

**Minutes**  
**The Billingham Partnership Board**  
**7 September 2009, 5.45pm at The New Life Family Centre, Billingham**

**Chair:**

**Geoff Harrison** (Low Grange Community Hall)

**Members:**

Kevin Bowler (**North Billingham Residents Association**), Joe Maloney (**Billingham International Folklore Festival**), Ken Ellis (**Churches Together in Billingham**), Bert Smailes (**Safer Billingham Partnership**), Hilary Aggio (**Stockton Borough Council**), Liz Smith (**Billingham Business Association**), Gil Smith (**Billingham Business Association**), Roger Black (**Federation of Small Businesses**), Barry Woodhouse (**Stockton Borough Council**), David Campbell (**Pentland Primary School**), Ray McCall (**Clarences Residents Association**)

\* Members are representing their nominating body.

**Advisors:**

**Zoe Rutter, Louise McDonald, Andy Whinnerah, Jean Edmonds, Jonathan Kibble** (Stockton Council), **Dave Munt** (Billingham Environmental Link Project)

**Apologies**

**Members:**

**Cath Coldbeck** (Stockton Trade & District Union), **Kevin Pitt** (Manager), **Andy Hatton** (Federation of Small Businesses), **Jim Scollen** (Disability Representative), **Val Scollen** (Roscoe Road Residents Association), **Fred Gook** (Neighbourhood Watch), **Michele Smith** (New Life Family Centre), **Ged McGuire** (South Billingham Residents Association)

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<p><b>1. Welcome, introductions and apologies for absence</b></p> <p>Members were introduced and welcomed to the Billingham Partnership Board. Apologies were noted.</p>		No
<p><b>2. Minutes of Last Meeting</b></p> <p>Minutes of the last meetings held on 6 July 2009 and the minutes of the AGM held on 6 July were agreed as a true record.</p> <p>A meeting of the Executive group was held on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> August with regards to the appointment of a voluntary manager, self employed consultant to the Billingham Environmental Link Project Agricultural / Horticulture project. Funding has been awarded from the Communities Fund to the fund this post. The Executive Group agreed to appoint Deryk Forest to this role with the Boards approval, the Board agreed to this appointment.</p>		No  No
<p><b>3. Myplace – Claire Walsh</b></p> <p>This item will now be presented at the October meeting of the Billingham Partnership Board.</p>		No
<p><b>4. Cycle Routes – Jonathan Kibble</b></p> <p>JK informed the Board of the current provision that is currently on offer in Billingham. The cycle route that has been implemented close to Billingham Campus school is being very well used and more young people are choosing to cycle to and from school.</p> <p>The Board raised concerns over the lack of cycle route continuity and cycling on the Town Square. JK informed the Board that no adults or children should be cycling in the Town Square and people can be given on the spot fines for this and cycling on the pavement. The National Cycle Route passes through the Town Centre area between Kingsway and the Causeway via the front of the Forum.</p>		No

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<p>Continuity of cycle lanes was raised. JK responded that cycle routes do not need to have marked lanes where traffic flow and speed is shown to be low (&lt;3000 vehicles per day), and there is no accident history. JK informed the group that the cycle route map shows roads that are safe to cycle on in yellow.</p> <p>JK handed out some cycle route maps and asked for any comments to be fed back to him directly.</p> <p><b>Does it need Council/ Cabinet approval/ endorsement?</b> No</p> <p><b>Are any other boards affected?</b> No</p> <p><b>Contact:</b> Jonathan Kibble, Stockton Council (01642) 526735 <a href="mailto:jonathan.kibble@stockton.gov.uk">jonathan.kibble@stockton.gov.uk</a></p>		
<p><b>5. Matters Arising</b>  <b>a. Town Centre Development</b></p> <p>As previously advised, discussions are on going with Stockland, who are expected to consult with people regarding their initial proposals, particularly the urban realm in autumn this year. Stockland, have requested a 9 month extension to their original deadline of July for submission of their masterplan and the Council is currently in the process of agreeing this. Stockland are continuing their negotiations with future tenants/retailers regarding (re) location in / to Billingham Town Centre</p> <p><b>Does it need council/ Cabinet approval/ endorsement?</b> No</p>		No

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<p><b>Are any other boards affected?</b> No</p> <p><b>b. Billingham House</b></p> <p>LM informed the Board that the Council is using its legal powers to prosecute the owners of Billingham House, Bizzy B Management Ltd, for failing to comply with the legal notice requiring them to demolish the building by 31<sup>st</sup> December 2008. At the first hearing of the case at Teesside Magistrates Court on 14<sup>th</sup> July, Bizzy B produced a copy of the Heads of Terms with a local developer intending to refurbish the building. Rather than requesting Bizzy B enter a plea of 'guilty' or 'not guilty' the Court agreed to adjourn the case until 11<sup>th</sup> August so that progress could be made on the potential development. At the second hearing at Teesside Magistrates Court on 11<sup>th</sup> August, Officers were not of the opinion that sufficient progress had been made to induce the Council to withdraw it's prosecution, and Bizzy B were forced by the Court to enter a plea. Bizzy B's legal representative entered a plea of 'not guilty' and a trial date was set for 12<sup>th</sup> October 2009. LM informed the Board that Officers from Regeneration are working with all parties to bring about a solution for the site.</p> <p><b>Does it need Council/ Cabinet approval/ endorsement?</b> No</p> <p><b>Are any other boards affected?</b> No</p> <p><b>c. Forum</b></p> <p>LM informed the Board that contractor Morgan Ashurst has commenced works to refurbish the Forum. The building is currently undergoing a strip out which will continue over the next few weeks. Information about the refurbishment including contact details have been placed within the foyer of the old Billingham Art Gallery (window). As the contract progresses, the display will</p>		<p>No</p> <p>No</p>

