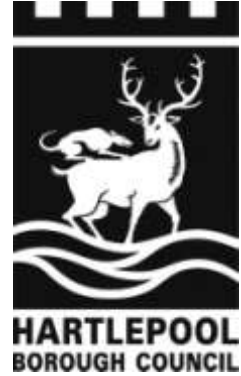


NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES COMMITTEE AGENDA



Monday 25 January 2015

at 10.00 am

**in Committee Room B,
Civic Centre, Hartlepool.**

MEMBERS: NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES COMMITTEE

Councillors Ainslie, Barclay, Gibbon, Jackson, James, Loynes and Robinson

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

2. TO RECEIVE ANY DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS

3. MINUTES

- 3.1 To receive the Minutes and Decision Record of the meeting held on 21 December 2015 (*previously circulated*)

4. BUDGET AND POLICY FRAMEWORK

- 4.1 Council Plan 2016/17 – Proposals for Consideration – *Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods*

5. KEY DECISIONS

No items.

6. OTHER ITEMS REQUIRING DECISION

- 6.1 South Fens Proposed 20 MPH Limit – *Assistant Director, Neighbourhoods*
6.2 Merlin Way Crossing – Assistant Director, Neighbourhoods
6.3 Park Avenue Safety Scheme – Assistant Director, Neighbourhoods



- 6.4 Easington Road Crossing – *Assistant Director, Neighbourhoods*
- 6.5 Allotments Update – *Assistant Director, Neighbourhoods*
- 6.6 'Respect Your Neighbourhood' Environmental Crime Campaign Update –
Assistant Director, Neighbourhoods
- 6.7 The Collection of Sea Coal – *Assistant Director, Neighbourhoods*

7. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

No items.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS WHICH THE CHAIR CONSIDERS URGENT

FOR INFORMATION:

Date of next meeting – Monday 29 February 2016 at 10.00 am in Committee Room B,
Civic Centre



NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES COMMITTEE

25th January 2016



Report of: Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods

Subject: COUNCIL PLAN 2016/17 – PROPOSALS FOR
CONSIDERATION

1. TYPE OF DECISION/APPLICABLE CATEGORY

1.1 Budget & Policy Framework

2. PURPOSE OF REPORT

2.1 To provide the opportunity for the Neighbourhood Services Committee to consider the proposals that fall under the remit of the Committee for inclusion in the 2016/17 Council Plan.

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 The service planning process commenced during the summer of 2015 with a review of the Outcome Framework with some minor changes being made for the Framework for 2016/17. The changes were reported to and agreed by Finance and Policy Committee on the 21st September 2015.

3.2 As in previous years detailed proposals are being considered by each of the Policy Committees throughout January and February in respect of their areas of responsibility. A further report will be prepared for Finance and Policy Committee on the 14th of March detailing the comments/observations of each of the Committees along with Departmental responses and a full draft of the 2016/17 Council Plan.

3.3 The Council Plan will then be presented to Council for agreement on the 17th March. It is proposed that any additional updates or changes agreed by the Finance and Policy Committee on the 14th of March will be noted when the report is presented to Full Council.

4. PROPOSALS

4.1 The Outcomes that include activities that fall under the remit of the Neighbourhood Services Committee are:

- Quality local environments where public and community open spaces are clean, green and safe
- Provide a sustainable, safe, efficient, effective and accessible transport system
- Hartlepool is prepared for the impacts of climate change and takes action to mitigate the effects
- Local people have a greater voice and influence over local decision making and the delivery of services

4.2 **Appendix A** provides detail on the proposed actions, performance indicators and risks identified to deliver the outcome. The Committee is requested to consider the proposals and provide any comments or observations to feed into the consideration of the overall Plan by Finance & Policy Committee on 14th March.

5. NEXT STEPS

5.1 The remainder of the Council Plan proposals will be discussed at the relevant Committees during January and February. Comments and observations from those Committees will be added to those received at today's meeting and included in the overall presentation of the final draft of the Council Plan to Finance and Policy Committee on 14th March 2016, before being taken for formal agreement by Council at its meeting on 17th March 2016.

5.2 Progress towards achieving the actions and targets included in the Council Plan will be monitored throughout 2016/17 by officers across the Council and progress reported quarterly to Elected Members .

6. RISK IMPLICATIONS

6.1 The Council needs appropriate planning and performance management arrangements in place in order to manage its key strategic risks. The aim of the Council Plan is to provide assurance to Elected Members that these risks are being managed.

7. FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

- 7.1 All proposals have been prepared giving due regard to financial considerations.

8. LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

- 8.1 There are no legal considerations.

9. CHILD AND FAMILY POVERTY CONSIDERATIONS

- 9.1 There are no child and family poverty considerations

10. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY CONSIDERATIONS

- 10.1 There are no equality and diversity considerations.

11. STAFF CONSIDERATIONS

11. There are no staff considerations.

12. ASSET MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

- 12.1 There are no asset management considerations.

13. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 13.1 It is recommended that the Neighbourhood Services Committee:
- considers the outcome proposals (Appendix A) for inclusion in the 2016/17 Council Plan;
 - formulates any comments and observations to be included in the presentation of the overall Council Plan 2016/17 to Finance and Policy Committee on 14th March 2016.

14. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 14.1 Neighbourhood Services Committee has responsibility for services that are included within the Council Plan.

15. BACKGROUND PAPERS

15.1 There were no background papers used in the preparation of this report.

16. CONTACT OFFICER

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SECTION 1 OUTCOME DETAILS

Outcome:	Quality local environments where public and community open spaces are clean, green and safe	Theme:	Environment
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Lead Dept:	RND	Other Contributors:	
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SECTION 2 ACTIONS

Action	Due Date	Assignee
Seek funding to improve Rossmere park; that would introduce facilities that foster community spirit, cohesion, ownership and local involvement.	June 2016	Parks and Countryside Manager
Explore opportunities for the development of recreation facilities at Rift House recreation ground	September 2016	Parks and Countryside Manager

SECTION 3 PERFORMANCE INDICATORS & TARGETS

Code	Indicator	Assignee	Targeted or Monitor	Collection Period	Target 2015/16	Proposed Target 2016/17	Proposed Target 2017/18*
RND P061	Achieve Quality Coast award for Seaton Carew Beach	Quality & Safety Officer	Targeted	Financial Year	Yes	Yes	Yes

* This longer-term target is based on the current position and may be subject to change.

