

**THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE  
REGENERATION SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**HELD ON MONDAY 23 JUNE 2008**

Present: Councillor D. Raine (Chair)  
Councillors Mrs. E.M. Connor,  
H. High, A.J. Holmes, Mrs. B.A.  
Sloan, D.J. Taylor-Gooby and C.  
Walker

Also Present: Mr. & Mrs. Jones

1. **THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING** held on 2 June 2008, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were confirmed.
2. **THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE** held on 10 June 2008, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were submitted.

**RESOLVED** that the information contained within the Minutes, be noted.

3. **PUBLIC QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION**

The Chair welcomed Mr. & Mrs. Jones to the meeting.

Mrs. Jones explained that she lived in Alexandrina Street and there had been a lot of plans for regeneration in Seaham. There had been a new Asda store built and other improvements along the seafront but there had been nothing done on the south side which included the Ropery Walk and Alexandrina Street areas. She had spoken to local Members on numerous occasions and they had advised that nothing could be done until the area around the docks had been developed. A housing development had been agreed on the Dock Company site and it was proposed to erect a 6' high fence around it. There was only one entrance in and one exit which she felt could be a hazard for emergency vehicles. The development would be isolated and not integrated into the surrounding area.

In 1994, £175 million had been earmarked for the regeneration of Seaham but none of that funding had been expended in the south of Seaham. The area she lived in had been neglected and she paid her Council tax just like any other person in the town.

Councillor Walker explained that he had particular responsibility for Urban Renewal in Dawdon. The money that had been made available for that area needed to be expended there. Ropery Walk and Roberts Square had some minor improvements and he knew it was the intention for regeneration in that area but did not know any details.

Mr. Jones queried if the section below the bridge on the 'Yellow Brick Road' was going to be dropped down. Councillor Walker explained that there was to be a new walkway and it would be renewed.

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Mrs. Jones explained that she had contacted the Council on numerous occasions over the years and Durham County Council would be shortly taking over the area and she was concerned that the regeneration would cease.

The Chair explained that there were no Officers in attendance who could answer the questions in any detail and invited Mr. & Mrs. Jones to the next meeting.

**RESOLVED** that relevant Officers be invited to attend the next meeting to answer Mr. & Mrs. Jones' queries.

### **4. FEEDBACK FROM SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT BOARD**

At the last meeting of the Scrutiny Management Board held on 16 June 2008, the following issues were discussed:-

**Minutes of the Peterlee Regeneration Member Panel - 24 January 2008**

**Minutes of the Seaham Regeneration Member Panel - 26 March 2008**

**RESOLVED** that the information given, be noted.

### **5. SERVICE UNIT PERFORMANCE REPORTING - ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND LICENSING**

Consideration was given to the report of the Environmental Health and Licensing Manager which provided information on the performance of the Commercial Enforcement and Licensing Teams, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member.

Work in the Environmental Health and Licensing Unit was divided according to teams. The report provided details on the Commercial and Enforcement Team which included food safety and infectious disease control, food premises inspection, complaints relating to food safety or food premises, cases of food related infectious disease and outbreaks of infectious disease, health and safety at work enforcement, inspection of premises for health and safety, complaints relating to health and safety, notifications of workplace accidents, pollution control, authorised process inspections, assessment of local air quality, investigation of pollution, noise and public health complaints from commercial and industrial activities and contaminated land assessments and consultations.

The report also detailed the work of the Licensing Team which included taxis, the Licencing Act 2003 and the Gambling Act 2005.

J. Benson explained that the number of noise complaints had increased but this was in part due to the building of the new college in Peterlee. The company had requested, through the planning process, for an extension to their working hours which had generated more complaints.

A Member referred to the smoke free legislation and queried what happened to businesses who did not comply. J. Benson explained that the Council had adopted the national policy. If anyone was caught smoking on the premises the first time a warning and advice would be given, the second time, a written warning and the third time there would be a prosecution or a fixed penalty notice would be issued.

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A Member referred to riding establishments and nuisance created outside the stables and queried if they were registered under licensing. J. Benson explained that the Council could enforce health and safety at riding establishments and the Licensing Team provided a licence but were not responsible for nuisance from them once they were on the highway.

The Environmental Health and Licensing Manager explained that there had been a number of complaints in surrounding villages regarding horse manure. Legislation was different to dog fouling and the only thing the Council could do was clean up the roads.

A Member explained that the horse traders would be in Seaham very shortly and queried what legislation was available to control them. The Environmental Health and Licensing Manager explained that if a site was used on a regular basis, then they would need planning permission. If it was once per year, then they did not need permission. The Council could only be pro-active with the Police and Street Wardens to monitor and tidy up after the event.

Members queried if shops playing music needed a licence. J. Benson explained that if it was not for entertainment then a licence was not required, although the traditional pub just selling alcohol had widened and entertainment was more part of it which would be a condition on the licence. Complaints and statutory nuisance monitoring were considered and the Council had a duty on health and safety standards for staff hearing. A project was commencing shortly relating to noise at work and some premises would have a noise meter installed.

A Member referred to the performance indicator ENV10 and queried why this had been discontinued. J. Benson explained that the scheme looked at heart disease where the three areas were diet, smoke and menu. Smoking was now outlawed in closed premises so the award was not relevant. The PCT were looking at a new award based on diet and menu choice.

The Chair thanked the Officers for their report.

**RESOLVED** that the information given, be noted.

### 6. **ANY ADDITIONAL URGENT ITEMS OF BUSINESS**

In accordance with the Local Government Act, 1972, as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985, Section 100B(4)(b) the Chair, following consultation with the Proper Officer, agreed that following item of business, not shown on the Agenda, be considered as a matter of urgency.

### 7. **MOMENTUM : PATHWAYS TO HEALTHCARE - CONSULTATION (AOB)**

The Scrutiny Support Manager explained that Councillor D.J. Taylor-Gooby had attended the Momentum Stakeholder event at Hartlepool and his report had been circulated to Members.

Councillor D.J. Taylor-Gooby explained that he was unhappy about the event. The Executive Member for Health and Janet Higgins, Initiative Officer also attended. There were no senior NHS Officers in attendance and the issues what concerned the Council were not allowed to be discussed ie. better facilities in East Durham and transport. The map showing the proposed locations for the new hospital did not even show Easington. The Council must make sure there were proper facilities in the community before district hospitals were closed.

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The Scrutiny Support Manager explained that the Head of Overview and Scrutiny at Durham County Council had attended a previous meeting regarding the formal consultation process. A protocol had been developed and a joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee had been established comprising representatives from Stockton, Hartlepool, North Yorkshire and Durham County Council. The Head of Overview and Scrutiny would like to attend a future meeting to provide a formal update on the consultation process.

**RESOLVED** that the Head of Overview and Scrutiny at Durham County Council be invited to a future meeting.

JC/CB/COM/RSSC/080601  
25 June 2008