



South Tyneside Council

item 2

**West Shields, Cleadon Village and East Boldon Community Area Forum
16 July 2026**

West Shields, Cleadon Village and East Boldon Community Area Forum

Minutes 18 June 2026

Present: Councillors Turnbull (Chair), Ford, Herbert, Mackings, Maddison, Muquith, S Smith, Taylor.

Jonathan Ramanayake (Station Manager, Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service), Merrik Robertson (Community and Place Development Co-ordinator), Donald Wade (ASB and Neighbourhood Crime Co-Ordinator), Sandra McGurk (Community Safety and Tenancy Enforcement Manager), Kerry Wales (Community Safety and Tenancy Enforcement Assistant Manager), Michelle Green (Housing Manager), Sean Allen (Democracy Support Officer) and Kelly Ellwood (Democracy Support Officer)

There were 21 members of the public in attendance.

1. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

2. Minutes of 19 February 2026

A member of the public stated that a query on CAF funding being used to repair unadopted back lanes at South Lane, Front Street and Victoria Terrace had been missed from the minutes.

Agreed: That the minutes of the previous meeting be confirmed as a true record, subject to the above amendment.

3. Community Partners Report

Fire and Rescue Service

Jonathan Ramanayake, Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service attended and provided reports covering the April and May period, cross referenced with the same period last year. The reports included the following information:

Incidents – April and May 2026

Type of incident	April 2025	April 2026	May 2025	May 2026
Deliberate primary fires	2	1	1	0
Deliberate primary road fires	2	1	1	0
Deliberate secondary fires	28	4	14	3
All deliberate fires	32	6	16	3

Incidents – Ward Breakdown

Ward	April 2026	May 2026
Biddick and All Saints	4	1
Cleadon Village and East Boldon	2	2
Whiteleas	0	0
Total	6	3

A property type breakdown of incidents was included for Members' information, as well as a map detailing where the fires occurred.

The Chair commented that figures had dropped significantly from 2025. It was advised that incidents that year had been particularly high, but hotspots had been identified and work had been done with the ASB and Neighbourhood Crime Co-Ordinator which had yielded positive results. This work included diversionary activities and school visits, as well as swift removal of flytipping and overgrowth.

Following a recent incident in Glasgow, a member of the public queried whether vape shops were inspected. It was explained that operational health checks were undertaken in co-ordination with health and safety teams and Trading Standards. It was acknowledged that following initial inspection, some shops may operate outside of rules and reporting to Trading Standards was encouraged.

Nexus

No representative for Nexus was available to attend the meeting.

A member of the public stated that he had had correspondence with both Nexus and the Combined Authority regarding potential introduction of car parking charges at East Boldon metro station. It was noted that the Grey Horse pub had recently introduced charges, and along with the metro station around 100 parking spaces would be affected.

It was suggested that CAF again write to Nexus and the elected Mayor to follow up on this issue and emphasise the need for a public consultation.

Northumbria Police

Members and residents received an update on policing activity across the CAF area for the preceding eight-week period (15 April to 9 June 2026), 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 Village and East Boldon
Burglary – Dwelling	14 (21)	4 (1)
Burglary – Commercial	2 (8)	0 (0)
Vehicle Crime	11 (11)	8 (10)
Hate Crime	9 (12)	0 (0)
Anti-Social Behaviour	154 (107)	16 (22)

Overall incident levels in Cleadon and East Boldon remained stable, with 249 reported incidents, consistent with the same period in 2025 and the preceding reporting period. It was noted that demand typically increased during summer months, particularly in relation to ASB and the use of off-road and e-bikes. A total of 74 crimes had been recorded, an increase compared with both the previous period and the same period last year.

The most common offences had been theft and handling, violence without injury, and criminal damage.

Shoplifting was a significant issue, concentrated at retail locations on Station Terrace and Front Street, however burglary levels were low, showing no clear pattern. Vehicle crime remained relatively low. There had been no recorded hate crimes.

ASB incidents had decreased compared to the same period last year, with motorcycle-related disorder and neighbour disputes the most common issues. Targeted patrols and joint work with the local authority continued to address identified hotspots.

In West Shields, there had been a higher overall demand, with 1,330 incidents recorded, representing an increase on the previous period. However, recorded crime had slightly decreased (454 offences), and was lower than the same period in 2025. The most prevalent offences had been violence without injury, theft and handling, and criminal damage.

Shoplifting remained a key concern, particularly at Sainsbury's locations on Stanhope Road and Binchester Street, while Harton Lane saw higher levels of violence and theft linked to the hospital area. There had been 14 residential burglaries, with no clear patterns identified, and a small number of vehicle-related offences. Hate crime levels had increased slightly compared to the previous period, with

most incidents involving public disorder and occurring in open public spaces, including reports of racist and homophobic abuse.