SECTION 4 RISKS

Code	Risk	Assignee
	None identified	

SECTION 1 OUTCOME DETAILS

Outcome:	Provide a sustainable, safe, efficient, effective and accessible transport system	Theme:	Environment
Lead Dept:	RND	Other Contributors:	

SECTION 2 ACTIONS

Action	Due Date	Assignee
Develop proposals for Elwick by-pass and a grade separated junction on the A19, to facilitate future housing developments in the North West of the town.	March 2017	Highways, Traffic & Transport Team Leader
Seek funding, through the Local Growth Fund Programme or similar, in advance of proposed housing developments to the north west side of the town for highway improvements at Elwick and on the A19 to facilitate access	March 2017	Highways, Traffic & Transport Team Leader

SECTION 3 PERFORMANCE INDICATORS & TARGETS

Code	Indicator	Assignee	Targeted or Monitor	Collection Period	Target 2015/16	Proposed Target 2016/17	Proposed Target 2017/18*
NI 168	The percentage of principal roads where maintenance should be considered	Highways, Traffic & Transport Team Leader	Targeted	Financial Year	7%	7%	
NI 169	The percentage of non-classified roads where maintenance should be considered	Highways, Traffic & Transport Team Leader	Targeted	Financial Year	9%	9%	

* This longer-term target is based on the current position and may be subject to change.

SECTION 4 RISKS

Code	Risk	Assignee
RND R054	Failure to maintain infrastructure to acceptable standard resulting in additional cost implications through insurance claims	Technical Services Manager

SECTION 1 OUTCOME DETAILS

Outcome:	Hartlepool is prepared for the impacts of climate change and takes action to mitigate the effects	Theme:	Environment
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Lead Dept:	RND	Other Contributors:	
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SECTION 2 ACTIONS

Action	Due Date	Assignee
Decrease contamination through the delivery of education and awareness, which will result in higher recycling and decreased costs.	March 2017	Team Leader - Waste and Environmental Services

SECTION 3 PERFORMANCE INDICATORS & TARGETS

Code	Indicator	Assignee	Targeted or Monitor	Collection Period	Target 2015/16	Proposed Target 2016/17	Proposed Target 2017/18*
NI 191	Number of kilograms of residual household waste collected per household	Team Leader - Waste and Environmental Services	Targeted	Financial Year	600KG	550kg	500kg
NI 192	Percentage of household waste sent for reuse recycling or composting	Team Leader - Waste and Environmental Services	Targeted	Financial Year	42%	44%	46%
NI 193	Percentage of municipal waste landfilled	Team Leader - Waste and Environmental Services	Targeted	Financial Year	5%	5%	5%

* This longer-term target is based on the current position and may be subject to change.

SECTION 4 RISKS

Code	Risk	Assignee
RND R067	Failure to achieve recycling targets resulting in loss of income and additional costs	Team Leader - Waste and Environmental Services
RND R087	Income fluctuations in the market for recyclable materials resulting in difficulties in budget planning and forecasting.	Team Leader - Waste and Environmental Services

SECTION 1 OUTCOME DETAILS

Outcome:	Local people have a greater voice and influence over local decision making and the delivery of services	Theme:	Strengthening Communities
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Lead Dept:	RND	Other Contributors:	CED
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SECTION 2 ACTIONS

Action	Due Date	Assignee
Review the Voluntary and Community Sector Strategy and implement recommendations	March 2017	Community Regeneration Officer
Refresh Ward Profiles and produce sustainability plans for vulnerable localities	March 2017	Community Safety Team Leader

SECTION 3 PERFORMANCE INDICATORS & TARGETS

Code	Indicator	Assignee	Targeted or Monitor	Collection Period	Target 2015/16	Proposed Target 2016/17	Proposed Target 2017/18*
NEW	Percentage of residents who feel they can influence decisions in their local area	Community Regeneration Officer	Monitored	Financial Year	N/A (monitored only)		
RND P052	Number of voluntary sector groups supported/signposted/assisted	Community Regeneration Officer	Monitored	Financial Year	N/A (monitored only)		
NEW	Percentage of people who feel they belong to their local communities	Community Regeneration Officer	Monitored	Financial Year	N/A (monitored only)		
NEW	Percentage of residents who feel they can influence decisions in their local area	Community Regeneration Officer	Monitored	Financial Year	N/A (monitored only)		

* This longer-term target is based on the current position and may be subject to change.

SECTION 4 RISKS

Code	Risk	Assignee
No risks identified for consideration by Neighbourhood Services Committee		

NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES COMMITTEE

25th January 2016



Report of: Assistant Director (Neighbourhoods)

Subject: SOUTH FENS PROPOSED 20 MPH LIMIT

1. TYPE OF DECISION/APPLICABLE CATEGORY

1.1 Non-Key.

2. PURPOSE OF REPORT

2.1 To seek approval for the introduction of a 20mph limit in the South Fens area.

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 Following requests from residents via local Ward Councillors and the Fens Residents' Association, a consultation took place regarding the potential implementation of a 20mph speed restriction, covering the area of South Fens shown at **Appendix 1**.

4. PROPOSALS

4.1 The appropriate 20mph signage will be placed at the entrances to the area, with additional repeater signage installed within the 20mph limit itself. There will be no physical traffic calming measures installed.

