

THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF THE MURTON NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM
HELD ON MONDAY 24 NOVEMBER 2008

Present: Mrs A Naylor (Chair)
Councillors A Napier
and C Patching

Officers: S Arkley – District of Easington
P Penman – District of Easington
J Malcolm – District of Easington
Inspector V Addison – Durham Police
J Murphy – LSP Manager
K Scott – Street Warden
K Green – Groundwork East Durham

Also Present: Mrs A Cowley – Murton Parish Council
Ms E Farrelly OBE – resident
F Thompson – Sunderland Echo

Apology: Councillor Mrs J Maitland

1 **THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING** held on 22 September 2008, a copy of which had been circulated, were **AGREED**.

2 **MATTER ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

(i) **Footpath – Calvert Tce, Murton
(Minute No. 3(ii) refers)**

J Malcolm advised that the Council and the Police had been asked by Durham County Council to provide evidence of the problems being experienced by the residents of Calvert Terrace in relation to anti-social behaviour at the pathway/cut, as discussed at the last meeting. A meeting involving the District of Easington, the Police, Durham County Council's Rights of Way Officer and Anti-Social Behaviour Co-ordinator, together with local Members was to be held on Thursday 25 November 2008 to discuss the request to stop up the footpath.

He added that he had kept the residents up to date with progress.

AGREED that the information given, be noted and a further update be provided at the next meeting.

3 **MURTON AGENDA FOR ACTION**

(i) **Improve Range of Activities for Young People**

S Arkley advised that the Head of Housing had contacted Acumen Trust and was liaising with the Council's Estates Section to identify a suitable property in Woods Terrace. Once a property had been identified a Business Plan would be drawn up.

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In the meantime he suggested that some consultation sessions be held with Murton Young People to establish what facilities they would like to be provided. K Green suggested that this could be undertaken at their regular Tuesday night meetings.

It was acknowledged that in view of local government reorganisation there was a need to progress the matter as quickly as possible.

A Cowley asked what measures would be taken to ensure that the project would be sustainable, particularly as any available funding was likely to be for a limited period. S Arkley advised that funding would be available to provide youth workers and acknowledged that there was some uncertainty about sustainability of the project in the future. It was therefore important to have a robust business case.

K Green added that it was also important that the young people were aware at the outset that the scheme was dependent upon a strong business case and available funding.

With regard to the provision of a multi-use games area, P Penman stated that following investigation into possible sites it was considered that the most suitable location was the area of land at the rear of the Glebe Centre. The Welfare Park was considered unsuitable because it could not be used in the winter months due to the lack of lighting.

In relation to the proposals for a multi-purpose community sports facility at the Welfare Park, A Cowley advised that the layout had been agreed and consultation would now be carried out with young people on the type of facilities to be provided. The District Council had offered to provide sports sessions and the Parish Council were liaising with P Irwin from the District of Easington on this. S.106 funding was to be utilised towards the cost of the development.

AGREED that the information given, be noted and an update be provided at the next meeting.

(ii) **Problem of Underage Drinking**

Inspector V Addison advised that no crimes had been reported at the Welfare Park since the last meeting but that there had been some incidents of underage drinking at weekends. The Police had been actively patrolling that area.

He continued that there had been a rise in minor youth related misbehaviour at Short Grove, Murton. J Malcolm advised that this related to a single incident over one weekend which had been resolved by the PCSOs and Street Wardens and there had been no further problems.

Over the last year Seaham policing area, which included Murton, had seen a 10% reduction in crime and a 5% increase in detection rate. In addition, the last quarterly survey showed significant improvement in performance relating to the public perception of anti-social behaviour.

To conclude he asked if there were any other areas that residents considered to be a priority for police focus.

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Ms Farrelly stated that speeding traffic through Murton was a concern, particularly by the cenotaph. Inspector Addison advised that he would refer this to the Road Policy Unit.

A further problem was the positioning of the pinchpoints. Inspector Addison advised that the pinchpoints had been successful in slowing traffic but he would refer the concerns expressed about how they were positioned to Maxine Stubbs, Traffic Management Officer from Durham Police.

AGREED that the information given, be noted.

JE/MA/com murtonnf/081101
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