

**Minutes**  
**Northern Area Partnership Board**  
**Monday, 3rd September, 2012, 5:45 pm at Cowpen Training Centre, Hereford Terrace, Billingham**

**Chair:**

V Scollen(Chairman),

**Members:**

Hilary Aggio (Over 50's Assembly), Gerald Barrass (Low Grange Residents Association), Sandy Gibson – Bell (Disability Advisory Forum), Kevin Bowler (North Billingham Residents Association), Fred Gook (Neighbourhood Watch), Geoff Harrison (Low Grange Community Centre), Jo Maloney (Billingham International Folklore Festival), Bert Smailes (Safer Billingham Partnership), Gil Smith (Billingham Business Association), Barry Woodhouse (Stockton Borough Council).

**Advisors:**

Mike Bowron, Ian Robinson, Kelly Smith, Paul Surtees, Linda Stephenson, Rosemary Young (Stockton Borough Council), Pat Chambers (Billingham Community Newspaper), Hugh McShane (Know How North East)

**Observers:**

Ann Barrass, Kevin Pitt

**Apologies**

**Members:**

Victoria Cooling (Stockton NHS), Chris Bieda (Billingham Town Council), Cath Coldbeck (Stockton & District Trade Union), Andy Hatton (Federation of Small Businesses), Ged McGuire (South Billingham Residents Association), Jim Scollen (Old Billingham Community Association), Kim Staff (Stockton Borough Council), Cllr Womphrey (SBC),

**Advisors/ Observers:**

Janet Stubs (Jobcentre Plus),

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ITEM/ISSUE	ACTION
<p><b>NAP</b>  <b>71/11. Welcome and Introductions</b></p> <p>Members were welcomed to the Northern Area Partnership Board.</p>	
<p><b>NAP</b>  <b>72/11. Declarations of Interest</b></p> <p>Standard DOI's are on the DOI register.</p> <p>KB declared an interest in item 7 as he owns a shop in Stockton Town Centre.</p>	
<p><b>NAP</b>  <b>73/11. Approval of minutes for meeting on 2nd July 2012</b></p> <p>Agreed as a true record.</p>	
<p><b>NAP</b>  <b>74/11. Matters arising from 2nd July minutes</b></p> <p>None.</p>	
<p><b>NAP</b>  <b>75/11. Major Redevelopment Scheme updates</b></p> <p>a. Town Centre Development  IR noted that the public drop in sessions had taken place. A planning application had been submitted last week for the public paving scheme with a view to start the work after Christmas. The tenders for the other works were received last week and a meeting with Stockland is due this week. The successful contractor will be appointed in the next couple of weeks. The toilets are due to be open in the third week in September.</p>	

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<p>The Wetherspoons application to extend the premises was submitted last week.</p> <p>PC wished to thank IR for all his help with the bandstand.</p> <p>It was requested for IR to raise the issue of Christmas lights for Billingham with Stockland at their next meeting.</p> <p>b. Billingham House            MB noted that delays in the demolition was due to the unseasonably wet weather and that Northumbria Water have a limit on the amount of water that can be pumped out from the basement per hour. Although the water has now been removed there is some contamination in the site which will need to be removed before work can start. SBC are working with Rentokill to help remove the birds from the site.</p> <p>It is envisaged that the contractors will be off site early December 2012.</p> <p>c. Integrated Health and Social Care Facility            IR noted that the PCT are not moving into the new facility and will be refurbishing their existing facilities. The plans for the new centre are currently being drawn up and there will hopefully be something to bring to the next meeting.            A query was raised on the library site but it was noted that it will be included as part of the wider library review.</p> <p>It was noted that no discussions had taken place on the old Campus site.</p>	<p>IR to raise in the next meeting with Stockland.</p>
<p><b>NAP</b>  <b>76/11. Regeneration and Environmel Local Development Docunment</b></p> <p>RY noted that the consultation on this document is coming to an end. The document is quite large and sits along side the core strategy. Leaflets were distributed to members which gave a brief description of what is included in the document and should help anyone who wants to look at certain sections in more detail. Feedback on the document can be given on line.</p>	

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<p>The document is split into nine sections: Sustainable Transport, Sustainable Living, the Economy, Town Centres, Provision of Facilities, Housing Policies, Environmental Protection and Enhancement, Historic Environment, Regeneration and Gateway Sites.</p> <p>When the consultation ends any comments received will be fed into the document which will be consulted on again before being put to the Secretary of State for an Examination-in-Public to be held. The document will take into account the changes to planning laws and is hoped to be adopted by the Council by early 2014 .</p> <p>A query was raised on the proposed plan for a crematorium in the borough. RY noted that no decision has been made on this and no site has been identified.</p> <p>KP informed the Board that they are looking to develop an energy hub for Billingham and would include four main partners; education, industry the local authority and the community. The Board agreed to support the principle of the hub but would like more information to come to a future meeting.</p> <p>A query was raised regarding Portrack relief Road. RY noted that it is a short road linking the sites of the Green / Blue Heart to further up Portrack Lane. Although no decision has been made on this and it may never come to fruition it is still included in the document at this stage.</p>	
<p><b>NAP</b>  <b>77/11. Draft Shop Fronts and Advertisements Supplementary Planning Document</b></p> <p>RY informed the Board that the process for this is a lot quicker. The document is to advise developers who are changing their business fronts and is enforceable across the Borough. It also gives advice on the design of other types of advertisements, such as hoardings. It includes design requirements so that any historic features are not lost and that particular care is taken over new shop fronts and advertisements in conservation areas. Consultation closes on the 24th September 2012.</p>	
<p><b>NAP</b>  <b>78/11. Welfare Reform - local council tax support scheme</b></p>	