5. CONSULTATION

5.1 Consultation letters were hand delivered, throughout the area in the 2nd week of October, and were also sent to the three Ward Councillors. Letters and plans were sent out to around 475 households in the area. From the replies received, 215 were in favour of the 20mph limit (45% of the total properties, and 86% of those returned), 35 were against it (7% of the total properties, and 14% of those returned) and 1 was undecided.

6. RISK IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 There are no risk implications attached to this report.

7. FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

- 7.1 The scheme would be funded via the Local Transport Plan budget allocation, and the estimated cost will be approximately £2,000.

8. LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

- 8.1 Subject to approval of the scheme a traffic regulation order will be advertised for the 20mph speed limit, in accordance with the statutory legal procedures.

9. CHILD AND FAMILY POVERTY

- 9.1 There are no child and family poverty implications attached to this report.

10. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY CONSIDERATIONS

- 10.1 There are no equality and diversity considerations attached to this report.

11. SECTION 17 OF THE CRIME AND DISORDER ACT 1998 CONSIDERATIONS

- 11.1 There are no Section 17 considerations attached to this report.

12. STAFF CONSIDERATIONS

- 12.1 There are no staff considerations attached to this report.

13. ASSET MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

- 13.1 The associated signage will be included on the Asset Register.

14. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 14.1 The Neighbourhood Services Committee approves the proposed 20mph speed limit, as shown in **Appendix 1**.

15. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 15.1 The scheme would improve road safety and encourage slower speeds in the area.

16. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 16.1 None.

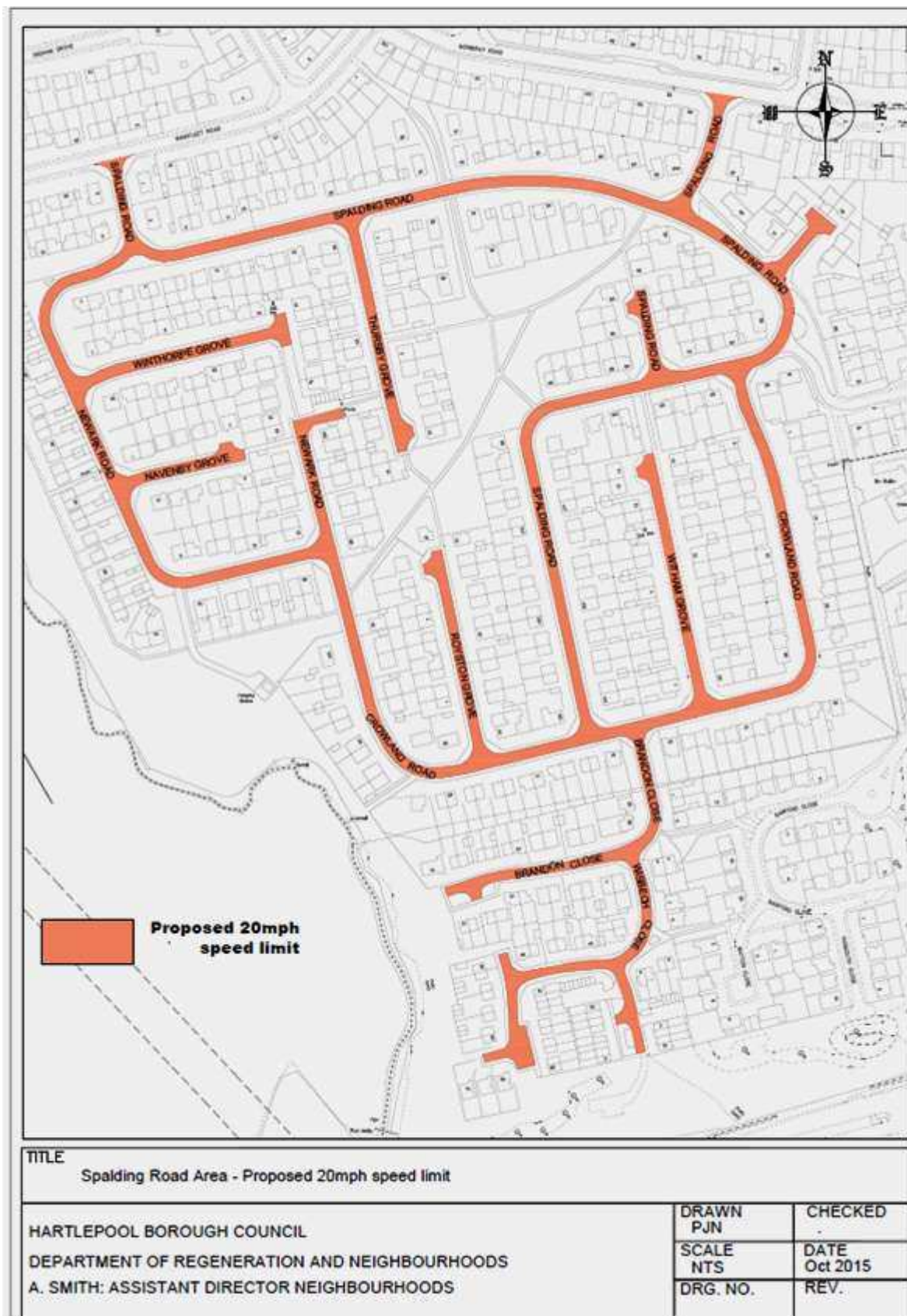
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NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES COMMITTEE

25th January 2016



Report of: Assistant Director (Neighbourhoods)

Subject: MERLIN WAY CROSSING

1. TYPE OF DECISION/APPLICABLE CATEGORY

1.1 Non-Key.

2. PURPOSE OF REPORT

2.1 To seek approval for the installation of a zebra crossing on Merlin Way.

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 Residents have highlighted the need for safe crossing facilities on Merlin Way, particularly to assist children crossing when going to and from nearby schools.

3.2 Ward Councillors and the local Residents' Association have also campaigned for the provision of some form of crossing on the road.

