

Elderly Citizens Liaison Forum

A meeting of the Elderly Citizens Liaison Forum was held on Tuesday 25th April 2006.

Present: Councillors Mrs Beaumont, Cherrett, Faulks, Frankland, Leonard, Noble and Salt; Mrs E Chapman (St John's Living Well); Mrs D Fairhurst (Stockton Residents & Community Groups); D and Mrs S Parker (Retired Members Association TGWU)

Officer: T Gibson (DNS); Mrs T Harrison (LD).

Appointment of Chairman for Municipal Year 2006/07

RESOLVED that Councillor Frankland be appointed as Chairman for the Elderly Citizens Liaison Forum for the Municipal Year 2006/07.

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillor Salt; Mrs M Cooper (University of the Third Age); S Neal (Teesside Pensioners); R Put (Stockton International Family Centre); Mrs D Rose (Age Concern); L Stanley (Royal Naval Association); Alderman Wood (Age Concern Teesside).

Appointment of Vice-Chairman for Municipal Year 2006/07

RESOLVED that Councillor Noble be appointed as Vice-Chairman for the Elderly Citizens Liaison Forum for the Municipal Year 2006/07.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 28th February 2006 were agreed as a correct record.

Southern Gateway

Mr Tim Gibson (Development Manager) had been involved with the major regeneration issues in Stockton Town Centre such as Wellington Square. Mr Gibson was invited to talk to Members regarding the regeneration of Stockton Town Centre.

In bid to improve the Town Centre a consultancy company had been enlisted who recommended a number of ways of improving the Town Centre, river and surrounding area.

A second consultancy firm had been enlisted to assist in making the plans happen, however Stockton Borough Council would then need to obtain/secure the resources to carry out the work upon the completion of public consultation.

It was the Council's intention to improve the Castlegate Centre and link it to the river. It was also intended to improve the cultural quarter of Stockton Town Centre by providing new bars, café's and a recording studio and improve the Boathouse Lane area.

Members of the forum were not happy that a recording studio would be placed in the Cultural Quarter. Green Dragon Yard was a quiet and easily accessible place for older people and would be better suited for cafes and arts and crafts shops which would be in keeping with the area.

The population was getting older therefore facilities would need to be made available for older people. Members acknowledged the need to equally balance the needs of younger and older people however, if little provision was made for older people, less older people would visit the town which would contradict the aims of Stockton Borough Council.

Members observed that Hartlepool Quay was much improved when it was restored to replicate the historic quay and therefore suggested that the town centre underwent a

similar replication to how it used to be. It was observed that the town would be far more appealing and would again restore its niche in relation to the competition from Middlesbrough and Teesside Park.

If the Market was promoted as a traditional market it would also have a positive impact on the town.

Members observed that housing planned for the Northshore development would be a long way from the town centre and would require residents to walk through University and call centre grounds unless a good bus system was put in place. Members questioned whether there would be a reliable and frequent bus service as residents in Teesdale already suffered as a result of bus services being cut however, if a frequent bus service was put in place to cover Northshore and Teesdale it would benefit all in the area.

A resident at Teesdale queried why Churchill Insurance were allowed to use the land that had been allocated as a park, as an extension to their car park. The resident was advised that the use of the land had not yet been decided upon which appeared to have resulted in it being used as a temporary car park.

The resident also queried why the grass cuttings were not cleared away and was advised that Councillor Leonard would look into the issue as he was a member of Tristar.

CONCLUDED that

1. The presentation be noted.
2. On completion of the study Tim Gibson be invited to return in July/August to update Members.
3. Councillor Leonard would contact Tristar regarding the grass cuttings and advise the resident.