

TEESDALE DISTRICT PARISH FORUM
Meeting held at Teesdale House, Barnard Castle
Tuesday 4 March 2008
(6.30 – 9.00 pm)

Present: M Taylor (Winston), Chair

Teesdale District Officers:

P Wilding	Interim Deputy Chief Executive
R Bowles	Assistant Chief Executive
M Dennis	Chief Governance Officer
T Watson	Director of Regeneration
G Hutchinson	Assistant Director (Environmental Services)
G Robinson	Democratic Services Officer

Teesdale District/Parish:

R Betton	(Middleton-in-Teesdale)
JR Watson	(Barnard Castle West/Barnard Castle TC)
P Hughes	(Greta/Bowes PC)
M Clark	(Etherley/Etherley PC)
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)
O Hedley	(Staindrop)
AJ Cooke	(Streatlam & Whorlton/Stainton & Streatlam PC)

Parish:

M Wheeler	(Barnard Castle)
I Moorhouse	(Cotherstone)
S Hugill	(Evenwood & Barony)
A Nicholson	(Eggleston)
I Findlay	(Forest & Frith)
P Wilson	(Forest & Frith)
S Platter	(Gainford & Langton)
J Bee	(Hamsterley)
C Peacock	(Hamsterley)
D Bottoms	(Hutton Magna)
H Plant	(Ingleton)
J Cronin	(Middleton in Teesdale)
JM Maughan	(South Bedburn)
S Lee	(South Bedburn)
E Steele	(Staindrop)
J Rowlandson	(Stainton & Streatlam)
D Kinch	(Whorlton & Westwick)

Other:

K Tuck (Durham Constabulary)
C Reeves (Durham Constabulary)
G Osborne (Durham Constabulary)
E Turner (Durham Constabulary)
S Owens (Chair, Teesdale LSP)
W Roberts (Northern Echo)
S Laundry (Teesdale Mercury)
A Allen (Barnard Castle Vision)

A Dinwiddie (Aladin Enterprise)
G Buckley (Audit Commission, CPA Inspection Team)
S Wishart (Audit Commission, CPA Inspection Team)

1 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from C Trevor (Whorlton & Westwick PC), R Thompson (Cotherstone PC), D Forster (Cotherstone with Lartington/Cotherstone PC), K Stansfield (Etherley/Etherley PC), K Nicholson (Evenwood & Barony PC), PM Charlton (Cockfield/Cockfield PC)

2 MINUTES

The minutes of the Parish Forum meeting held on 19 November 2007 were received.

3 NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM

Inspector Kevin Tuck, Durham Constabulary updated the Forum on the work undertaken in relation to the Cockfield Anti Social Behaviour issue which was identified as a priority at the last Parish Forum. The Police have been able to make real progress because of the time and location specifics. Since 21 November 2007 there have been 224 patrols which have resulted in a number of arrests and cautions. The Co-op has improved CCTV and has worked closely with the Police to deal with the problems in and around the forecourt. £5,000 has been funded towards a youth shelter and financial support also given to the youth club. Inspector Tuck requested to keep the Cockfield issue as a priority for another 3 months.

Inspector Chris Reeve, also from Durham Constabulary, addressed the Etherley, Redhouses Estate issue. The Police have been working closely with the Parish Council and from the start of the year up to 25 February 2008 no reports of Anti Social Behaviour on the estate were made (this period was generally fairly quiet). Inspector Reeve requested to keep this issue as a priority for another 3 months to see if the lighter nights and warmer weather had any part to play in the level of Anti Social Behaviour. Groundwork still have work to complete on the Youth Programme and a survey is to be undertaken with Highways to look into Street Lighting.

Gary Hutchinson, Teesdale District Council, Assistant Director: Environmental Services made a presentation which illustrated how the graffiti incidences had been tackled. Most were now cleared, although continued monitoring would still be carried out.

New Issues raised:

Gainford: Speeding, Illegal parking

Staindrop: Horse racing on Moor Road Staindrop and in the Wackerfield area

Cotherstone:Litter on main road (to Barnard Castle)

Following a final round-up, it was agreed that the anti-social behaviour problems in Cockfield and Etherley (Redhouses) would continue to be prioritised by the Police; the District Council would deal with the litter problem; whilst the Police would step up action to deal with the horse racing (Staindrop area) and investigate the traffic problem raised in Gainford.

4 PLANNING APPLICATIONS: NOTIFICATION TO PARISH COUNCILS

Trevor Watson, Director of Regeneration addressed concerns which were raised at the Parish Forum held on 19 November 2007 regarding notification of planning applications to Parish Councils. Trevor informed of the intention to

run another training event for Parish Councils with Planning Portal, subject to there being sufficient interest. Some Parish Councils which had attended the training felt more confident about dealing with applications electronically. Trevor explained the Council was committed to stepping up electronic and on-line communication but recognised issues such as broadband availability. He hoped the Council and the Parishes could work together through these issues.

5 BROADBAND IN TEESDALE

Anne Allen, Barnard Castle Vision and Alastair Dinwiddie, Aladin Enterprise gave a presentation on the progress of the project, funded as part of the Barnard Castle Vision programme, to increase broadband connectivity throughout Teesdale. Alastair (project manager) explained that 92% of Teesdale would be able to receive broadband once the work was complete. A number of pockets of non-availability would, however, still remain and it was hoped that further funding would be available to tackle these areas. The work is to begin early in the new financial year and it is anticipated that the work will take a year.

6 AN ENHANCED ROLE FOR PARISH COUNCILS

Rachel Bowles, Assistant Chief Executive led the Forum through a presentation which provided information around the work to be carried out by the Areas and Participation workstream of the LGR implementation programme. The workstream has only met once, so far, so is very much in the early stages. A number of questions were asked particularly around the involvement of Parish Councils in the process. Rachel explained consultation would not commence properly until after the May elections once the new Council had been elected and had given a policy steer to the process. A copy of the presentation is attached.

7 LSP UPDATE

Rachel Bowles, Assistant Chief Executive gave an update on the Teesdale Partnership (LSP). The Sustainable Community Strategy had been approved through Full Council. Rachel can provide information on the 7 Theme groups to anyone who wishes more detail on any. There are 5 places on the LSP for Parish Councillors, 4 of the places have been taken so far. If anyone would like to take the last place on the LSP please contact Rachel Bowles for more information.

8 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Monday 21 July 2008 at 6.30pm

Further meetings in 2008/09 are on 20 October 2008 and 16 February 2009.