4. PROPOSALS

4.1 The main pedestrian desire line for the majority of pedestrians using this particular area of Merlin Way is travelling to and from Throston Grange Lane, via Moorhen Road. It is therefore important to ensure that the crossing is located as close to the Merlin Way/ Moorhen Road junction as possible, without causing difficulties at the junction itself. See **Appendix 1**.

4.2 Merlin Way is already traffic calmed in the vicinity of the junction by the presence of 3 sets of speed cushions, and it is proposed to replace the eastern-most set with a raised zebra crossing.

4.3 This will provide a safe crossing point, near to the pedestrian desire line, while utilising the location of the existing traffic calming measures on what has become a busy road.

5. CONSULTATION

- 5.1 Letters and plans were sent out to 9 households in the vicinity of the proposed crossing. 3 replies were received, all against the crossing, however 2 were identical and from the same property.
- 5.2 The concerns raised are as follows, along with a response to them (**in bold**).
- Vehicles waiting at the crossing could queue back and block driveways – **The nearest driveway is around 20 metres away, so this would take 3 – 4 vehicles queuing, and would only be for a few seconds which is not considered unreasonable.**
 - Vehicles find it difficult to climb the incline on Merlin Way in snowy weather, and a raised crossing would add to this – **The crossing will replace an existing set of speed cushions, and will be of a less severe gradient than the cushions, to take account of the buses which use the road.**
 - The crossing is close to a bend, and traffic can come around the bend quite quickly and may not see people using the crossing – **This is a prime example of why a crossing would be beneficial. The crossing complies with the visibility requirements for siting one, and being raised will ensure people have to slow down, along with being signed in advance to alert people to it.**
 - Traffic turning onto Merlin Way from Moorhen Road will have limited time to see pedestrians – **There is unrestricted visibility from Moorhen Road, the crossing will be raised to slow traffic down and signed as such in advance to alert drivers.**
 - Traffic queuing at the crossing could cause congestion at the Moorhen Road junction – **The desirable minimum distance a crossing should be located from a junction is 20 metres, with an absolute minimum of 5 metres for a zebra crossing. Moorhen Road is approximately 35 metres from the proposed crossing location, and it is unlikely that queuing would reach this point.**
 - Vehicle drivers and passengers, along with pedestrians, will look through the windows of adjacent properties, and stationary traffic causes noise pollution – **There is a landscaped strip, an access road and a front garden area between the crossing location and adjacent properties, so this would seem unlikely. There is also nothing to prevent pedestrians doing this now when crossing the road, and the new crossing would help them to cross more quickly and move on. There are also many crossing points in the town far closer to adjacent properties.**

6. RISK IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 There are no risk implications attached to this report.

7. FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

- 7.1 The scheme would be funded via the Local Transport Plan budget allocation, and the estimated cost will be approximately £25,000.

8. LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

- 8.1 There are no legal considerations attached to this report.

9. CHILD AND FAMILY POVERTY

- 9.1 There are no child and family poverty implications attached to this report.

10. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY CONSIDERATIONS

- 10.1 There are no equality and diversity considerations attached to this report.

11. SECTION 17 OF THE CRIME AND DISORDER ACT 1998 CONSIDERATIONS

- 11.1 There are no Section 17 considerations attached to this report.

12. STAFF CONSIDERATIONS

- 12.1 There are no staff considerations attached to this report.

13. ASSET MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

- 13.1 The associated signage and crossing infrastructure will be included on the Asset Register.

14. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 14.1 That the raised zebra crossing, replacing an existing set of speed cushions on Merlin Way be approved.

15. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 15.1 The proposed scheme will help to improve road safety and pedestrian crossing facilities on Merlin Way.

16. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 16.1 None.

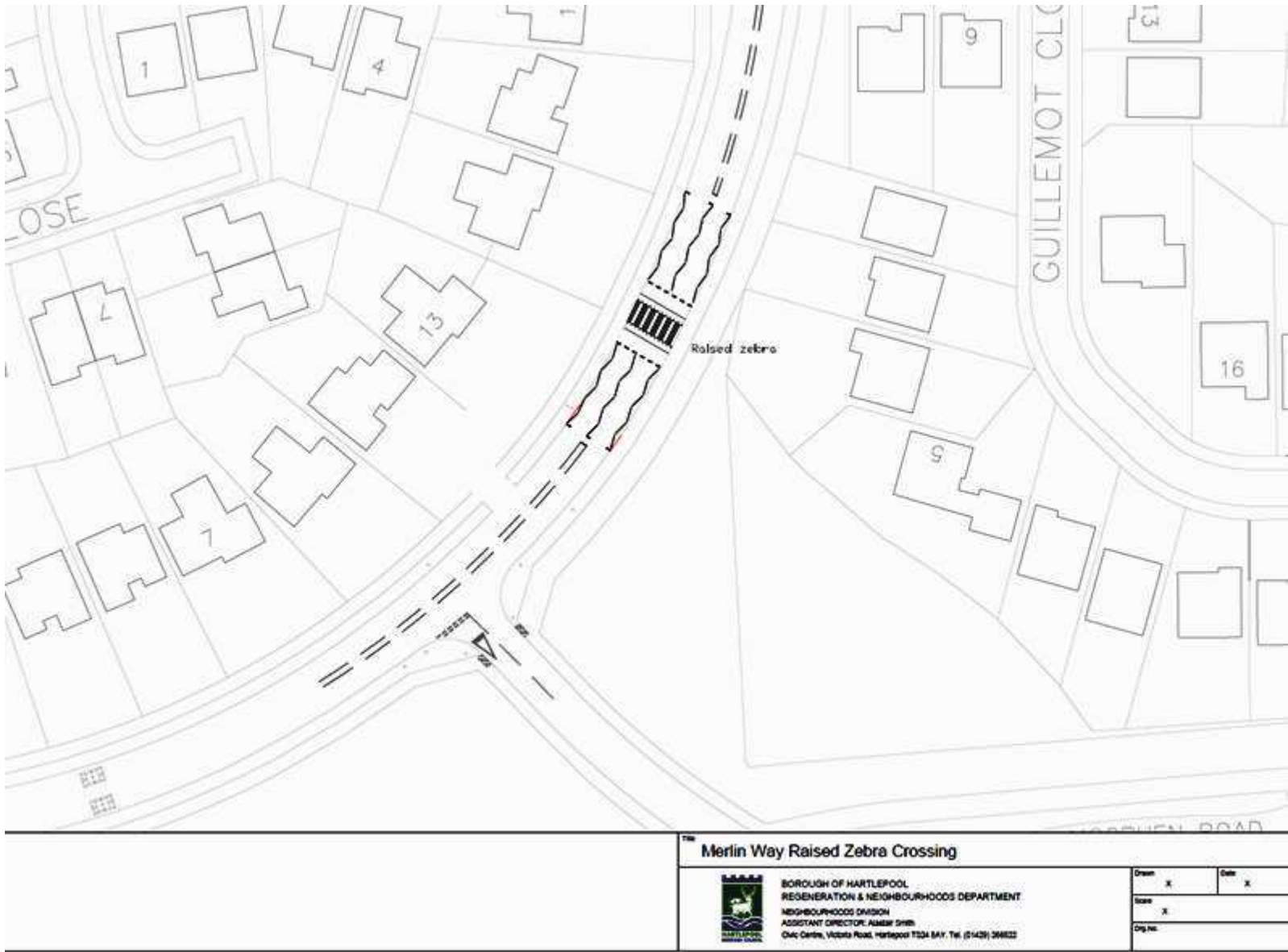
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NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES COMMITTEE

