



South Tyneside Council

Hebburn Community Area Forum Minutes

10 January 2022

Present: Councillors: Flynn (Chair), Ellison, McCabe, Keegan, McHugh, Meling, Porthouse, Sewell

Apologies: Councillor N E Maxwell

Peter Mennell (Head of Regeneration and Housing), Jonathan Barlow (Senior Transport Planner), Maria Scurfield-Walton (Nurturing Dementia), Steven Kelly (South Tyneside Homes Area Manager), Mark Ralph (South Tyneside Homes), Angi Rimington (Community Resource and External Funding Officer), Jonny Ramanayake (Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service), PC Scott Young (Northumbria Police), Emma Purvis (Strategy and Democracy Support Officer) and Bethany Handson (Strategy and Democracy Support Officer)

There were 7 members of the public (inclusive of the Press Officer) in attendance at the meeting.

1. Declarations of Interest

Cllr Flynn declared an interest in item number 3 on the agenda, Community Partners Report on the basis that he was as a member of the Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Authority. He remained in the meeting whilst the item was discussed and determined.

Cllr Sewell declared an interest in item number 5 on the agenda, South Tyneside Homes Update, as he was a Board Member for South Tyneside Homes. He remained in the meeting whilst the item was discussed and determined.

Cllr Keegan declared an interest in item 3 on the agenda, Community Partners Report on the basis that she was a member of the Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Authority and in item 5 on the agenda, South Tyneside Homes Update, as she was the Vice Chair of the Housing Performance Panel. She remained in the meeting whilst the items were discussed and determined.

Cllr Flynn and Cllr McHugh declared an interest in item 4 on the agenda, Housing Development in Hebburn as Members of the Planning Committee.

2. Minutes of the meeting held on 29 November 2021

Members agreed that the minutes of meeting held on 29 November 2021, be confirmed as a true record subject to the following amendments.

A member of the public requested that queries made at the meeting about any future plans to demolish Durham Court and the consequent confirmation that this was not part of any planned development or demolition was noted.

3. Community Partners Report

Fire and Rescue Service

Jonny Ramanayake, from Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service, provided an update that had been provided and circulated to Members prior to the meeting which covered the period November 2021 and included the following information:

Incidents

Type of Incident	November 2020	November 2021
Deliberate Primary Fires (excluding Road Vehicles)	0	0
Deliberate Primary Road Fires	0	1
Deliberate Secondary Fires	17	14
All Deliberate Fires	17	15

Incidents – Ward Breakdown

Ward	November 2020	November 2021
Hebburn North	1	3
Hebburn South	4	5
Monkton	12	7

Members were also provided with a brief verbal update including statistics for December 2021. It was highlighted that there had been 0 Deliberate Primary Fires, 0 Deliberate Primary Road Fires and 1 Deliberate Secondary Fire compared with 5 Deliberate Secondary Fires in December 2020 in the Hebburn CAF area.

A property type breakdown of incidents was also included in the report for Members' and Residents' information. Incidents seemed to follow no pattern and happened sporadically.

One Member raised concerns about noise disturbances caused by people setting off fireworks in the period leading up to the meeting. They asked whether people had to inform the fire service before setting off fireworks. The fire officer responded that there was no obligation for people to inform them before setting off fireworks responsibly. However, the Officer noted that storing large quantities of fireworks was heavily legislated and restricted and anyone misusing fireworks could be reported to the police for antisocial behaviour. The fire officer stated that they would check to see whether there had been any incidences reported regarding the fireworks and feedback to the Members.

Northumbria Police

PC Scott Young from Northumbria Police provided an update on police activity in the Hebburn Community Area Forum.

