



South Tyneside Council

item 2

**West Shields, Cleadon and East Boldon Community Area Forum
18 June 2026**

West Shields, Cleadon and East Boldon Community Area Forum Minutes

19 February 2026

Present: Councillors Ford (Chair), Coombes, Davies, Dawes, Herbert, K Maxwell, R Taylor.

Tina Roche (Community and Voluntary Sector Representative), Inspector Shane Jenness (Northumbria Police), Inspector David Heron (Northumbria Police), Caroline Johnson (Assistant Head of Housing), Andrew McGill (Welfare Support Team Manager), Sandra McGurk (Community Safety and Tenancy Enforcement Manager), Michelle Green (Housing Manager), Merrik Robertson (Community and Place Development Co-ordinator), Kelly Ellwood (Democracy Support Officer) and Emma Purvis (Senior Democracy Support Officer).

There were fourteen members of the public in attendance.

1. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

2. Minutes of the meeting held on 8 January 2026

Agreed: That the minutes of the previous meeting be confirmed as a true record.

3. Community Partners Reports

Fire and Rescue Service

The Station Manager was unavailable to attend the meeting, however a written report was provided with an overview of recent fire figures comprising the following data, where the figures in brackets show the number of incidents in the same period last year:

Incidents – January 2026

Type of Incident	Number
Deliberate Primary Fires (excluding Road Vehicles)	0 (0)
Deliberate Primary Road Fires	0 (4)
Deliberate Secondary Fires	0 (3)
All Deliberate Fires	0 (7)

Northumbria Police

Police representatives gave an overview of recent crime figures inclusive of the following data; the figures in brackets reflect the number of incidents in the same period last year:

Type of Incident	West Shields	Cleadon and East Boldon
Burglary – Dwelling	4 (4)	0 (2)
Burglary – Commercial	1 (1)	0 (1)
Vehicle Crime	7 (8)	2 (7)
Hate Crime	4 (1)	0 (1)
Anti-Social Behaviour	4 (2)	0 (2)
Motorcycle Disorder	2 (7)	1 (3)

A member of the public questioned the low figures reported for motorcycle disorder, stating that they did not reflect what was being experienced locally. Officers explained that although reported incidents had reduced, community intelligence had increased. Some confusion around ward boundaries was also noted.

Police highlighted concerns around keyless vehicle thefts, explaining that offenders were travelling in from outside the area and using technology to intercept key signals. Residents were advised to remain vigilant and consider preventive measures, such as using signal-blocking wallets.

Members were also updated on recent enforcement activity. Under Operation Impact, two arrests had been made for drug-related offences and paraphernalia had been seized. Six motorcycles had been seized under Operation Dragoon and would be destroyed; the Council would follow up on associated addresses. Community Protection Notices had been issued to individuals causing anti-social behaviour, and Trading Standards had seized illegal cigarettes and counterfeit vapes from a local premises.

ASB

The ASB and Neighbourhood Crime Co-Ordinator sent apologies for the meeting, however provided a brief update on recent activity.

A Member had raised issues with youths throwing eggs at cars around Biddick Hall Shops, Community Responders had been tasked with patrolling the area.

The Community Safety and Tenancy Enforcement Team were following up on a recent police arrest at a Housing Plus scheme and would be taking action in addition to the police investigation. A number of tenancy enforcement investigations were ongoing in the area, however as these were live, further details could not be shared at the time of the meeting.

Nexus

Apologies were received from the CAF's Nexus representative. Members and residents expressed disappointment at this, particularly in light recent proposed changes to Metro station car park charges in the CAF area.

A member of the public thanked the Chair for the promptness in writing to the North East Mayor and Nexus CEO. The Democracy Support Officer confirmed that at the time of the meeting there had been no response from the Mayor, however a response had been received from Nexus confirming no decision had yet been taken. Some local residents had started a petition against the charging proposals, which currently stood at 700 signatories and had been presented to the NECA Lead Member for Transport.

Agreed: That the updates be noted.

4. CAF Funding Report

The Community and Place Development Co-ordinator presented this report on Community Area Forum Funding for 2025-26. Members were reminded that the total budget allocated to the West Shields, Cleadon and East Boldon Community Area Forum for the financial year was £264,843, comprising:

Environmental Capital Funding	£124,998
Housing Capital Funding	£96,513
Local Neighbourhoods Scheme	£43,332

Seven applications for funding were included in the report. If approved, this would complete CAF spending for the municipal year.

