

Parish Council Liaison Forum

A meeting of Parish Council Liaison Forum was held on Monday, 15th September, 2008.

Present: Cllr Mrs Jennie Beaumont, Cllr Miss Barbara Inman, Cllr Terry Laing, Cllr Mrs Sylvia Walmsley, Cllr Barry Woodhouse

Officers: R. Poundford, D. Renn, I. Robinson, M. Robinson (DNS), M. Jones (LD)

Also in attendance: H Atkinson (Billingham Town Council), K Borer (Stillington & Whitton Parish Council), T Bowker (Redmarshall Parish Council), AS Hampton (Castle Levington & Kirklevington Parish Council), G Rees (Grindon Parish Council), J Rosser, N Rosser (Long Newton Parish Council), M Turner (Elton Parish Council), J Walker (Egglecliffe & Egglecliffe Parish Council)

Apologies: Cllr Coleman, Cllr Faulks
Cllr Feldon (Ingleby Barwick Town Council)

PCL Appointment of Chairman 11/08

It was noted that it had been practice that the Parish Council Liaison Forum had been chaired by the Cabinet member with responsibility for Parish liaison. Following a review of cabinet portfolios this was responsibility of the member for Access and Communities, Cllr Coleman. It was agreed that Cllr Coleman be appointed as Chair.

CONCLUDED that Councillor Coleman be appointed Chair of the Parish Council Liaison Forum for the Municipal Year 2008/09.

PCL Appointment of Vice-Chairman 12/08

CONCLUDED that Cllr Laing be appointed Vice-Chair of the Parish Council Liaison Forum for the Municipal Year 2008/09.

PCL Declarations of Interest 13/08

There were no interests declared.

PCL Minutes of the Meeting Held 16th June 2008 14/08

Members considered the minutes of the meeting held 16th June 2008.

CONCLUDED that the minutes of the meeting held 16th June 2008.

PCL Mapping Arrangement Guidance for Town, Parish and Community 15/08 Councils

The GIS/IT Management Officer gave a presentation on the Mapping Arrangement Guidance for Town, Parish and Community Councils.

It was explained that there was a mapping service agreement between organisations such as Local Authorities, Police Authorities, Fire Authorities, National Parks etc, to purchase and share the licence for maps and/or data with a geographical component. There were specific strict terms and condition of use attached to the licence, and the cost to SBC was circa £50,000 per annum.

Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council (SBC) held the ownership of the system for 'business use', and used it as a base map, inputting further information onto the maps, e.g. SBC's assets. SBC were allowed to share the maps with consultants and partners.

Town, Parish and Community Council were now able to take information as contractors of SBC, either in paper or digital map format, GI data, or access to web applications. However Town and Parish Councils needed to sign and comply with the terms and conditions of a contracts licence. SBC GIS team were able to provide limited support to Town and Parish Councils who wished to access the information.

The GIS/IT Management Officer gave a live demonstration of MAP@Stockton on SBC website(<http://www.maps.stockton.gov.uk/Internet/Maps@Stockton/default.htm>), in particular showing how specific information on an address could be found, e.g. ward, nearest green space, school admission zone, crime etc could be found.

It was queried whether the information could be used to identify and report problems in wards and parishes such as pot holes and street lamps that needed their bulbs replacing. It was explained that while a version of maps@stockton had been developed for use within Stockton Council's Customer Relationship Management (CRM) System so this was possible, it was not currently available to Councillors or members of the public. The Officer stated that future developments may give Councillors and/or members of the public the ability to view maps and log position of defects. Aerial photographs were discussed and the members were informed that SBC only had the licence to use these for internal business use only and therefore would not be available on the internet.

CONCLUDED that the information be noted.

**PCL
16/08**

School Travel Plans

The Head of Technical Services gave a presentation on School Travel Plans (STPs).

The Forum was informed that STPs were introduced in 2003 as part of the governments Travel to School initiative. They aimed to reduce congestion, reduce pollution, increase safety, enable smarter choices of travel and promote regular exercise among young people. It was the responsibility of the school to produce and take ownership of the STP, with advice from the Local Authority School Travel Advisor. There were 80 eligible schools in SBC and 53 of those had a completed and authorised STP. Four schools had a non-authorised STP, ten schools had a STP in development, 15 were likely to submit a plan in March 2009, and 15 had made little or no progress.

It was noted that rural pupils and schools faced slightly different issues to urban and suburban schools, which included increased distances pupils travelled to school, travelling along rural roads, and the use and provision of transport. Local Authorities were required to provide transport to schools within two miles where a safe walking route was not available. Development and reviews of STP

would highlight issues of safety and would lead to safety assessments being carried out on routes.

Building Schools for the Future (BSF) was discussed and it was explained the traffic assessments and travel plans could not start until the BSF plans had been finalised. Traffic Management and Road Safety section would work with the BSF team to look at transport issues that arise from the planned changes in secondary school provision. All new and relocated schools involved in BSF would produce a travel plan to comply with planning regulations, and this would then be used as a basis to produce a more detailed plan that would fit the criteria for authorisation.

CONCLUDED that the information be noted.

**PCL
17/08**

Stockton-on-Tees Regeneration Strategy 2007 - 2012

The Stockton-Middlesbrough Initiative (SMI) Coordinator gave a presentation on the Regeneration Strategy 2007 - 2012, which included a video which showed the extent of pollution in the River Tees in the 1970's.

The SMI Coordinator noted the regeneration that had already taken place, and would continue to take place in the borough. These included:

- *Teesdale
- *Tees Barrage
- *Parkfield, Mandale, and Hardwick
- *Wellington Square
- *Stockton International Riverside Festival
- *North Shore
- *Southern gateway
- *Green Blue Heart
- *Billingham and Thornaby Town Centre
- *Stockton Markets
- *BSF programme
- *Improved access - Tees Valley Metro project, major bus review, and expansion of Durham Tees valley airport
- * Redevelopment of Parks and Britain in Bloom

Walkways along the River were discussed and the Forum was informed that there were development plans involving river based leisure facilities and green space which would increase access to the river. The Forum was further informed that the walkway near the student flats at Stockton would be reopened, to enable the public walk along the river at this point.

Public transport links to business and retail developments was raised and discussed. While it was explained that although SBC worked with the local bus companies to provide public transport to areas, it was not always possible.

The Forum discussed the difficulty in attracting the public to the town centres when there were retail parks relatively close by. The Head of Regeneration and Economic Development explained that development of the town centres would differentiate them from the retail parks and offer the public an alternative

experience. He discussed the regeneration of the buildings in Stockton High Street, to make the most of the architecture and heritage, and opening up the view to the river from the High Street. He welcomed any suggestions for regeneration in the borough.

It was queried whether plants for Stockton in Bloom were grown in SBC or bought in. It was explained that while some plants were being grown in SBC by The Shaw Trust, SBC also bought planting from the Richmond area.

CONCLUDED that the information be noted.

**PCL
18/08** **Issues Raised by Parish/Town Councils**

Updated responses to Parish and Town issues were distributed and noted.

An update on Ingleby Barwick Traffic Study would be forwarded to the Town Council.

The Forum discussed the response to Redmarshall's query regarding the action that could be taken to request residents approach officers locally before contacting the Auditor. It was stated that this query would be raised at the Audit Committee meeting.

CONCLUDED that

1. Redmarshall's query would be taken to the the Audit Committee
2. the information be noted

**PCL
19/08** **Code of Conduct**

The Forum noted information regarding the new Code of Conduct Complaint Arrangements. Any queries regarding this could be forwarded to the Monitoring Officer, David Bond.

CONCLUDED that the information be noted.