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<p>LS informed members that a new Local Council Tax support scheme needs to be implemented now the Council Tax Benefit has been abolished. The old scheme was fully funded by central government however the new scheme will be 90% funded from central government with the local authority having to make up the shortfall. SBC anticipate that the shortfall will be greater than the 10% due to increases in take up.</p> <p>LS noted that 23,000 residents in the borough will be affected with the majority of recipients of pensionable age it was noted that the new scheme will not change for this group and will mainly affect those of working age. A draft scheme has been drawn up and a questionnaire on the proposed new scheme was circulated to members, it was noted that it has also been sent to residents of the borough. Consultation on the draft scheme runs from the 13th August 2012 to the 19th October 2012. A number of public drop in sessions are also being held throughout the borough the next one is on the 12th September at Low Grange.</p> <p>The new scheme will continue to be means tested and targeted at people on low incomes. People will be supported up to a maximum 80% of their Council Tax Bill.</p> <p>Additional advice workers will be available to help those affected by the changes and can help with budgeting and making sure they are claiming all support available to them.</p> <p>LS noted that it is difficult to make these changes especially in light of all the other reforms such as Universal Credit. Universal Credit did originally include Council Tax but Central Government changed this for the new scheme with a really short deadline to get the new scheme implemented.</p> <p>SBC are working with the Infinity Financial Inclusion Partnership on this and are having an event on the 9th October for advisors, support workers and those interested parties on the support available.</p> <p>It was noted that people should be made aware of all the good work that the council are doing especially in the face of adversity and financial pressure.</p> <p>KP suggested using the community right to challenge on these changes and do a e petition to raise the issue with central government.</p>	<p>The Board agreed to let KP raise this at the Voice meeting.</p>

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<p><b>NAP</b>  <b>79/11. Thematic Groups Update:</b>  <b>Safer Stockton Partnership</b>  <b>Housing and Neighbourhood</b>  <b>Health and Wellbeing</b>  <b>ERTP</b>  <b>Arts and culture</b>  <b>Stockton Renaissance</b></p> <p>BS informed the Board that there had been a 16.6% reduction in crime in Q1 which is the best figures for June in around 20 years. It was noted that a joint effort and a partnership approach has helped achieve this result.</p> <p>It was noted that Cleveland Police have an app you can download which notes all the crime that has been committed in the last 24hrs.</p> <p>No updates from the Housing &amp; Neighbourhood Partnership, Health and Wellbeing, Arts and Culture, ERTP and Renaissance as they had either not met since the last update or the member was absent from the meeting.</p>	<p>KS to send round the figures</p>
<p><b>NAP</b>  <b>80/11. Sector Updates:</b> a i) Town Council  ii) SBC and Youth Service  b. i) Supporters of John Whitehead Park / Stakeholders Group  ii) SRCGA  iii) BELP  iv) Legacy Fund  v) Clarences Update  vi) Over 50's Assembly  vii) Billingham Newspaper  c. Voluntary Sector  d. Business Sector</p>	

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<p>a. Public Sector: i) Town Council: The update report was circulated to members. Members noted that there wasn't a lot of publicity for the event they had in the park.</p> <p>ii) SBC and Youth Service: PS noted that they run risk taking road shows in secondary schools. They target work in Billingham Schools on smoking cessation and alcohol. From this work they have developed a risk taking tool kit.</p> <p>They had a busy summer of activities throughout the area and have done some targeted out reach in John Whitehead park.</p> <p>PS informed the Board that they are still waiting to sign the contract for the Forum but once this is signed it will support the ongoing outside work that they are undertaking.</p> <p>b. Community Sector: i) Supporters of John Whitehead Park: Information included on the Town Council update.</p> <p>ii) SRCGA: No update.</p> <p>iii) BELP: KP informed the Board that they have taken on three apprenticeships, one for the legacy fund and two for the BELP with the opportunity to take another one on for the BELP. They are currently waiting to sign the lease for Langdale Terrace. The project has now erected a fence around the equine centre making it secure for the horses.</p> <p>iv) Legacy Fund update: It was noted that they have supported 14 people many with help to get back into work.</p> <p>v) Clarence's Update: It was noted that the shop in the centre has now opened. They did have an objection to the licence but they have had no problems of underage drinking or anti social behaviour since it opened. The café is now open seven days a week. The Corner House Youth Project is also moving into the building.</p> <p>The Board congratulated Hugh on the work that he has done at the Clarences.</p> <p>vi) Over 50's assembly: As noted in the circulated report.</p>	

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<p>vii) Newspaper: PC informed the Board that in partnership with the BELP they have piloted the DARE project (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) in Billingham. Its is delivered in schools to years 5 and 6, then in years 8 and 9 and finally reinforced on year 11. They are hopeful that it will be launched to the wider Billingham area.</p> <p>PC also encouraged Board members to let them know if any one want to place an article or advertisement in the paper as well as letting them know if any areas are not receiving the paper.</p> <p>c. Voluntary Sector: It was noted that there are some issue with the BMX track but they are being looked into</p> <p>d. Business Sector: GS noted that Stockland have now set up meetings with local businesses.</p>	