25th January 2016



Report of: Assistant Director (Neighbourhoods)

Subject: PARK AVENUE SAFETY SCHEME

1. TYPE OF DECISION/APPLICABLE CATEGORY

1.1 Non Key.

2. PURPOSE OF REPORT

2.1 To seek approval for the installation of a safety scheme on Park Avenue.

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 Following the provision of a designated car park for Ward Jackson Park, within the grounds of the former Tunstall Court building, it has been the intention to improve pedestrian links between the car park and the park.

3.2 There have also been concerns regarding the speed of traffic on Park Avenue, and consequently a scheme designed to address both issues has been produced (See **Appendix1**).

4. PROPOSALS

4.1 It is planned to introduce a raised zebra crossing, along with a new access and footpath link into the park. This will give a direct, safer link from the car park to the park for pedestrians, and encourage greater use of the car park by visitors.

4.2 At the northern end of Park Avenue, just before its junction with Cresswell Road, another road hump is proposed, which will also act as a pedestrian crossing point. The footpath leading from Cresswell Road comes to an end at this point, so it makes sense to assist pedestrians in crossing to the other side of Park Avenue to continue their journey.

- 4.3 The southern section of Park Avenue (between The Parade and Elwick Road) carries significantly more traffic, and therefore no physical traffic calming measures are to be installed. It is however, proposed to introduce a 20mph speed limit on this section to further improve road safety in the area.

5. CONSULTATION

- 5.1 Four letters were sent out to the properties on Park Avenue and Cresswell Road which are adjacent to the scheme. Only one response has been received which was in favour of the proposals.

6. RISK IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 There are no risk implications attached to this report.

7. FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

- 7.1 The scheme would be funded via the Local Transport Plan budget allocation, and the estimated cost will be approximately £40,000.

8. LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

- 8.1 Subject to approval of the scheme a traffic regulation order will be advertised for both the road humps and the 20mph speed limit.

9. CHILD AND FAMILY POVERTY

- 9.1 There are no child and family poverty implications attached to this report.

10. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY CONSIDERATIONS

- 10.1 There are no equality and diversity considerations attached to this report.

11. SECTION 17 OF THE CRIME AND DISORDER ACT 1998 CONSIDERATIONS

- 11.1 There are no Section 17 considerations attached to this report.

12. STAFF CONSIDERATIONS

- 12.1 There are no staff considerations attached to this report.

13. ASSET MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

- 13.1 The associated signage and crossing infrastructure will be included on the Asset Register.

14. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 14.1 The Neighbourhood Services Committee approves the proposed safety scheme.

15. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 15.1 The proposed scheme will help reduce traffic speed, improve road safety and pedestrian crossing facilities on Park Avenue.

16. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 16.1 None.

