

Newport Community Forum
Thursday 12th July 2018
Newport Hub

Attendance:- 15 residents, PC, Adam Parkinson (Middlesbrough Council), Kim May (SAFI),

Apologies for Absence: - Mavis Arnold, Margaret Smithies, Maureen Bradley, Cllr Harvey, Cllr Brady,

Matters Arising

Issues around begging.

Middlesbrough Council and Cleveland Police are working in partnership regarding the begging issues across the town, to provide support staff to link between chaotic clients and referral agencies.

A twin track will be adopted, civil injunctions will be issued as well as a poster campaign to encourage people to donate to charities dealing with homelessness rather than give directly to beggars

Anti social behaviour

People will be moved on if they cause issues or break the law. However, there is no offence in people standing together.

Middlesbrough council are aware of the issues, Acceptable Behaviour Contracts have been issued, people can be arrested if they breach the terms of their contract.

The community garden is currently running in Meath Street meeting Fridays at 2pm – everyone is welcome.

Treasurers Report

There is currently a balance of £1392.13 this includes this years grant from Middlesbrough Council.

Police Report

SGt Steve Hobson provided and update on the Police activities in the area.

ASB and Crime have gone up in the area when compared to last month's statistics.

Operation Silver has been in place this involved the Police visiting 1300 properties and there was an agency meeting to look at eh issues which were raised.

Operation Rochford – this involved visits to primary schools to look at parking and safety issues

Operation Endeavour has been set up to tackle the issue of off road bikes.

As from 23rd July the set up of Neighbourhood Policing will change – the local area team will deal with incidents in Newport, Central, Park and Ayresome areas.

There will be no more resources allocated to the 'new' team set up. However, 3 out of 5 PCs will be dedicated to the Newport area.

A team will consist of 3 PCs, 4PCSOs.

The changes are being brought in by the new Chief of Police who places as strong emphasis on Neighbourhood Policing, the new Chief of Police has visited the area already and is fully aware of the issues.

There is still an issue with young children playing in the street until late at night as well as groups of people congregating on street corners.

Work is ongoing to look at the issues of group gathering but they are not breaking the law in doing this unless they are causing ASB then residents should call 101 to report the issues when it is happening.

The police once again encouraged residents and business owners to report issues as they are happening – this can be done anonymously or via Streets Ahead – whatever the individual feel happy with – the important thing is that the report is made – the Police and Middlesbrough council need the information to be able to take action.

Neighbourhood Safety Officer

Adam updated the meeting on the issues he has been dealing with – usually in conjunction with the Neighbourhood Police Team

He also requested that the residents and business owners let him know of what is happening in the area he can't take action if he is unaware of the issue.

He has been dealing with reports of gang nuisance close to Laycock Park/Ayresome Street/Crescent Road as well as the Outram Street/Crescent Road areas.

Reports regarding issues in Faraday Street – this is being dealt with by Police raids and tenancy action.

Outram Street – 8 houses are to be brought back in to use as the landlord refurbishes them one at a time in order to avoid further damage to the properties.

Several properties in the area which have been boarded up and then breached are being looked at for further suitable actions.

Neighbourhood Planning – Isabel Lima

Isabel outlined to the meeting an initiative which has been set up by Central Government to encourage residents to get involved to influence planning issues which happen in their area.

Isabel and Kim from SAFI are looking at how this could be developed in our area, there is only one other Neighbourhood plan in the town – this covers an area in Marton.

This need to be community led, the Neighbourhood Plan will not be able to stop developments happening in the area but Middlesbrough Council will have to take the thoughts of the residents expressed in the plan into consideration – it becomes a legal document.

Isabel asked for anyone who is interested to let her know or to call into Streets Ahead to let Kim know – they will be looking at how this can be developed over the summer period. The meeting agreed that Streets Ahead would be the lead organisation for this initiative.

My Gresham Our Gresham – Rennie May

Streets ahead is looking for people from the Gresham area to spare some time to record their thoughts on their lives living in Gresham. It will involve sitting down with a cup of tea and talking freely about anything that links with how they came to be living in Gresham or their memories of the area or sitting down with friends to talk about the times gone past, or what the future may hold for the area. Rennie is also keen to talk to people who have worked in the area over the years to get their views on what has changed.

The recordings will be held in Streets Ahead – there are no plans to go public with any of the recordings of views but in future years it will be fantastic to have something to listen to and compare how at that point in the future things have from now.

Anyone interested should call into Streets Ahead and they will set the tape running!

Any Other Business

The meeting agreed that they would like to invite the Council Executive Officer for Environmental issues (Cllr Denise Rooney) and her team to the next meeting – kim will send out the invite.

Date of next meeting Thursday 13th September 2018 6pm at Newport Hub