The Officer reported the latest crime figures for the Hebburn area:

- Burglary Dwellings – 3 burglaries were recorded and 1 attempted.
- Commercial Burglaries – 0
- Dedicated burglary prevention teams continued patrols to deter burglars and bring them to justice.
- There had also been an incident in which a group of young people pulled down some fencing at the Hawthorn Leslie site.
- 3 Vehicle thefts had been reported which marked a reduction since last period.
- The Officer warned people against leaving valuables on display and asked people to double check that vehicles were locked.
- Operation Gryphon continued to target youth anti-social behaviour and hotspots had been identified on Mountbatten Avenue and Dahlia Way. To resolve these incidents Officers continued to work with schools and young people to encourage diversionary activities.
- The Hebburn Maps project continued to direct young people to different activities and worked in partnership with South Shields Football Club. However, it was suggested that there was a demand for activities to be run on more days, especially midweek, which was proving difficult.
- The Officer also encouraged residents to report any instances of antisocial behaviour via 101 or the 'tell us something' section of the Northumbria Police website.
- There were 0 reports of improper motorcycle behaviour. However, it was concluded this could be down to the season and action had been taken around storage of such vehicles.

The Chair thanked the Officer for their report and remarked how positive it was with regards to diversionary activities for young people. Another Member commented that they themselves played an active

part in organising activities to be held at Clegwell Community Centre four nights a week. However, the Member observed that shortages of youth workers prevented them from organising more activities throughout the week.

A member of the public queried whether action had been taken against motorbikes riding off road around Monkton Village, based on evidence provided by the CCTV camera installed there. The Officer stated that no action had been taken as far as they knew but they continued Operation Headlight and retrospective action. The Officer urged people to report any incidences of such disturbances so that they can identify hotspots.

A Member commented that barriers as well as a camera had been installed in the Monkton area. However, the barriers needed to be widened due to complaints from the bicycle association which rendered them less effective against motorcyclists. Again, the Officer reiterated the importance of reporting any sightings or incidences.

A member of the public complained that the 101 telephone reporting service was not very effective and could be a lengthy process which deterred people from reporting. The police officer responded saying that staff levels at the control room had been impacted by COVID 19 and therefore 999 calls needed to be the main priority.

Nexus

A representative of Nexus was unable to attend the meeting on this occasion.

Agreed: That the contents of the reports be noted.

4. Housing Development in Hebburn

Peter Mennell, Head of Regeneration and Housing delivered a verbal update on Housing Development in Hebburn.

As of the 31st of March 2021:

- There were 5 active planning approvals.
 - Victoria Road West had been split between Miller and Persona Homes. 120 – 130 units remained to be built.
 - The Maples development had 18 units remaining to be built but was now completed.
 - Campbell Park Road civil site had 40 units remaining.
 - Bedewell Industrial Estate had 140 units remaining to be built.
 - Ashworth Frasier have 100 units yet to start.
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- Plans were in place for The Father Walsh Day Centre which is set to provide supported living accommodation.
- Hawthorne Leslie had put in plans to build an allocated employment site with 400 homes.
- Following the demolition of the Lincoln Centre in the Hebburn Newtown, plans have been put in place to divide the site between specialised accommodation and council housing. 80 units will be built which can provide for extra care needs, with a specific focus on people with dementia. The remainder of the site will provide 2 – 3 bedroom council houses.

Following the Officer's report, Members noted that many of the new housing developments did not include a shop or children's play area on the estates. The Member queried how much input the planning team had on what facilities would be built within the new developments. The Officer responded that the Planning Team were developing a revised local plan which will be presented to the Cabinet in the coming month. The Officer explained that as per the national framework, there were no requirements to stipulate shops needed to be built on estates since most people tended to travel for their shopping. The Officer also stated that some residents did not wish to live near to a children's play areas and in some cases, they had been removed as a result of consultations with residents.

Another Member agreed with the initial Member's comment about the lack of shops, stating that some new estates can be isolated especially for those who do not own cars. To combat feelings of isolation the Member proposed that benches should be installed to allow neighbours to interact more. The Officer acknowledged this and with regards to the shop comment, stated that it was a priority to protect core retail areas and shops outside the town centre could draw people away from those protected areas.

A Member raised that some historic estate proposals had included play areas in their original proposals but that the play area was not included in order to make space for more housing. The Officer noted that play area development would only be actioned if the original planning applications included provisions for a play area. The Member suggested that Ward Councillors should be more involved in initial discussions about proposals. The Officer reminded Members that the Council have government targets for housing to meet and had less control at the planning stage on developments built on privately owned land.

A Member queried whether any bungalows were planned for the Lincoln Court site. The Officer responded that this was the case, and the development would contain a mix of different unit types.

