

**THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE  
SOUTH HETTON NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM  
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 12 NOVEMBER 2008**

Present: **Representing District of Easington:**

Councillor R.Davison (Chair)  
Councillor R.J. Todd

Councillors Mrs. J. McCreath and  
C. Charters - South Hetton Parish Council

Insp V. Addison and Sgt R. Smith - Durham Constabulary

**Residents:**

F. Monk, M. Rodgers, J. Clementson, S Ryall

1. **CHAIR'S INTRODUCTION**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting of the District Council's South Hetton Neighbourhood Forum and introduced himself and the Officers present.

2. **THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING** held on 23 July 2008, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were agreed.

3. **SOUTH HETTON AGENDA FOR ACTION**

(I) **Traffic Congestion Around South Hetton Primary School**

Inspector Addison explained that a news letter and a leaflet had been distributed at the school. The PCSO's had continued to monitor the area and the roads were passable with care. The situation was not perfect and there were always problems where schools were located on narrow side roads.

Mrs. Clementson explained that the problem had been exacerbated by the temporary traffic lights. Mr. Monk explained that his wife had remarked that there was not as much traffic around the school as previous and had improved to some extent.

The Chair commented that if the traffic lights were taken away from Frederick Terrace and blocked off, then this could help. Michele MacCallum from Durham County Council explained that a progress meeting was to be held on Friday and she would raise the issue of closing off Frederick Terrace. It had been very difficult to co-ordinate the works.

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

## South Hetton Neighbourhood Forum - 12 November 2008

### (ii) **Improved Pedestrian Safety on A182**

Michele MacCallum explained that an environmental scheme had been developed which would address as many of the points of concern in the Agenda for Action. Funding had been available for environmental improvements and they were trying to create a village centre feel through changing lighting columns, road surface and tree planting. This would lend character and give the village a centre.

An event had been held in the Robin Todd Centre which showed the options available and it had been unanimous that a controlled crossing was required. There were a number of stumbling blocks including design issues, traffic and funding. External funding had now been secured from Urban 2. The level of public pressure had been very important in securing the funding, together with Councillors input, the petition and strength of the feeling of the residents of South Hetton. A puffin crossing was agreed on 24 October 2008, by Durham County Council and the traffic engineers had now placed the order. The crossing would be installed before Christmas.

Councillor Todd explained that a traffic survey had been carried out which showed that the average speed of traffic was 37mph. With a faster traffic flow there was a longer warning needed to change the lights which made the project more expensive.

Michele MacCallum explained that the anti skid surface would not be installed until the following Spring as this was weather dependent. Temporary signs would be installed advising motorists that there was a new crossing in operation. Because the crossing was adjacent to a junction this would need to be monitored to ensure that the traffic was not driving too fast out onto the A182. If this was the case, then other traffic calming measures may be required on the side roads.

Councillor Todd explained that Regents Court had a very wide radius and therefore traffic came out of the junction very fast. Michelle McCallum explained that there would be improvements made that would reduce visibility to the right, therefore, slowing the traffic down.

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

#### 4. **IMPROVED FACILITIES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE**

J. McCreath explained that a meeting had been held in October regarding the employment of youth workers and a follow up meeting was to be held on 25 November at 1.00pm. A questionnaire had been compiled and at present she had approximately 40 that had been completed. Groundwork East Durham may be able to help temporarily until funding was applied for.

The Chair commented that the lights on the shelter were still not working.

**AGREED** that the lights on the shelter be referred to Officers for investigation.

## **South Hetton Neighbourhood Forum - 12 November 2008**

### **5. REVITALISE THE POND AND GENERAL CLEAN UP**

The Chair advised that no progress had been made with this issue as the owner had been unable to be contacted.

It was explained that the land was owned by Mr. Frain, Mount Pleasant Farm which was located on the road into South Hetton.

**AGREED** that S. Arkley be requested to contact Mr. Frain.

### **6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

#### **(i) Mural on Health Centre**

R. Davison referred to the mural on the Health Centre and explained that it was deteriorating quickly and beyond repair. A group from the Robin

Todd Centre were looking for support from other organisations. The Arts Department at the District Council had explained that a permanent solution could be to make mosaics and engage an artist to redraw something on the mining theme.

A letter of support had been written by the Parish Council, the guides and brownies and he would like any support from other organisations. All representations should be made to the Heritage Group at the Robin Todd Centre.

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

#### **(ii) School Travel Plan**

Michele MacCallum explained that the School Travel Plan had been developed to look at reducing congestion around schools through shared journeys, walking to school and cycling to school. This had now been approved by the County Council. Mr. Ryall explained that finance had been secured at the school for a shelter for childrens bikes.

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

#### **(iii) Horses**

Councillor Todd explained that he was still very concerned regarding the numbers of horses being ridden through the village. He had received a lot of complaints and an e-mail from a resident in Charters Crescent because some of the horses were being ridden on the footpaths and were out of control.

The owners from Snippersgate Riding School seemed to be allowing horses to ride through the village and it was felt that there would be an accident very shortly.

It was suggested that Environmental Health be contacted to ascertain what powers were available to the Council.

**AGREED** that Environmental Health be contacted to ascertain the Council's powers regarding horses.

## **South Hetton Neighbourhood Forum - 12 November 2008**

### **(iv) Re-cycling**

S. Ryall explained that he was concerned regarding the waste collection and in particular re-cycling. The re-cycling was only taken away on a two weekly basis and he felt that this should be more regular than the green wheelie bin.

Councillor Todd explained that the Districts all used different systems and methods of collecting re-cycling and household waste and this would be looked at as part of the new unitary authority.

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

JE/CB/COM/SHNF/081102

17.11.08