

Bedlington Forum



A Community in Partnership

Minutes of the meeting held on 12th December 2012 at the Salvation Army, Hartford Road, Bedlington.

Present:

Brian Oliver – Chair
Margaret Oliver – Secretary
Keith Dalton – FoGP
George Webster – FoGP
PC Neil Nevens – Northumbria Police
John Masters – Bedlingtonshire CoT
8 Residents.

Malcolm Robinson – Vice Chair
Joe Henderson FoGP
Irene Webster – FoGP
Larry Roberts – BDT
Susi Robertson – NCC Locality Officer
Alison Germany – HMCTS

1. Welcome and Introductions

Apologies

Cllr Tracy Aynsley; Cllrs Alyson & Alex Wallace; Peter Basnett; Colin Heathcote; County Councillor Val Tyler; Russell Hogg; Richard Wearmouth.

The minutes were accepted as a true record.

2. Matters Arising & Chairs Updates

- The chair informed the meeting that Meadowdale Academy had delayed their grant application which was to fund a Multi-use games area (MUGA), because they had been advised that due to other on-going applications submitted in our area for similar ventures, now was not a good time to apply.
- The chair explained to the meeting that he and Malcolm Robinson had been asked to give a short presentation about the working of the NCC's Area Committee at a Voluntary and Community Sector Alliance (VCS) meeting. As a result Paddy Gascoigne of NCC has been invited to the next VCS Alliance meeting to give a talk on his work with the Area Committees.
- BKO gave a brief update about the on-going heritage work on Bedlington's Front Street.
- No further information had been found as to why test drilling had taken place in fields near Nedderton.

3. Police Update (PC Neil Nevens)

- Pubs and clubs are being checked for underage drinkers, Neil informed us the JJ pub on Front Street West had closed, but a new operator looked lightly to re-open the premises soon. There had been a problem with a particular public house in Bedlington Station. (The same problem pub had also been brought to the attention of County Councillors at the last Area Comm. meeting) The police are working with the licensing authority on this issue.
- Number of minor incidents including, thief of money from the former police, stones being thrown which resulted in a women being badly cut by broken glass when the stone thrower smashed the shop window. A TV was stolen from Barrington Cottages.
- The chair informed the meeting of a new very convincing scam called the 'Green Tax' The bogus caller tells the occupier that this new tax comes into force in April 2013...and goes on to say that if any household appliances (such as fridges, washing machines, freezers etc.) does not meet this new (imaginary) target of 'A' rating (energy efficient) the householder faces an additional rates charger for each item that is not so efficient starting April 2013. This check is also said to apply to loft insulation, double glazing, cavity wall insulation etc. The caller then asks for access to the property to check their appliances.....DO NOT LET THEM IN.....IT'S A CON, contact the police immediately.

- There is currently a postal scam where the occupants receives a note to say there is undelivered mail and to just ring a specific number for more info....if the number is called it costs the caller £250.00!

4 Alison Germany, Deputy Clerk to the Northumbria Justices.

- Alison started by asking those present what they thought the key qualities were to become a magistrate, which made for some good answers from all present. She then went on to explain the responsibilities of a magistrate. Alison went on to say that when they are 'sitting' they are advised by others who know the law. The courts are open to the public to attend and watch the proceedings, however there are certain types of cases where the public are not allowed within the court room (closed family sessions). Each magistrate must do at least 26 sessions a year, but the average at the Bedlington courts is around 40 – 42.
- 95 to 98% of all prosecutions are dealt with at a magistrate court, the Crown Courts take the more serious cases. There are national sentencing guide lines for everyone to use, anyone can access these guidelines.

5. South Northumberland Radio Group (SNRG) update

- As Colin Heathcote was ill BKO read out the update.
- Sorry I couldn't make this evening's meeting. Since the last Forum meeting in October we have worked hard to raise money for the next 28-day Restricted Service Licence broadcast and the planned five-year full time licence.
- There are several funding applications which are under consideration from public and private sources and we remain ever hopeful that we'll get the help we need to continue our work for the benefit of residents in Bedlington and all of south east Northumberland. Colin Heathcote

6. Bedlingtonshire Development Trust (BDT) update (Malcolm Robinson)

- Building project is tentatively back on the drawing board after an encouraging phone call. I have put quite a lot of work into this one now, fingers crossed for a result, one way or another!
- Had the meeting with English FA re..Gallagher Park.....For 40 minutes I had the offer of up to £500,000 on the table for developing football facilities in Gallaher Park. Unfortunately BVAL interjected and told the FA rep, who had come up from London to talk to me, what they are trying to put together at Bedlingtonshire High School. In a nutshell if their plans come off there should be new modern football facilities, along with lots of other sporting infrastructure, in Bedlington shortly and as they don't need a huge grant off the FA to do them guess which project got FA backing! A word of caution here, that will depend on a housing development on land which is now part of the school.
- We did win the Queen Elizabeth 11 Playing Fields best supported Park. Working on a video! Just had a NCC press call today, seems when something is a success everyone wants to jump on the bandwagon!
- I mentioned a manufacturing project the DT was exploring at the last Forum, just heard we got the money from a Dragons Den type presentation I did to develop the prototype!
- Got the Heritage Lottery Funding I applied for. Malcolm then handed out a flyer. With Leading Link we will be rolling out an ambitious and varied programme of deliveries aimed at exploring Bedlington's rich history and heritage. There will be a fully interactive mobile exhibition, that is being built right now, and people will be encouraged to add to it with their own stories or whatever medium they want to use. The Trust will put together a digital history of Bedlington, narrated by a well-known local figure. There will be 3 events associated with this project throughout next year and everyone will be encouraged to take part in them. One is very public and we have meetings with Police and NCC to organise that. As it is we went from 2 local schools agreeing to take part to about 8 now I think! I have had meetings with Newcastle University and will be offering students courses in professional research techniques, amongst others, through them. We will also be working with Woodhorn Museum and their archives and we will take students there too. This is all about celebrating Bedlington's unique heritage and showing everyone why we all should be proud of our history and culture. Hopefully that will rub off as a bit more civic pride and respect!
- I said I would be putting up the video I showed at our last meeting on You Tube...problems...there could be safeguarding issues so that's parked to one side at the moment!
- Still trying to access funding for more IT courses but it does look encouraging.

See also via link below:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x8H9ZgihC_A

7. Any other business

- The issue of the non erection of the market stalls on a Thursday continues even though it had been stated by NCC that if they rescheduled their working day (the NCC staff that is) the stalls would be put up.
- Blyth Valley Arts & Leisure (BVAL) are to take over all the sporting provision at Bedlingtonshire High School once the new school has been built, they intend to fund it all via the sale of some of the schools existing land for housing. Questions were raised regarding the suitability of the land because of the pre-existing geological fault which runs right across the site.

NEXT MEETING MONDAY 11th Feb 2013 6.30pm.

Salvation Army, Hartford Road Bedlington

A Trading Standards Officer will also be in attendance.

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