A member of the public said that more social and rentable housing should be built in Hebburn. The Officer replied to this and listed sites from the report which included council or affordable rent properties. It was also stipulated that plans were in place to build over 50 new council houses every year for the next five years.

Discussion took place regarding public consultation on regeneration in Hebburn and access to green spaces.

Members thanked the Officer for all of the work he had carried out during his time at South Tyneside Council and wished him well for the future.

Agreed: That the contents of the report be noted.

5. Nurturing Dementia Update

Maria Scurfield-Walton gave a presentation on the Nurturing Dementia Project which works to educate people to rebut the stigma of dementia and create more dementia friendly spaces within Hebburn and across South Tyneside.

The presentation gave Members some background on dementia. It stated that 52% of the UK population knows someone with dementia and 1 in 14 over 65s in the UK have the condition. In South Tyneside alone 2000 people are living with dementia.

The Nurturing Dementia project had been granted a community funding grant, prior to the COVID 19 pandemic. With the grant in place, the scheme aimed to develop:

- Skills development sessions
- Dementia friendly awareness sessions
- An event on dementia and spirituality
- Work with local churches to carry out dementia inclusivity audits
- Dementia inclusive carol service
- Dementia friendly communities

Some of these activities also included working with care homes and helping dementia patients create life stories and memory boxes. Due to the impact of the pandemic not all these activities could go ahead due to social distancing restrictions and therefore deadlines had been extended.

However, the group were able to organise dementia friendly Christmas services in 2021 which received lots of positive feedback from patients and carers.

In the long term the charity planned:

- To explore further funding
- To continue to network and train
- To expand the support available to care homes
- Re establish the Dementia Action Alliance and dementia friendly communities.

The Chair commented on the hardships that come with the condition for both the individual and their loved ones. They queried whether it can be difficult to convince someone with early onset dementia that they have the condition. Maria responded that one of the main aims of the project was to tackle the stigma around dementia. She stated that by removing this people who have been

diagnosed feel less frightened and treatment can have a bigger impact. The project aimed to help people with dementia live more positive lives within their communities with help from additional facilities and people in the community.

A member of the public asked whether the charity went into Council owned housing blocks to provide educational talks. Maria replied that once invited the trust could deliver dementia friendly sessions to raise awareness of the disease. However, the Officer from South Tyneside Homes stated that due to COVID it was more difficult to arrange external speakers since social distancing would be required. Maria stated that they also offer online sessions for those who had internet or computer access.

A Member requested clarification on the differences between Alzheimers and Dementia. Maria stated that dementia was more of an umbrella term to cover lots of different types of conditions, with Alzheimers being the most common form of dementia.

Agreed: That the contents of the report be noted.

6. Active Travel and Transport Update

Jonathan Barlow, Senior Transport Planner delivered a presentation to update the Hebburn Community Area Forum Members on Active Travel and Transport across South Tyneside. The presentation covered:

- The Local Cycling and Walking Investment Plan (LCWIP) and its results – including new cycle and walking routes
- Infrastructure Delivery – also detailing utilised funding schemes
- Road Safety Education
- School Engineering Measures
- Communication and promotion of the scheme

The Officer also noted that active travel measures had been put in place to improve access to two metro stations in the borough. A Member queried which stations were being referred to. The Officer confirmed the stations as Tyne Dock and Chichester, both labelled as underutilised.

A Member also queried what measures were being put in place around the Moor Lane area and asked whether the road would be made one way for moto vehicles. The Officer stipulated that a lane for bikes and pedestrians was being installed but would remain a two-way street, but the speed limit would be reduced.

A member of the public expressed concerns around walkways which had become less wheelchair friendly because of new development and housing. A Member also seconded this, citing barriers which were no longer wheelchair friendly. The Officer responded that the person responsible for this depended on the landowners. However, the Council would be able to approach owners and negotiate changes to pathways.

Another Member expressed concerns that the scheme did not cater to public transport users. They also touched upon other public transport issues including bus routes and fares. The Active Transport scheme aimed to analyse where people in the borough generally travelled to for work and aimed to improve cycle routes to these places and encourage people to cycle.

