

Bedlington Forum



A Community in Partnership

Minutes of the meeting held on 11th February 2012 at the Salvation Army, Hartford Road, Bedlington.

Present:

Brian Oliver – Chair

Margaret Oliver – Secretary

David Sayer – Trading Standards

PC Steve Nicklin – Northumbria Police

John Masters – Bedlingtonshire CoT

Irene Webster – FoGP

Cliff Jenkinson – Bedlingtonshire CoT

Paul Hedley – West Bed TC

Colin Heathcote – SNRG

30 Members of the Public.

Malcolm Robinson – Vice Chair

Robert Coulson – Treasurer

Keith Dalton – FoGP

CSO Jen Sweeney – Northumbria Police

Val Tyler – County Cllr

Alyson Wallace – East Bed PC

George Todd – County Cllr

Alex Wallace – East Bed PC

Susi Robertson – Locality Officer for NCC

1. Welcome and Introductions

2. Apologies

Colin Parker; Lyn Horton; Peter Basnett; Richard Wearmouth; Derry Twomey; Stewart Allen; Arthur Pegg.

3. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the last meeting were accepted as a true record. Proposed by Adam Hogg, seconded John Fox.

4. Matters Arising:

No matters were raised.

5. Police Update: Given by PC Steve Nicklin

Steve introduced himself as the new Bedlington East PC but some members may have already met him.

- The current Police identifying sectors policies are Anti Social Behaviour and Theft From Motor Vehicles.
- He said that there was to be changes made in how Anti Social Behaviour would be investigated and the approach taken by the police to help solve these problems this will also include working along with other agencies. Present ASB hotspots are Bedlington Market Place, the Black Path and Clayton Street Corner at Bedlington Station. He also mentioned police operations which were planned to combat the likely rise in ASBs during the lighter nights.
- Pubwatch has currently 26 persons of note on its list and seem to be doing well with all the local public houses working together.
- Crime statistics
In March 2013 we had 62 crimes recorded in our area (Bedlington and Bedlington Station) and so far 24 have already been detected with several others still being investigated. For the same period in 2012 we

had a total of 60 crimes recorded with 36 of those ultimately being detected. To date this month compared to the same period last year we are currently working at

	2013	2012
39% reduction in Crime	13	21
56% reduction in violent crime	2	5
11% reduction in criminal damage	5	6
42% reduction in theft	3	5
Burglary to date is the same	2	2
And public order has increased 100%	0	1

- He informed those present of persons who had been found guilty and sentenced, one for drug dealing, came from Blenheim Drive got 6 ½ years, another got 6 years for assault to someone in Morrisons supermarket. Arrests had been made for an assault that happened at Nedderton Lane and two persons had been tagged for burglaries.
- Steve informed everyone about the memorial service which was to be held at West Lea Cemetery on the 15th April to commemorate 100 years since the deaths of the three police officers who were murdered at The Sun Inn in Bedlington. Anyone wishing to attend could do so.
- At this point The Chair thanked Steve for his report and informed the meeting that he had been invited by the Police to attend a meeting along with other agencies to discuss youth issues and how individual agencies could be involved with the Police to help tackle the ASB issues. He himself found it to be a very positive meeting.

6. Presentation by David Sayer, Trading Standards

David introduced himself and gave a brief history of how and when Trading Standards was established. He then went on to explain what areas are covered, such as, animal health, food hygiene, weights and measures (e.g., petrol & spirits), door step crime, counterfeit goods, scams and fraud sales. David then gave advice on how to avoid fraudulent traders. To see the list of bona fide traders go to:- www.reputabletradesmen . David took questions from those present.

7. SNRG update by Colin Heathcote

- Since the last Forum we have had a letter of support from West Bedlington TC wishing us every success for our second 28-day broadcast and our application for a full time licence. We will be using that 28-day broadcast as an opportunity to further cement our links with organisations, charities, voluntary bodies - indeed anyone with a community interest at heart in south east Northumberland.
- Next Monday....the 15th.....is the hundredth anniversary of the Bedlington triple murder. To mark the event we are planning to post on the Bedlington web site the short radio play produced by one of our members which dramatically describes the events of that fateful day at the Sun Inn in April 1913.
- A less auspicious century being marked on that day by complete coincidence is the 100th meeting of our group which will be held at the studio in Front Street East. At this meeting we hope to finalise dates for our next 28-day broadcast...in all likelihood we will be applying to Ofcom for August/September. The funding for the four weeks is in place.
- And our requests for funding under the county councillors local improvement schemes appears to have at last borne fruit with the offer of a £1000 towards our studio development costs

8. Any Other Business

- A representative from Slaley Court residential group, brought to the attention of the meeting the proposed housing development of a further 33 houses on the triangular plot of land which adjoins Slaley Court. It was pointed out that the numbers proposed were way, way over and above the original numbers planned by the previous council (WDC). It was also brought to the attention of those present that a much bigger development was planned by Persimmon on a farm field just north of the above. It appeared that unintentionally Persimmon had disclosed their intention to use the Sustran cycle route as their access for all construction traffic. As there were a number of concerned residents from in and around Slaley Court a considerable amount of discussion took place, in particular about the traffic congestion and road safety implications of this potential large increase in properties. The Forum has promised to work with the residence on this controversial issue. (Following the meeting BKO met with Mr & Mrs Armstrong to discuss this matter further).

It was noted that Persimmon also has a planning application for 44 homes in place for the vacant plot of land on Alnwick Drive, Hazelmere.

- The Chair reminded everyone that despite the loss of funding from various sources Wansbeck Centre for Voluntary Services is still open for business.
- The Forum was asked to support the request for two new bus stops on Schalksmuhle Road to accommodate the re routing of the X22 to Ashington. (Following the meeting a letter supporting the above was sent to Arriva).

The meeting was closed and this was then followed by the AGM.

NEXT MEETING MONDAY 10TH JUNE 2013 6.30pm.
Salvation Army, Hartford Road, Bedlington