

Bedlington Forum



A Community in Partnership

Minutes of the meeting held on 12th August 2013 at the Salvation Army, Hartford Road, Bedlington.

Present:

Brian Oliver – Chair

Margaret Oliver – Secretary

Russell Hogg – Vice Chair

Anna Fancett – Story Teller

Keith Dalton – WBTC & FoGP

CSO Neil Humble – Northumbria Police

Adam Hogg – WBTC

16 Residents

Val Tyler – CCllr & FoGP

Colin Heathcote – SNRG

Colin Parker – EBTC

Dennis Fancett – Help Hub & Resident

Paul Hedley – WBTC

Malcolm Robinson – WBTC & BDT

David Graham – WBTC

1. Welcome and Introductions

The Chair welcomed back a resident, who was one of the original leading members of the Forum and now once again resides in Bedlington.

2. Apologies

Alyson Wallace; Alex Wallace; Simon Tyler; Nicola Hogarth; John Masters; Lyn Horton; Stewart Allen; PC Neal Nevens; Jim Tyler; Simon Tyler; John Fox; Neal Younger; Richard Wearmouth.

3. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the last meeting were accepted as a true record. Proposed by David Graham and seconded by Adam Hogg.

4. Matters Arising:

- Housing Development at Slaley Court: The formal planning application has now been submitted, 22 letters of comment have been lodged, out of which 19 object to the proposals. The planning department has confirmed that it will be a 'committee' decision following a site visit. A considerable discussion took place relating to the size of the development, the lack of parking spaces, general access and the potential damage/disruption to the Sustran cycle way.
- The Chair reported litter continues to be problematic in and around the Market Place area, an NCC officer is reviewing the situation on the Forums behalf.

5. Police Update: Given by CSO Neil Humble

- Crime statistics from the 15th July to 12th August 2013 in comparison same time 2012 for the Bedlington Sector.

Total crimes recorded; 72 compared to 102 in 2012.

Detection rate is currently 46.3% which is 0.3% above target.

Non youth ASB has fallen, this is due to the new 'Report It' campaign. It has been noted that Bedlington is currently the best performing sector in Northumberland Area Command.

- There has been a Joint Test purchase Operation conducted along with Trading Standards, the out come of which, resulted in an issuing of an Improvement notice to the Grapes PH and a FPN issued to a member of staff following the sale of alcohol to a minor.
- There has been a reduction in shoplifting offences. This is due to the new Northumbria Police campaign, [Eye posters] and extra patrols at key times.
- Between 9th June and the present day there has only been 1 attempted theft of lead from a retail premise in Bedlington town Centre.
- An offender has been arrested and convicted in connection with burglaries and thefts from Bedlington Golf course and is currently serving 24 weeks in prison.
- Suggestions were taken from members regarding deterrents which are in use in other areas. Concerns were voiced and noted regarding vandalism which has occurred, members were reminded to report these incidents via the 101 number.

6. SNRG update by Colin Heathcote

- I'm very pleased to confirm that Synergy will be returning on 87.7FM and www.synergysradio.co.uk this Saturday.
- This week 61,071 leaflets are being distributed throughout South East Northumberland announcing our return to the airwaves.
- The format will be pretty much as it was when we had our first broadcast last year....a mixture of community information, interviews and music to suit all tastes. Our presenters include veterans from the previous broadcast and newcomers to Synergy.
- The live programmes, those being presented from the studio on Front Street East, will run from 7am until at least 9pm on weekdays. In addition there will be around 15 hours of live broadcasting at weekends. Outside those live broadcasting times the station will go on to an automated music schedule.
- All the programmes will contain community information between 9am - 12noon and 4.30pm - 7pm on weekdays, these will include interviews with representatives of local organisations, clubs and other groups. The line-up will also include at least one local MP, NHS representatives, writers, local sport and culture guests.
- If you wish to get in touch, the contact details are on the leaflet. My thanks to town mayor Cllr Paul Hedley for not only agreeing to come on-air on 10th September at 10am but also for delivering 100 of the leaflets to households in his area, which is not covered by the News Post Leader.

7. Any Other Business

- Meadowdale Play Park; a very long discussion took place over the situation regarding vandalism. The Town Council are currently working on installing lighting and the possibility of changing the regularly vandalised safety surface with a more cost effective alternative. Everyone was reminded that any ongoing incident should be immediately reported to the police.
- Thursday Market, the Chair explained there is a big effort by our County Councillor Allison Wallace and West Bedlington Town Council to attract quality stall holders to our market place. The Chair reminded people that the 'footfall' to this market is always going to be the deciding factor as to the long term success of the market.
- Southern Green has been appointed to carry out a master plan study for Gallagher Park on behalf of all interested stakeholders. The ultimate aim is to have a building in place with toilet and changing facilities on this site with the inbuilt flexibility in the construction to permit, any future building expansion.
- A planning application has been submitted for a wind turbine at Burnt House Farm, Netherton, there has been 39 letters received regarding the planning application, 36 of those are objections.

- Advertising banners displayed on the Red Lion roundabout have now all been removed and the enforcement officer at Northumberland County Council is keeping a look out regarding this situation along with the car advertising which is being parked on Choppington Lane opposite Morrisons.
- Vice Chair, Russell Hogg gave the meeting an update regarding the safety issues relating to coaches entering St Benet Biscop. The trial of a new drop off point for coaches which transport school children to and from the school, this will include involvement from the Police, NCC and teachers. This trial will commence on the 16th September 2013.
- Councillor Dalton brought to the attention of the meeting of a very overgrown public footpath that is used as a route to school in the Meadowdale area he has already written to NCC and has asked the Chair if he can also follow up on this issue.
- West Bedlington Town Council reported that a questionnaire, relating to a Town Plan is to very shortly go out to every household in our area, everyone is being encouraged to complete the questionnaire and to remind their neighbours, friends and relatives to do the same, not forgetting to return them to the designated places, an on line version will also be available. Businesses in the area will also be given the chance to complete a specific business version of this questionnaire.
- West Bedlington Town Council is also making use of the Market Towns Initiative.

Meeting closed reminding everyone:-

NEXT MEETING MONDAY 28TH October 2013 at 6.30pm.
Salvation Army, Hartford Road, Bedlington