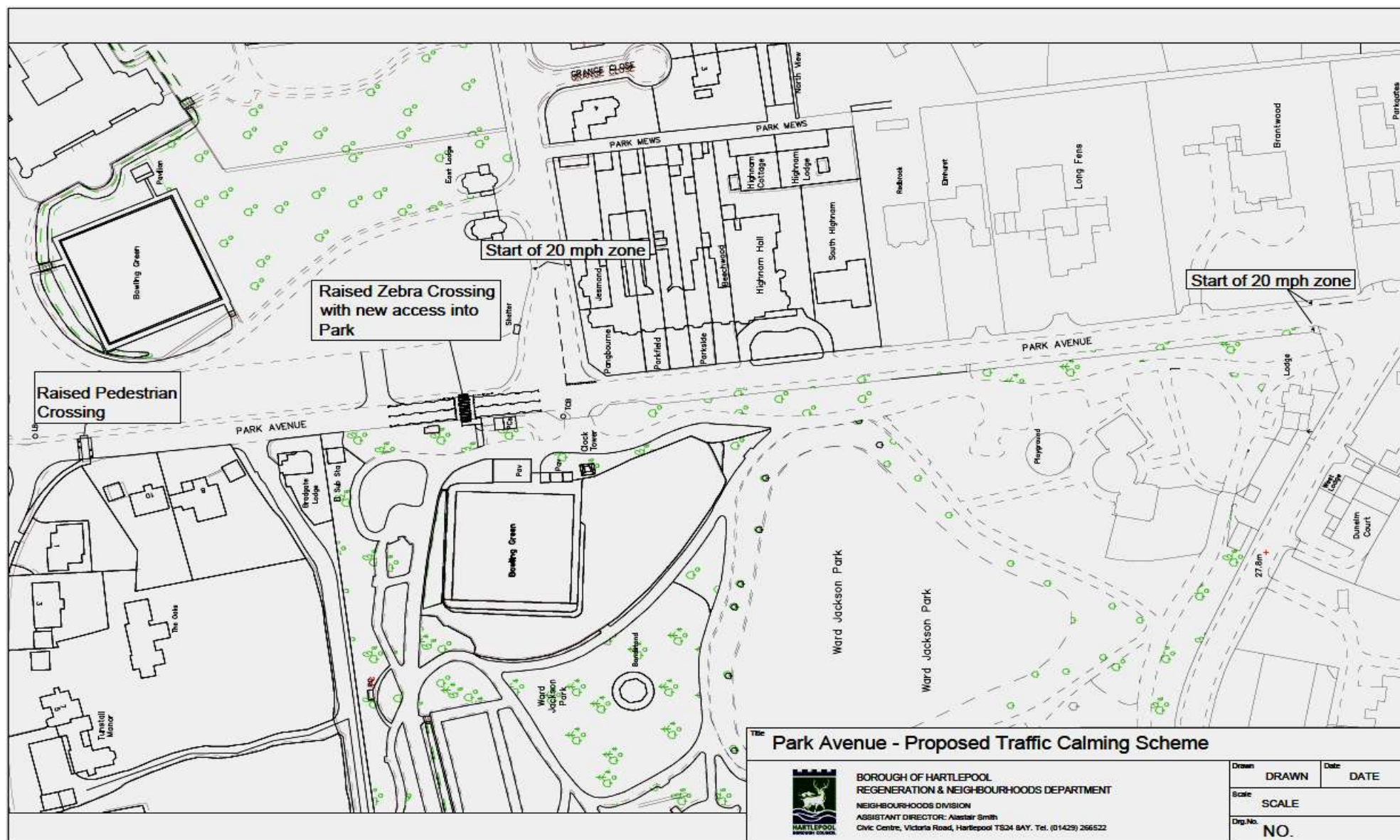
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NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES COMMITTEE

25th January 2016



Report of: Assistant Director (Neighbourhoods)

Subject: EASINGTON ROAD CROSSING

1. TYPE OF DECISION/APPLICABLE CATEGORY

1.1 Non-Key.

2. PURPOSE OF REPORT

2.1 To seek approval for the installation of a puffin crossing on Easington Road.

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 The difficulty for pedestrians when trying to cross the busy A179 Easington Road, in the vicinity of Throston Grange Lane roundabout, has long been raised as a concern.

3.2 Pedestrians are required to cross the road when going to and from the Hospital, the Lidl supermarket, the Public House, and for accessing bus stops. More recently, complaints have been received from parents wanting a safer route for their children when going to and from school.

3.3 Residents and Ward Councillors, and the Neighbourhood Forum have for a number of years asked for the introduction of a crossing at this point. Funding is now available via the Council's Local Transport Plan.

4. PROPOSALS

4.1 As shown at **Appendix 1**, the crossing is proposed to be located to the east of the roundabout, but prior to the central reservation gap which is used as a U-turn for vehicles heading to Jesmond Gardens.

4.2 It is important, to ensure that the crossing is sited a sufficient distance from the roundabout to prevent vehicles queuing back and blocking it, but also that it's not too far away to be unattractive for pedestrians to use. Detailed investigations by the Council's Traffic Signals Engineers have determined the optimum location, which is shown at **Appendix 1**. The scheme is effectively two crossing as the road is a dual carriageway.

4.3 The eastbound bus stop will need to be resited from its current location, and is to be moved slightly further along the road outside of the Army Reserve Centre, as shown on the plan. While it is currently not in use, where practical bus stops are retained for possible future use, as it can prove difficult to re-install them when they have been absent for a period of time.

5. CONSULTATION

5.1 Letters and plans were sent to 10 properties in the area of the proposed crossing, and no objections have been received to the consultation.

6. RISK IMPLICATIONS

6.1 There are no risk implications attached to this report.

7. FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

7.1 The scheme would be funded via the Local Transport Plan budget allocation, and the estimated cost will be approximately £90,000 as the road is a dual carriageway.

8. LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

8.1 There are no legal implications attached to this report.

9. CHILD AND FAMILY POVERTY

9.1 There are no child and family poverty implications attached to this report.

10. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY CONSIDERATIONS

10.1 There are no equality and diversity considerations attached to this report.

11. SECTION 17 OF THE CRIME AND DISORDER ACT 1998 CONSIDERATIONS

- 11.1 There are no Section 17 considerations attached to this report.

12. STAFF CONSIDERATIONS

- 12.1 There are no staff considerations attached to this report.

13. ASSET MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

- 13.1 The newly introduced traffic signals equipment will be included on the Asset Register.

14. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 14.1 The Neighbourhood Services Committee approves the proposed puffin crossing on Easington Road, as shown in **Appendix 1**.

15. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 15.1 The proposed scheme will provide a controlled crossing point across the A179 dual carriageway, and help to improve road safety in the area.

16. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 16.1 None.

