including use of CCTV around Woods Terrace and a more obvious presence on Friday nights.
- Create affordable housing and improve the mix of housing in Murton – not just Wimpy Homes.