ASB in West Shields had risen significantly compared to both the previous period and the same time last year, attributed partly to seasonal factors such as school holidays and improved weather. Key issues had included motorcycle disorder, nuisance behaviour, and misuse of public spaces. Enforcement activity had included joint visits with the council and the seizure of vehicles linked to ASB.

The ASB and Neighbourhood Crime Co-ordinator provided an update on the ongoing work from the Council and the ASB team.

It was noted that on shoplifting, repeat offenders had been identified and six were being prosecuted. There had been incidents at the hospital, and specific conditions had been imposed on these perpetrators.

Around ASB, numbers had risen during the school holidays, and the service were aware of a group of individuals causing issues. Joint visits to addresses were ongoing, and it was highlighted that tenancies could be at risk for those participating in ASB. Business and Community Responders were patrolling known hotspots.

It was highlighted that crime had increased by 74 incidents, although a large proportion of this was attributed to a feud in the Whiteleas-Biddick Hall area, arrests had been made and investigations were ongoing.

A Member requested a discussion with the Crime Co-ordinator and local police officers regarding repeat offenders in Biddick Hall, noting the lack of community facilities and socio-economic reasons for offending.

A member of the public advised that a Community Watch had recently been set up online and was registered with the Neighbourhood Watch.

Concerns were raised around an empty property in Chesterton Road, stating risk of arson and that e-bikes were stored here. It was advised that work was ongoing around this address and the Youth Team had been out. A member of the public noted that the address in question was now occupied.

A member of the public raised the issue of youths causing problems on e-bikes in Biddick Hall, riding through cuts and actively antagonising police, it was suggested that this be discussed in more detail outside of the meeting.

A member of the public placed on record their thanks to Sergeant Heron for his response to a spate of burglaries in the East Boldon area, noting that Sgt Heron had written out to him and set out actions taken.

Some concerns were raised around officers not having the relevant health and safety training to intervene on motorcycle disorder. It was explained that pursuit would not be feasible for safety reasons, but drones would follow the bike back to the place of storage to follow up on and the person may lose their tenancy. It was noted that it would be a Chief Officer decision as to what training was provided.

The Community Safety and Tenancy Enforcement Manager gave an update on performance in quarter 4 and year-end figures.

It was noted that most new cases were in relation to South Tyneside Council properties, although the service was tenure blind. These were split by category type, with the three most reported crime types being noise, harassment and intimidation, and violence. This theme was mirrored across other ASB teams.

Closure orders were noted; with several full and partial orders granted to protect residents and wider community from ongoing drug and alcohol use, criminality and exploitation.

An internal audit had recently been completed, and the draft report was under review. Findings would be communicated to CAF in the next performance report.

It was advised that a multi-agency approach had been adopted to tackle youth disorder and street drinkers, some of the individuals were linked to South Tyneside tenancies. There had also been a rise in more complex cases involving mental health, drugs and alcohol; a trauma-informed approach was used to tackle these.

A member of the public asked what support was in place for parents of children and young people engaging in ASB as they felt like they had nowhere to turn. It was explained that partnership work was ongoing with Children's Services to provide diversionary activities and efforts would be made to involve parents, early intervention was key. It was suggested that Local Area Co-ordinators could attend Neighbourhood Priorities meetings to discuss gaps in provision.

Agreed: That the reports be noted.

4. Community Area Funding Report 2025/26

The Community and Place Development Co-ordinator presented this report on Community Area Forum Funding for 2025-26. The report informed Members that the total budget allocated to the West Shields, Cleadon Village and East Boldon Community Area Forum for the financial year was £186,050. This comprised:

- Environmental Capital Funding £83,333
 - Housing Capital Funding £77,717
 - Local Neighbourhood Scheme £25,000
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Members were given two options on how to split the Housing Capital Funding amongst the wards: option 1 was to split funding by the number of council houses and option 2 was to split equally across all wards. Figures for each scenario were provided in the report.

Members unanimously agreed to proceed with option 1 and split funding by the number of council houses.

It was raised by a member of the public that consideration be given to a dropped kerb at St John's Terrace, the footways at Whitburn Road, and traffic calming measures at St John's Terrace, St George's Terrace and Natley Avenue, as well as unadopted back lanes as had been raised at a previous meeting.

Agreed: That a) the report be noted and b) the Housing Capital be split by number of council houses.

5. CAF Management Report

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.

It was noted that Streetscene continued to deliver cleansing and grounds maintenance services heading into the busy summer months. Grass cutting, horticultural works and weed management were all on schedule.

It was advised that hardstands at Hazlitt Avenue had been completed since the report was produced.

On fence painting works at Cleadon Pond, members of the public highlighted that this work had taken almost 18 months to complete. It was explained that this was due to external factors such as inclement weather. It was suggested that social media platforms could be a useful tool in keeping residents informed.

A member of the public noted frustrations that grass cutting at Mundles Park did not seem to follow a schedule and officers, when asked, were unaware of the last time it was cut.

A Member highlighted the ongoing ecological emergency and suggested some areas could be selected, with input from residents, to grow longer or for wildflowers to encourage biodiversity.

