

Bedlington Forum



A Community in Partnership

Minutes of the meeting held on 10th June 2013 at the Salvation Army, Hartford Road, Bedlington.

Present:

Brian Oliver – Chair

Margaret Oliver – Secretary

Keith Dalton – WBTC & FoGP

Richard Wearmouth – Salvation Army

Paul Hedley – West Bed TC

Adam Hogg - West Bed TC

18 Residents

Val Tyler – CCllr & FoGP

Lyn Horton – Leading Link

PC Neil Nevens – Northumbria Police

Major Peter Clark – Salvation Army

Neal Younger – SNRG

The meeting began with a minutes silence in respect of one of our members, George Webster who had sadly passed away recently.

It was decided at the AGM, (held on the 8th April 2013) to defer the position of Vice Chair until the results of the local council and county council elections were known. Russell Hogg had previously indicated he would take up the vacant position. It was proposed by Val Tyler and seconded by Beverley Roberts that Russell Hogg takes over as Vice Chair, it was unanimously accepted.

1. Welcome and Introductions

2. Apologies

Colin Parker; Alyson Wallace; Alex Wallace; Malcolm Robinson; Dianne Lennon; Irene Webster; Simon Tyler; Colin Heathcote

3. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the last meeting were accepted as a true record. Proposed by Keith Dalton, seconded David Graham.

4. Matters Arising:

- Housing Development at Slaley Court: As stated on last minutes the Chair met with Mr and Mrs Armstrong to discuss this matter further, there appears to be a number of inconsistencies in Persimmon's consultation documents, there is also a difference in just how many units (houses) can be built on this site, it all depends on which document you look at! The Forum, like the residents of Slaley Court are waiting for the formal planning application to be submitted to NCC before any further input can be made on this matter.
- The Chair has received a confirmation letter from Arriva regarding the addition of two bus stops on Schalksmuhle Road. Some discussion followed, in particular about the absence of a footpath (opposite side of the road to the Police Station) as well as the costs involved and who might fund it all.

5. Police Update: Given by PC Neil Nevens

- Crime statistics from the 1st April to 9th June 2013 in comparison same time 2012.
Total crime was, over all up by 3% (+ 7 crimes)
Burglaries up by 2% (19 burglaries)
Youth and none youth ASB down 1%
- Neil informed the meeting that lead theft was once again on the increase and a number of shops on the Front Street had fallen victim to this crime. One premise had even been targeted more than once.
- He informed those present of all persons who had been taken to court, found guilty and by what means their punishment was.
- Questions were asked regarding the ongoing parking problems at the Whitley Memorial School which has been created by parents parking inconsiderately while transporting their children to school. A discussion ensued relating to Blue Badge holders and their parking habits. As there is currently no parking restrictions in the vicinity of the school the Police are unable to take action unless of course the vehicle/s is/are causing an obstruction.
- A question was asked about the future of the former JJ's Bar/Club, but there was no formal answer.

6. SNRG update by Neal Younger

- We have received notification from Ofcom that our application for a 28-day Restricted Service Licence has been approved. We are therefore now working towards beginning our broadcast on Saturday August 17th.
- We are hoping Ofcom will allocate 87.7FM to us....not least because we still have a sign pronouncing Synergy 87.7 above the studio window at 90a Front Street East. (*Wave length now confirmed*)
- If our first RSL in 2012 is anything to go by, we will be on-air (and simultaneously on-line) round the clock with up to 15 hours a day live broadcasting.
- Our annual meeting is scheduled for 24th June at which we will be welcoming new and existing volunteers to talk about programming for the 28-day broadcast.
- We hope members of the Forum will take the opportunity of getting involved in the project either as interviewees, live on air promoting local services, activities and facilities or as volunteer presenters: proper training will be given!
- Since the last Forum meeting we have passed the 100th meeting and fifth year of existence milestones.
- Please contact me on 01665 711358 or colin.heathcote@snrgroup.co.uk for more information.
It was emphasised by the Chair that this is a great opportunity for the people of Bedlington and anyone wanting to get involved should contact the above, or if they wish contact himself.

7. Leading Link update on Bedlington Heritage: given by Lyn Horton

- Lyn reported that all the schools in the area had now had use of the specially prepared Heritage Trailer which depicts the history of Bedlingtonshire.
- She then went on to say that the "The Big Event" at Attlee Park on the 25th May 2013 was a tremendous success and she wanted to thank all the many volunteers who had come forward to help with the event and thanks also went to Malcolm Robinson of Bedlingtonshire Development Trust for his help too.
- The profits from this event will be put towards the cost of refurbishing the old band stand down at Attlee Park. Lyn showed all present the design plans for the new band stand, to date the amount raised on the day is unknown. It was noted that the new design looked very much more attractive than the existing stand.

- On the day an enterprise competition took place with some very innovative entrants. The winners went on to sell their wares (edible rock) at the recent Morpeth Fayre Day which also resulted in them going on to supply some of their products to other traders in the Town. Coming up on Wednesday the 3rd July 6pm to 8.30pm is the Bedlington Heritage Premiere, hosting a number of various performances and entertainment.

8. Any Other Business

- The Chair explained that there had been some problems with litter in the Market Place and surrounding area, he is currently in discussions with his contact at NCC who hopes this situation can be resolved. He went on to say that there is an opportunity to raise the profile of those who litter pick at Gallagher Park. Keith Dalton agreed to assist in this matter as he is one of the FoGP litter volunteers. It was also mentioned that if required the Youth Offenders Team could also give assistance if there was too much work for the current volunteer group.
- Once again the subject of poor standards of grass cuttings in the west of Bedlington was brought to the chair's attention. BKO is to follow this matter up. *(This topic has since been raised by Cllr K Dalton at the Area Committee meeting which took place two days after the Forum meeting, resulting in NCC looking into this problem, so no follow up was required by the chair).*
- A 40 mph speed limit is being proposed for the A1068 road from Plessey Checks Roundabout through to Hartford Home Farm.
- It was recognised that over the winter months Forum attendances dropped dramatically particularly when weather conditions were poor so it was therefore agreed that in future, meetings will cease at the end of October and restart again end of March the following year.

Meeting closed reminding everyone:-

**NEXT MEETING MONDAY 12TH August 2013 at 6.30pm.
Salvation Army, Hartford Road, Bedlington**

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