A member of the public also raised the issue of access to South Tyneside Hospital from Hebburn and Members discussed whether the responsibility lay with Nexus or the bus companies. A Member noted that problems with bus routes and access to hospitals was a wider issue concerning the rest of the borough and other areas of the Northeast. A member of the public also asked whether it was true that Nexus were planning to make changes to concessionary bus passes. The Chair assured the public that this was not the case, but Nexus were having financial difficulties due to cuts in government funding.

Agreed: That the contents of the reports be noted.

7. South Tyneside Homes Local Area Update

Steven Kelly, Area Manager delivered an update on South Tyneside Homes in the Hebburn area. The trust had developed a good partnership with the police operating in the area, to tackle antisocial behaviour. The Officer cited positive feedback on the partnership and cited a case where the Trust had been able to cater for the additional support needs of the perpetrator and prevent further antisocial behaviour. It was stipulated that tenancy enforcement was used as a last resort.

Proactive solutions were also used to support people in paying their rent. New tenants and universal credit claimants were contacted to ensure all elements of the rental agreement were understood. Efforts were also being made to build up positive relationships between officers and tenants and the Allocations team were nearly fully staffed.

The Tenants Annual Report had also been completed with the help of volunteer residents and Trust were aiming engage with residents more using events, surveys, and social media.

A Member stated that while they understood working with the perpetrator in cases of antisocial behaviour, it should be noted that the victim should not be neglected. The Officer responded that taking an incident to court was a worst case scenario and explore every other avenue to ensure both the victim and perpetrator receive the required support.

A discussion was had between a member of the public and the Officer in which clarity was given regarding the process of applying for a council house or flat. The public also raised specific issues concerning Durham Court.

Agreed: That the contents of the reports be noted.

8. 2021/2022 Community Area Forum Funding Report

Submitted: Report of the Corporate Director Business and Resources

This report informed Members that the total budget allocated to the Hebburn Community Area Forum for the 2021/22 financial year was £247,753. This comprised:

Environmental Capital Funding	£83,333
Housing Capital Funding	£122,754
Local Neighbourhoods Scheme	£41,666

Members were also provided with information on allocations/balances per ward as at paragraph 5 of the report.

Agreed: (a) That the contents of the report be noted; (b) that the new applications listed in the report and any tabled applications be dealt with as follows:

Scheme (Ward)	Applicant and Purpose of Grant	Grant Sought (Project Cost if different)	Grant Awarded
Local Neighbourhoods Scheme Investing in our natural and built environment. (Hebburn North)	Painting metal fencing and memorial discs.	£7,615 (£9,621)	£7,615
Local Neighbourhoods Scheme Supporting Families and Older or Vulnerable People. (All wards)	Jarroviaans RUFC – Purchase CCTV and a defib box.	£543 (£1,036)	£543

A Member requested that the remaining funding for the Monkton ward be spent on a solar panel scheme, the details of which were to be passed on to the Community Resource and External Funding Officer for consideration. Members agreed this scheme on the condition that all relevant details were provided.

9. CAF Funded Projects – Feedback and Updates

Submitted: Report of the Corporate Director, Business and Resources.

The Community Resource and External Funding Officer presented the report with updates on schemes approved in 2019/20 and 2020/21 that were ongoing.

The report also contained feedback from groups who had been awarded a grant and whose schemes were now completed.

A Member highlighted that Grosvenor Crescent was in Hebburn South and not Hebburn North as noted in the report.

Agreed: (a) That the contents of the report be noted.

10. Work Programme for the Forum

Submitted: Report of the Corporate Director Business and Resources

This report set out the Work Programme for 2021/22 which outlined standard reports and details of topics for future meetings of the Community Area Forum. Members were invited to make comments, additions or amendments as necessary.

Agreed: That the 2021/22 Work Programme be approved as presented subject to the inclusion of issues raised at this meeting to be reported back to a future meeting of the Community Area Forum.

11. Chairman's Urgent Items

There were no urgent items.

12. Date and Time of Next Meeting

The Chairman advised that the next meeting of the Forum was to take place at 10.00 am on 21 February 2022.

Chairman – 21 February 2022