Some concerns were raised around residents not allowing access for grass cutting as clippings were not being removed, leading to slippery pavements in wet weather. It was advised that removal of clippings was not routinely done due to budgets, however areas should be left in a safe manner and this would be raised with the relevant team.

It was suggested that it could be useful if residents knew what specifications the grass cutting service was working to and it was advised that Streetscene would be in attendance at the next meeting with a presentation. A Member advised that a cross-party working group had recently been reviewing the contract to provide reassurance.

Agreed: That the report be noted.

6. Housing Services Performance Report

Members and residents received an update on Housing Services performance for Quarter 4 of 2025-26.

It was noted that overall performance across most service areas had remained strong, with several indicators exceeding targets.

Capital spend at year end had been below target due to delays in project delivery. However, repairs performance had been consistently high with both emergency and non-emergency repairs completed within target timescales and exceeding sector benchmarks. The proportion of repairs completed “right first time” had also remained above target.

Compliance across all statutory areas, including gas, fire, asbestos, water, and lift safety had been maintained at 100%, ensuring full adherence to regulatory standards.

On housing management, performance had been positive. Rent collection had exceeded target and arrears had reduced to 3.03%, an improvement on the previous year. This had been achieved through continued focus on early intervention and tenant support. Customer contact performance had also been strong, with a high proportion of calls resolved at first point of contact and a significant reduction in abandoned calls.

It was advised that complaint handling performance had exceeded targets, with all stage 2 complaints responded to within required timescales and stage 1 performance improving over the final quarter.

Community safety work continued in partnership with police and other services. While overall ASB case levels had been within target, incidents involving hate crime sat above target levels and it was noted that the service continued to support victims and take enforcement action where appropriate.

The programme of “behind the door” tenancy visits had been successfully embedded, with performance above target and an increase in visits during Quarters 3 and 4.

It was explained that financial wellbeing support had delivered positive outcomes, with £1.88 million secured for residents over the

year. Homelessness prevention performance had also improved, with over 60% of cases prevented from becoming homeless, above target despite increased demand.

Housing demand remained high, with over 3,600 active applications recorded. Void management performance was good overall, although there had been a temporary increase in general needs voids. Work was underway to review the Allocations Policy to ensure fair and effective use of housing stock.

Health and Housing and Housing Plus services continued to provide effective support, including welfare checks and tenancy sustainment.

A Member sought clarification around welfare support for customers as the wording was unclear. It was confirmed that the support for those transitioning from legacy benefits onto Universal Credit was coming to an end, and not welfare support in general.

The rise in hate crime was queried by a member of the public and it was explained that this had been due in part to a spike in flags and offensive signs.

Agreed: That the key headlines be noted.

7. CAF Funding Presentation

The Community and Place Development Co-ordinator provided a presentation with an overview of recent schemes undertaken within the ward areas as funded by CAF monies.

The CAF heard that during 2025-26, the CAF Management Team:

- Facilitated at least 150 ward meetings and site visits
- Attended 80 CAF meetings and business meetings
- Developed 205 schemes
- Took 151 schemes to approval
- Processed and administered 133 LNS applications

It was explained that the schemes were Member-led, and the team often met with residents on site visits.

Photographs of some completed works were provided in the presentation to highlight the work done, including resurfacing works, hardstandings and a children's play area. Feedback showed that the schemes had had a positive impact on the lives of residents.

Members thanked the team for all the hard work done and emphasised the importance of making the most of the limited funding available for the benefit of residents.

Agreed: That the contents of the presentation be noted.

8. Timings of CAF Meetings

The Democracy Support Officer outlined that at least 50% of CAF meetings must be evening meetings in accordance with part B of the Council's Constitution. It was noted that it was a CAF decision how many would take place on the evening, and what time these meetings would start, so long as this requirement was met.

The Chair proposed that as timings appeared to have no significant impact on attendance, meetings would alternate between morning and evening. This was agreed unanimously by Members. Times were suggested as 10am and 5pm starts.

Agreed: That the timings for CAF meetings for the rest of the municipal year be as set out below:

- 16 July 2026 – 10am
- 1 October 2026 – 5pm
- 12 November 2026 – 10am
- 7 January 2027 – 5pm
- 18 February 2027 – 10am

9. Work Programme for the Forum

The Democracy Support Officer set out the Work Programme for 2026-27 which outlined standard reports and details of topics for future meetings of the Community Area Forum.

Members were encouraged to suggest items for discussion and consideration, and it was explained that these could be brought up at the meeting, or emailed to Democratic Services.

It was suggested that an item from Highways be brought for discussion.

Agreed: That the Work Programme be agreed as presented, subject to inclusion of suggested items as appropriate.

10. Chair's Urgent Items

There were no urgent items to consider.

11. Date and Time of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Forum would take place on Thursday 16 July 2026 at 10am.

SIGNED _____

Chair 16 July 2026
