

TEESDALE DISTRICT PARISH FORUM
Meeting held at Teesdale House, Barnard Castle
Monday 19 November 2007
(6.30 – 9.00 pm)

Present:

Teesdale District Officers:

S Reay	Deputy Chief Executive
P Graham	Planning Policy Manager
R Bowles	Assistant Chief Executive
M Dennis	Chief Governance Officer
T Watson	Director of Regeneration
C Carter	Engagement Manager
E Baker	Community Safety Co-ordinator
D Harris	Democratic Services Assistant

Teesdale District/Parish:

PM Charlton (Cockfield)
AJ Cooke (Stainton & Streatlam)
DAR Forster (Cotherstone)
KJ Hodgson (Gainford and Winston)
GM Richardson (South Bedburn)
GK Robinson (Lynesack & Softley)
JM Salter (Ingleton)
JR Watson (Barnard Castle)
P Ryman (Etherley)
O Hedley (Staindrop)
JH Fergus (Gainford and Winston)

Parish:

M Burningham (Middleton/Newbiggin)
J Campbell (Lynesack & Softley)
I Findlay (Forest & Frith)
D Kinch (Whorlton & Westwick)
A Overfield (Etherley)
CT Trevor (Whorlton & Westwick)
J Bee (Hamsterley)
R Thompson (Cotherstone)
P Wilson (Forest & Frith)
S Lee (South Bedburn)
H Raine (South Bedburn)
JM Maughan (South Bedburn)
E Steele (Staindrop)

Other:

K Tuck (Durham Constabulary)
J Morton (Durham Constabulary)
C Reeves (Durham Constabulary)
S Basterfield (National Neighbourhood Policing)
L Hardy (Partnership Unit Durham Constabulary)
S Owens (Chair, Teesdale LSP)
C Bage (Fire & Rescue Service)
M Dunn (Fire & Rescue Service)
K Jameson (Durham County Council Highways)
P Weighell (Teesdale Mercury)
A Allen (Barnard Castle Vision)

1 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Keith Watson (Startforth), Suzanne Herbert and Andrew Nicholson (Eggleston), Helen Plant (Ingleton), David Blackie (Teesdale/Barnard Castle), Keith Stansfield (Teesdale).

2 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR

It had been agreed at the meeting on 23 July 2007 (Minute 2.2) that a Parish representative would be appointed as Chair of the Parish Forum. Voting procedures were clarified and Mike Taylor, Chair of Winston Parish Council, was nominated and appointed as Chair of the Parish Forum. Councillor Taylor took the Chair.

3 APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIR

It had been agreed at the meeting on 23 July 2007 (Minute 2.2) that a Parish representative would be appointed as Vice Chair of the Parish Forum. Nominations were received for Elizabeth Steele (Staindrop) and Wendy Withers (Gainford). A vote was undertaken and Wendy Withers was appointed as Vice Chair of the Parish Forum.

4 MINUTES

The minutes of the Parish Forum meeting held on 23 July 2007 were received.

5 PARISH ITEMS AND NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM

Neighbourhood Forum

It had been agreed at the meeting on 23 July 2007 (Minute 2.9) that up to 30 minutes within each Parish Forum be set aside, on a trial basis, for discussion of matters of community concern, thereby fulfilling a Home Office requirement upon Durham Constabulary to set up Area Forums within each locality. Inspector Kevin Tuck introduced colleagues from Durham Constabulary and representatives from the Fire Service, Durham County Council Highways Department and the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership. At this meeting, the Police were seeking to identify a range of current community issues, from which to select 3 key priorities for action. From issues put forward, the three key priorities identified were:

1. Cockfield: anti-social behaviour in the centre of the village in the evenings.
2. Etherley: estate – a survey undertaken locally had identified that a high proportion of some age groups were afraid to go out after dark.
3. Barnard Castle: graffiti problem.