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<p>be updated with text and pictures to allow residents and users to see the progress over the 18<sup>th</sup> month refurbishment.</p> <p>LM informed the Board that Morgan Ashurst is currently producing a website to further provide information regarding the refurbishment. It is anticipated that the website will feature a webcam (ice arena), construction diary (with photos), latest news page etc.</p> <p>LM informed the Board that a further Sport England SWIM bid has been submitted along with a submission for a Carbon Trust Loan (Salix Financing) to improve energy efficiencies for the refurbished building. LM will provide feedback in due course.</p> <p>LM informed the Board that the Council have wrote out to Town Centre businesses to offer help / support / guidance to anybody who may be struggling at this difficult time.</p> <p><b>Does it need council/ Cabinet approval/ endorsement?</b> No</p> <p><b>Are any other boards affected?</b> No</p> <p><b>d. John Whitehead Park</b></p> <p>LM informed the Board that Probation Services have installed 80% of the play area fence. Play providers have submitted their proposals for the development of additional facilities. Artist Lee Brewster, who did some earlier consultation work with children and young people, will be returning to the schools in the next few weeks to discuss what types of equipment they would most like to have. The additional play equipment will be installed during the current financial year, utilising 'Playbuilder' funding provided by the Department for Children, Schools and Families.</p> <p>LM informed the Board that signs have been put up at the entrances to the park advising that private vehicles should not be driven into the park.</p> <p>SBC have been undertaking some visitor surveys in the park, along with other parks and greenspaces across the Borough, some good feedback has been provided. The Council will</p>		No

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<p>be able to share the results of these surveys once they are complete and some analysis has been undertaken.</p> <p><b>Does it need council/ Cabinet approval/ endorsement?</b> No</p> <p><b>Are any other boards affected?</b> No</p> <p><b>e. Integrated Health &amp; Social Care Facility</b></p> <p>LM informed the Board that the Council continue to finalise details of the scheme objectives, scope and deliverables. This is a lengthy piece of work which will lead to the submission of an Outline Business Case (OBC) to the Department of Health in March 2010 with the hope of formally securing the £35m PFI credits, for which we presently have an allocation in principle.</p> <p><b>Does it need council/ Cabinet approval/ endorsement?</b> No</p> <p><b>Are any other boards affected?</b> No</p> <p><b>Contact:</b> Louise McDonald, Stockton Council (01642) 528942 <a href="mailto:louise.mcdonald@stockton.gov.uk">louise.mcdonald@stockton.gov.uk</a></p>		No
<p><b>6. Billingham Environmental Link Project (BELP) – Dave Munt</b></p> <p>DM informed the Board that a final price has been received from Deerness for the fencing for</p>		No

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<p>the Clarences allotments, a meeting will now be arranged with Impetus regarding funding. DM informed the Board that the Welsh Environment Agency have asked if they can use the BELP as an example of community involvement, a report and quotes will be provided from us and researcher, Natalie Djhori, will complete a case study before the end of October. DM informed the Board that various engagement activities have been carried out over the past 6-8 weeks and things are progressing very well with the BELP.</p> <p><b>Contact:</b>            Dave Munt, BELP            (01642) 360150  <a href="mailto:dlmunt@hotmail.com">dlmunt@hotmail.com</a></p>		
<p><b>7. Thematic Groups Update</b></p> <p>DM informed the Board that he attended the last Environment Partnership, the main agenda item was regarding Connect2.</p>		No
<p><b>8. Information Updates</b></p> <p><b>a. Community Sector</b></p> <p>GH informed the Board that he has resigned from Low Grange Residents Association (LGRA) as secretary. Any enquiries regarding LGRA should be directed to James Hadman at SRCGA.</p> <p><b>b. Voluntary Sector</b></p> <p>Nothing to report.</p> <p><b>c. Business Sector</b></p> <p>Nothing to report.</p>		<p>No</p> <p>No</p> <p>No</p>

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<p><b>d. Public Sector</b></p> <p>ZR highlighted the report that was circulated to the Board prior to the meeting regarding the area partnership review. The purpose of the report was to provide an update, this was detailed in full on the report. ZR informed the Board that option 3 was chosen as the preferred minutes template by all area partnerships and will be implemented with immediate effect.</p> <p>ZR informed the Board that the consultation period on the proposed changes to the Core Strategy Development Plan Document publication draft has now commenced and will end on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> September. The document is available to view throughout a number of Council buildings.</p> <p>ZR informed the Board that Cllr Womphrey has expressed concern over the new hospital site in Billingham and asked if TBP would consider this item at a future meeting. ZR informed the Board that she will find out from the Planning Department when the planning application is due for decision and then speak to the Manager and Chair of the Partnership to see if it's necessary to have two meetings in October due to the heavy workload of the Partnership.</p>		<p>No</p> <p>No</p> <p>No</p>
<p><b>9. External Funding Opportunities</b></p> <p>No external funding opportunities to report.</p>		<p>No</p>
<p><b>10. Chairs Report</b></p> <p>Chair informed the Board that he attended the following meetings over the past month:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Low Grange Residents Association 03.09.09 at which he resigned as secretary</li> </ul> <p>Chair asked if anybody had any questions for him, no questions were raised.</p>		<p>No</p>
<p><b>11. Managers Report</b></p> <p>No report was submitted due to the Manager being on holiday.</p>		<p>No</p>

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<b>12. Any Other Business</b>  Nothing to report.		No
<b>13. Date of Next Meeting</b>  <b>Monday 5<sup>th</sup> October 2009, 5.45pm at Stockton Riverside Bede Sixth Form, Marsh House Avenue, Billingham.</b>		No