17. CONTACT OFFICER

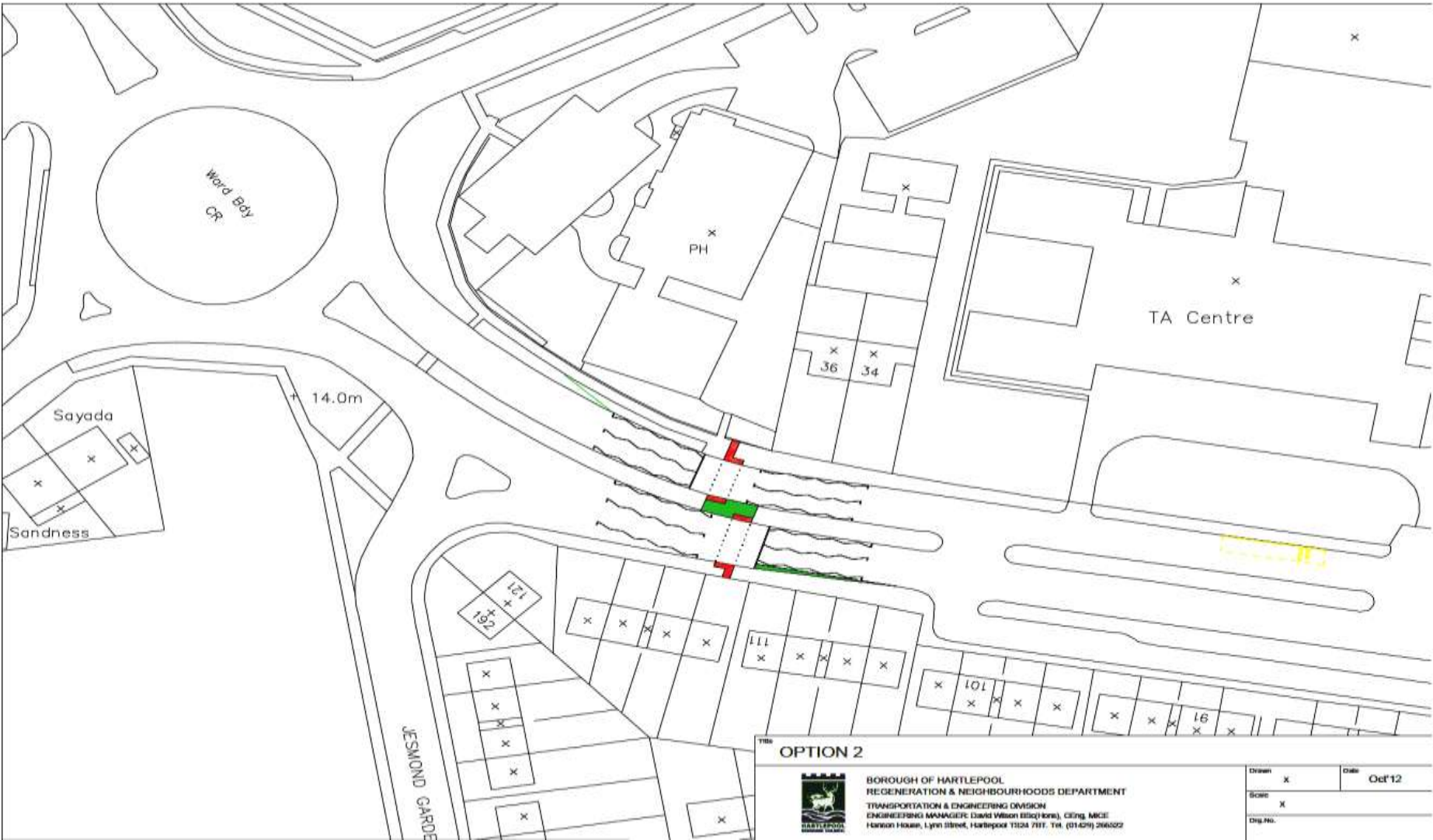
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NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES COMMITTEE

25th January 2016

Report of: Assistant Director (Neighbourhoods)

Subject: ALLOTMENTS UPDATE

1. TYPE OF DECISION/APPLICABLE CATEGORY

1.1 Non-key.

2. PURPOSE OF REPORT

2.1 To provide the Neighbourhood Services Committee with an update following site visits undertaken by the Chair and Vice Chair of the Neighbourhood Services Committee across the allotment sites of Hartlepool in the spring and summer of 2015.

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 In early 2015 a number of issues were raised through the Councils Neighbourhood Forums in relation to the provision and management of allotments sites in Hartlepool.

3.2 The Allotment Development Strategy vision published in 2010 is to: *'work with allotment holders and surrounding communities to encourage through partnership working the growth of vibrant, supportive, and inclusive allotment groups. Help identify through these partnerships the means and support necessary to take forward works to improve the quality, appearance, and environmental value of allotments and promote greater community participation. Through these actions make a positive contribution to a greener and healthier future for the people of Hartlepool.'*

3.3 The allotment service currently comprises over 1,000 plots over 16 sites and in an effort to respond to issues raised by allotment holders, in the spring and summer of 2015 the Chair and Vice Chair of the Neighbourhood Services Committee visited each allotment site.

- 3.4 The allotment site visits were publicised in advance through notices posted on allotment site notice boards, the allotments Facebook page, and articles in the Hartlepool Mail. As the site visits coincided with the transfer of the allotment service to the Community Safety and Engagement Team, the site visits also provided a valuable opportunity for the new team to meet the tenants and familiarise themselves with each site.
- 3.5 On the whole the site visits were very well attended. The format involved Councillors and officers being given a tour of each allotment site by the site association. During the tour gardeners had the opportunity to point out issues of concern and ask questions. The issues raised were collated, along with issues encountered during the annual inspections, and those reported to Customer Services, and these are currently being used to develop an action plan for each site.