These priorities would be actioned by the Police, in conjunction with other appropriate authorities, and reports on progress would be brought back to the next and future meetings of the Parish Forum.

Other issues raised by Parish representatives were:

- Stainton and Streatlam: no white lines in place following resurfacing of Gypsy Lane and use of this road by vehicles over 7.5 tonnes
- Winston: travellers at the entrance to the village in bigger numbers and over an extended period – villagers felt threatened
- Staindrop: travellers at Beck Side – increased drug use and criminal activity over an extended period
- Ingleton: request for crime figures to be supplied, broken down into wards
- Barnard Castle: indiscriminate use of fireworks and cycling on footpaths

Stainton and Streatlam issues were referred to DCC Highways (Keith Jameson). Staindrop travellers' issues were referred to the Traveller Working Group. Winston travellers' issues were already under consideration and

finance was being sought from the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP) for target hardening. The CDRP agreed to supply crime figures for the Ingleton Ward on a regular basis. The Police notified action taken in relation to HGV use of Gypsy Lane, and the fireworks/pavement cycling issues.

Parish Issues

Parish Council representatives expressed concern at the decision taken by Teesdale District Council to discontinue sending paper copies of plans, which had to date been posted out to them, notifying them of planning applications submitted which fell within their Parish. The Planning Department had notified Parishes that, in future (from the New Year) this information would be available electronically, in line with current efficiency and performance measures and e-government directives. Trevor Watson, Head of Regeneration, explained that currently 86% of planning applications were received electronically and could be viewed on the District Council website, and that future developments would see a fully electronic planning application system. Parish representatives expressed concern that some Parishes would be unable to handle the electronic system at this stage due to technology problems and training issues and Trevor Watson explained that the Planning Department would give what help it could in this matter, including e-mailing out files of a manageable size. It was agreed that the matter would be reconsidered by the District Council and that a response would be sent to Parishes by January 2008.

6 LOCAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

Colin Carter, Engagement Manager, gave a verbal update on the Sustainable Community Strategy, which was currently under consultation and almost completed. The vision had been amended in line with the Local Development Framework and four priorities identified: People, Prosperity, Environment and Access to Services. Theme groups would now be tasked with building action plans and the Strategy would be launched in early January. Information on current developments could be found on the website, which formed part of the Teesdale District Council website: www.teesdale.gov.uk

Some Parishes had enquired about the possibility of developing their own Parish page on the website, and it was reported that this would be possible. One Parish representative had joined the Partnership and there was still space for four more Parish representatives. Anyone interested should contact Colin.

7 BARNARD CASTLE VISION UPDATE

Anne Allen, Assistant to the Barnard Castle Vision, gave a verbal update on the Barnard Castle Vision. The business case and associated funding had been approved by One NorthEast and an implementation plan was under development, building on the strengths and key assets of the town and taking into consideration the interests of the community. Although the funding would be spent on capital projects in Barnard Castle, the need for wider economic benefit was recognised. The process of identifying where to direct investment would be ongoing throughout the 20-year Vision, and comments were invited via the website, freephone, or e-mail:

Web - www.barnardcastlevision.co.uk

E-mail – info@barnardcastlevision.co.uk

Freephone: 0800 107 6542

A copy of the Barnard Castle Vision brochure is enclosed for your information.

8 LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK UPDATE

Pat Graham, Planning Policy Manager, gave a Powerpoint presentation on the two major pieces of planning work currently under consultation,

- Teesdale Development Framework: Core Strategy Issues and Options
- Affordable Housing: Supplementary Planning Document (SPD)

Copies of the presentation are attached for your information.

9 SUMMING UP

As the Police consultation (Neighbourhood Forum) had been agreed on a trial basis, the Chair requested feedback on how it had worked on this first occasion. Representatives felt that it had worked well and were comfortable with the balance of the meeting.

10 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 4 March 2008 at 6:30 pm.

PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The change (from Monday 10 March) has been made to enable the meeting to take place during the week of CPA inspection.