Agreed: That a) the report be noted, and b) the applications for funding be dealt with as set out in the following table:

Scheme (Ward) and Council Priority	Applicant and Purpose of Grant	Grant Sought (Project Cost if different)	Grant Awarded
All three schemes (Biddick and All Saints) Stronger communities	Access crossings and hardstands at 4, 7, 15, 20, 22, 37 and 39 Hazlitt Avenue	£33,236	£20,196 HCS £11,999 ECS £1,041 LNS
Local Neighbourhood Scheme (Biddick and All Saints) Stronger communities	Two parking spaces at Belloc Avenue	£5,882	£5,882
Local Neighbourhood Scheme (Cleadon and East Boldon) Stronger communities	Broadlands – supply and plant 26 cornus midwinter firecracker, edge border, remove weeds and fork over area	£421	£421
Local Neighbourhood Scheme (Cleadon and East Boldon) Stronger communities	Oakleigh Gardens – supply and plant shrubs, 20 each of ribes sanguinum, berberis vulgaris, escallonia apple blossom and philadelphus virginal	£978	£978
Environmental Capital Scheme and Local Neighbourhoods Scheme (Cleadon and East Boldon) Stronger communities	Patching to road at 9 and 15 Boldon Lane, Cleadon	£16,518	£6,034 ECS £10,484 LNS
Local Neighbourhoods Scheme (Whiteleas)	Drop kerbs and access crossings at 59, 63 and 38 Turner Avenue	£5,242	£5,242

Stronger communities			
Housing Capital Scheme and Local Neighbourhoods Scheme (Whiteleas)	Access crossings and hardstands at 20, 36, 34 Renoir Gardens, 99, 101 Landseer Gardens, 41, 43 Lorrain Road, 22, 24, 30, 32, 68, 70, 96, 98, 104, 106, 132, 134 Reynolds Avenue	£17,482	£13,545 HCS £3,937 LNS
Stronger communities			

5. CAF Management Team Update

The Community and Place Development Co-ordinator delivered this report which provided Members with an update on projects funded by the CAF, alongside an update on Streetscene.

Gritting had been carried out where necessary over the recent cold spell. The grass cutting programme was scheduled to re-commence in March 2026.

Agreed: That the report be noted.

6. Spotlight: Welfare Support

The Welfare Support Team Manager gave a presentation outlining support available to residents.

Members were informed that the team comprised 26 advisors and assistants, delivering specialist support across local hubs as well as through telephone appointments and home visits. The service provided help with benefits, debt, local welfare support, food and fuel vouchers, and essential household items.

It was highlighted that Social Navigators worked closely with vulnerable residents and had secured over £1.7 million in financial gains since the service began, alongside wider benefits such as sustaining tenancies and connecting people to community support.

Recent service improvements were outlined, including a simplified referral process, expanded service provision to reduce waiting times and the introduction of Lightning Reach, an online portal connecting residents to support organisations.

Some case studies were included to highlight the breadth of support and positive outcomes for residents.

A Member asked how quickly support could be accessed for someone attending in person. Officers explained that urgent cases were dealt with immediately, while other referrals were triaged and appointments were typically offered within a week.

A member of the public raised concerns about financial exclusion and asked whether the service worked with banks. It was confirmed that support included helping residents open bank or Credit Union accounts.

The Chair commended the team for the positive impact on residents' quality of life.

Agreed: That the contents of the presentation be noted.

7. Tenancy Agreement Review Consultation

The Senior Manager - Housing Strategy and Regulation gave a presentation explaining the Tenancy Agreement Review and the associated consultation.

Members were informed that the Council was updating its Tenancy Agreement to reflect new consumer regulation, building and fire safety requirements, updated policies, and the return of South Tyneside Homes to Council control. The revised agreement aimed to strengthen clarity and safety for both tenants and staff.

Consultation activities included tenant engagement, drop-in sessions and the distribution of a summary booklet. The consultation period was due to run from 26 January to 20 April 2026.

Key proposed changes were outlined, including clearer information on Right to Buy, stronger arrangements for essential access, updated rules around alterations, clearer expectations for communal living, and updated guidance on Mutual Exchange.

Following consultation, tenant feedback would be analysed before finalising the agreement. Cabinet approval would be sought, and tenants would not be required to sign a new agreement. The Tenants' Handbook would also be updated.

A member of the public asked how to get involved with the Tenant Scrutiny Panels and Check and Challenge. It was advised that the role was advertised on the Annual Report and the Council website among other places, it was promoted yearly although tenants could get in touch at any time as applications were always welcome.

A Member queried what would happen if a tenant did not agree to the changes. It was explained that the Council held the right, as landlord, to implement the changes so long as a full and fair consultation had been carried out correctly.

Agreed: That the contents of the presentation be noted.

8. Work Programme 2025-26

This report set out the Work Programme for 2025-26 which outlined standard reports and details of topics for future meetings of the Community Area Forum.

It was noted that the Work Programme was now complete and suggestions were encouraged for the upcoming municipal year.

Agreed: That the completed Work Programme be noted.

9. Chair's Urgent Items

There were no urgent items raised.

Councillor Ford thanked officers, Members and partners for their contribution over the year, and said it had been a privilege to chair the Forum.

Councillor Coombes stated that he would not be standing at the upcoming elections and thanked everyone for their support during his term.

Date of Next Meeting

Dates of future meetings would be agreed at the Annual Meeting of Borough Council in May 2026.

SIGNED _____

Chair xxxx 2026