

**THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
WEST AREA FORUM
HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 7 SEPTEMBER, 2005**

Present: **Representing the District of Easington**
Councillor M Nicholls (Chair)
Councillor G Wharrior

Representing Parish Councils
G Wilson – Thornley Parish Council
M Goyns – Wheatley Hill Parish Council
M J Nicholls – Wheatley Hill Parish Council
B Nutter – Castle Eden Parish Council

Also Present: L O'Donnell – Durham County Council

1 CHAIR'S COMMENTS

The Chair welcomed everyone to the District Council's West Area Forum and introduced himself and the Officers present. A representative from the Customer Services Section was also present to take any individual queries or problems at the end of the meeting.

2 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the last meeting held on 20 April, 2005, were confirmed.

3 YOUR QUESTION TIME, YOUR SAY IN SERVICE DELIVERY, YOUR CALL

(a) **Thornley**

(i) **Travellers – Hartlepool Street**

Councillor G Wilson, Thornley Parish Council, stated that there were a number of travellers currently living in Thornley.

A Morgan, Street Warden, advised that the PCS Officer for the area, D Taylor was aware of the travellers and was monitoring the situation.

Councillor G Wharrior advised that the travellers were also using the skip located behind Hartlepool Street South. The skip was full and had been reported a number of times but had still not been emptied.

Councillor G Wilson advised that O Sherratt, Director of Community Services was aware of the problem and would be able to provide an update on the situation.

AGREED that the matter be referred to the Director of Community Services to investigate and reply direct to Councillor Wilson.

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(ii) **Demolitions/Flooding – Thornlaw North**

Members were advised that the proposed demolitions in Thornlaw North would shortly be completed and it was hoped that this would generally improve the appearance of the area.

It was pointed out that the new housing site at this location had also experienced flooding.

AGREED that the information given, be noted.

(iii) **31-33 Shinwell Terrace**

Councillor G Wilson queried what the current position was regarding the car parking problems being experienced at 31-33 Shinwell Terrace.

AGREED that the matter be referred to the Director of Community Services to investigate and reply direct to Councillor Wilson.

(b) **Wheatley Hill**

(i) **Litter**

Councillor Mrs M Goyns, Wheatley Hill Parish Council, expressed concern at the amount of litter and rubbish in Wheatley Hill, particularly at the entrance of the village. It was explained that recent grasscutting had exposed large amounts of litter and rubbish, which had previously been hidden by the grass. There had also been a large amount of hay and straw scattered on the roads and paths throughout the village. Councillor Goyns explained that a Lengthsman had recently been appointed to work between the villages of Wheatley Hill and Thornley however, it appeared that this service had now been withdrawn.

The Chair confirmed that the services of the Lengthsman had been withdrawn, which was why the rubbish had built up. Councillor G Wharrior explained that the Lengthsman had been re-deployed to deal with fly tipping problems.

AGREED that the matter be referred to P Penman to investigate.

(ii) **Amenity Bins – Doctor's Surgery**

Councillor Mrs M Goyns, Wheatley Hill Parish Council, reported that the locks on the amenity bins at the Doctors Surgery had been removed.

J Lane, Environmental Co-ordinator for Waste Management, advised that the amenity bins should be locked at all times. She explained that it would be useful to see if the bins were still being used since the introduction of the kerb it scheme.

AGREED that the information given, be noted and J Lane carry out further investigations.

(iii) **Bottle Banks**

Councillor G Wilson advised that Thornley Catholic Club had requested bottle banks to be located in the club car park. J Lane advised that bottle banks could not be used for trade waste and it would be against the law to locate them at the Catholic Club. Thornley Catholic Club would need to set up a Trade Waste Contract with either the District Council or a private company to have amenity bins located in the car park.

The Chair advised that Wheatley Hill Workingmens Club had a bottle bank in the club car park, which was never emptied. J Lane agreed to investigate why the bin was not being emptied and explained that the club must have either a Trade Waste Contract with the District Council or a private company.

AGREED that J Lane carry out further investigations as to why the bottle bank at Wheatley Hill Workingmens Club was not being emptied.

(c) **Castle Eden**

(i) **Walkway**

Councillor B Nutter, Castle Eden Parish Council, explained that a number of years ago horses were granted access to use the walkway for a trial period of six months following which the situation would be reviewed. However, since that time no further report had been forthcoming.

The Chair advised that the Officer dealing with this matter was not present at the meeting but gave an assurance that Councillor Nutter would receive an update.

Councillor L O'Donnell provided background information in relation to the walkway and the eight public rights of way in the west of the District. It was explained that discussions were underway to possibly divert and close some of the public rights of way and leave one open. It was pointed out that the population in Castle Eden had doubled in the last two years and it was only a matter of time before a child came to some harm on the A19.

AGREED that the matter be referred to K Mullender to reply direct to Councillor Nutter.

(ii) **Litter**

Councillor B Nutter, Castle Eden Parish Council, expressed concern at the amount of litter in and around Castle Eden. In particular on the A19 lay-by, the slip road off the A19 to Castle Eden and the Blackhall to Castle Eden road.

J Lane advised that the slip road off the A19 belonged to the Highways Agency and the responsibilities for the different areas identified would need to be investigated.

Councillor Nutter queried if signs could be erected at the lay-by advising motorists not to leave litter.

AGREED that the matter be referred to P Penman.

(iii) **Recycling**

Councillor B Nutter, Castle Eden Parish Council, advised that there were no facilities within the District to recycle plastic and queried if the District Council would be introducing a scheme to recycle plastic.

J Lane advised that the District Council were restricted to what household refuse it could recycle and explained that there was a shortage of available plant to recycle plastic. Durham County Council were in consultation with a company in Scarborough which was the nearest recycling plant for plastic. One of the problems associated with the recycling of plastic was the large volume of space that was needed to hold the material and the fact that it weighed very little. It was hoped that the District Council would be in a position to introduce a scheme in the future.

AGREED that the information given, be noted.

4 STREET WARDENS

Representatives from the District of Easington Street Wardens Service were present at the meeting and provided an update on the villages in the west of the District.

AGREED that the information given, be noted.

5 WASTE MANAGEMENT

J Lane, Environmental Co-ordinator for Waste Management provided an update on the Green Waste Recycling Scheme which had commenced in April. It was explained that the scheme had been well received and it was intended to expand it throughout the whole of the District next year.

Members were advised that the District Council were currently reviewing its lists of elderly and disabled residents who required assistance with wheeled bins. It was explained that the Authority would be distributing a letter to all residents currently held on the list asking if they still required the service.

J Lane provided an update on the Kerb It Scheme and explained that there had been an increase in recycling. The District Council had recently introduced an incentive scheme whereby each month ten names were pulled at random from the Electoral Register and any three names that used the black recycling bin were given a £50 prize for recycling.

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Councillor L O'Donnell queried if there was an information leaflet that explained the various schemes which had been outlined. J Lane advised that there wasn't one particular leaflet that outlined all the schemes but this was something that could be investigated further.

AGREED that the information given, be noted.

6 CRIME AND DISORDER STRATEGY 2005/2008

G Lodge, Senior Community Safety Officer gave a presentation on the District Council's Crime and Disorder Strategy 2005-2008.

AGREED that the information given, be noted.