4. COMMON ISSUES IDENTIFIED

- 4.1 Whilst individual action plans are being developed in relation to each of the allotment sites with a further report to the Neighbourhood Services Committee in the future outlining key issues and actions, and any budget implications, a number of common issues across allotment sites currently being dealt with are identified as follows:
- 4.2 *Drainage/Flooding*
Problems with drainage and flooding were identified at most sites. There are currently several large schemes in the pipeline involving major engineering and land drainage works which need to be addressed through the allotment capital programme but where plainings will resolve the issue these are now being provided on site.
- 4.3 *Bonfires*
Complaints about bonfires come both from tenants and from nearby residents. Essentially, tenants want fewer restrictions, whereas residents want fires to be banned completely. Currently bonfires are restricted to the winter months (October to March) and tenants must have a permit before lighting a fire. This system has been working well for several years, with complaints from residents much less frequent than before the system was introduced. Even with the permit system most gardeners are able to have a bonfire when they want one during the winter.
- 4.4 *Fly tipping*
This is an ongoing problem across the town and is not restricted to allotment sites. A height restrictor bar has been installed at the Stranton site as a trial to restrict access to vehicles over 2m tall. An update has been included in the monthly e-newsletter and all tenants on the Stranton site have received a letter outlining the scheme in more detail. It is anticipated that the vast majority of tenants' vehicles will be unaffected by the barrier and so will not experience any access problems. If successful,

similar bars will be installed at other sites that have serious problems with serious problems with fly tipping and have suitable access points.

The environmental enforcement team have recovered evidence in 19 cases of fly tipping which are currently progressing towards prosecution.

4.5 *Horse tail*

Horse tail has been identified as posing a problem on the majority of sites across the town. Tenants have suggested the use of a new product called “Curtail” may be effective in treating horse tail. As a result officers are working with the horticulture team to run a trial into the effectiveness of the product. If successful in treating the weed and cost-effective to purchase then the allotment service intends to bulk buy the product in order to offer it at an affordable price to tenants to treat the weed on their plots.

4.6 *Non-cultivation*

The Rules and Regulations of Tenancy require that 75% of the plot is used for crop or flower production. This has not always been robustly enforced. Many plots have large areas of lawn, which although not directly against the rules is not considered to be in the “spirit” of allotment gardening. For the first time, gardeners whose plots are mainly laid to lawn have received an advisory letter requesting some of the grassed area be used for cultivation.

4.7 *Slow response to minor repairs*

Concerns have been raised that the council is slow to respond to minor repairs. Officers are currently looking at measures to potentially streamline this process with a view to responding much quicker in future.

4.8 *Rats*

It became clear from speaking to tenants on the site visits and during the inspections that widespread confusion exists around the provision of pest control services for allotment tenants. The allotment service funds pest control services for tenants meaning that it is free of charge to gardeners, however, it appears that this is not widely known, which reduces take-up of the service. This will now be communicated to tenants to encourage a robust approach to rat control on the allotments.

4.9 *Locks, taps and fences*

These are the items that are most likely to require minor repairs on a regular basis on the allotments. At the request of the tenants at the site visits, the anti-vandal covers at Nicholson Field and Briarfields have been adjusted to make locking the gate easier and new mesh has been added to the Briarfields gate to make it more secure. The pedestrian barrier on the lane at Stranton has also recently been repaired.

4.10 *Vacant plots*

Concerns have been raised about the time taken to reallocate vacant plots. Although a small number of plots are “set aside” for drainage or because they are otherwise unusable; the majority of genuinely vacant plots (i.e. where the tenant has either surrendered the plot or been evicted) are let within 1-2 weeks of becoming vacant. Plots often appear “vacant” where there is little cultivation taking place. In this year’s inspections officers have been comparing the plot against previous year’s photos to look for patterns of poor cultivation over time. Where identified, enforcement action will be initiated.

4.11 One issue that has come to light during investigations into the letting of vacant plots is the plan to extend Stranton cemetery on Brierton Lane (see **Appendix A** for a plan of the site and proposed extension). The cemetery is due to expand westwards in order to increase capacity for burials which would encroach onto existing allotment plots. Although the expansion of the cemetery is not expected until 2020, there would be a requirement for the land to lay fallow and settle before it can be utilised within the curtilage of the cemetery site.

4.12 A review of the current allotment locations, with a view to meeting the ongoing demand, will be carried out by officers and reported back to the Committee at a later date.

5. COMMUNICATION

5.1 A number of new developments have been initiated since April 2015 to improve the flexibility of the service and to increase communication with tenants. These include:

- A new monthly e-newsletter emailed to all tenants who have supplied an email address
- Offering a wider range of appointment times including evening appointments for those tenants who work
- The introduction of “advisory” letters for those plots where standards have started to slip but before an official warning is issued
- Promotion of the offer of skips for new tenants and active encouragement for tenants to take this up
- The promotion of skips for associations and groups of tenants for “tidy-ups” of communal areas such as lanes and car parks

6. RISK IMPLICATIONS

6.1 There are no risk implication associated with this report.

7. FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

- 7.1 There are no financial considerations associated with this report.

8. LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

- 8.1 Further clarification may be required from Secretary of State, should there be any change to existing allotment locations in that the authority comply with statutory regulations and appropriate planning guidance.

9. CHILD AND FAMILY POVERTY

- 9.1 There are no child and family poverty implications attached to this report.

10. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY CONSIDERATIONS

- 10.1 There are no equality and diversity considerations.

11. SECTION 17 OF THE CRIME AND DISORDER ACT 1998 CONSIDERATIONS

- 11.1 Any Section 17 issues are addressed as part of the daily management of the Allotment Service.

12. STAFF CONSIDERATIONS

- 12.1 There are no additional staff considerations.

13. ASSET MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

- 13.1 The allotment sites are Council owned and managed as part of the annual tenancy agreements with allotment holders.

14. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 14.1 That the report providing an update on the allotment service be noted.
- 14.2 In view of plans to extend Stranton Cemetery officers be tasked with reviewing current allotment provision at existing locations and explore alternative options.

- 14.3 That the scope of such a review and timescale is agreed by the Chair of the Neighbourhood Services Committee and Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods.

15. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 15.1 In line with the Allotment Strategy the Council needs to respond to issues raised by allotment holders to ensure they are well managed and maintained.
- 15.2 That the Council maintains its statutory level of allotments plots within the Borough.

16. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 16.1 Allotment Strategy 2010-15.

17. CONTACT OFFICER

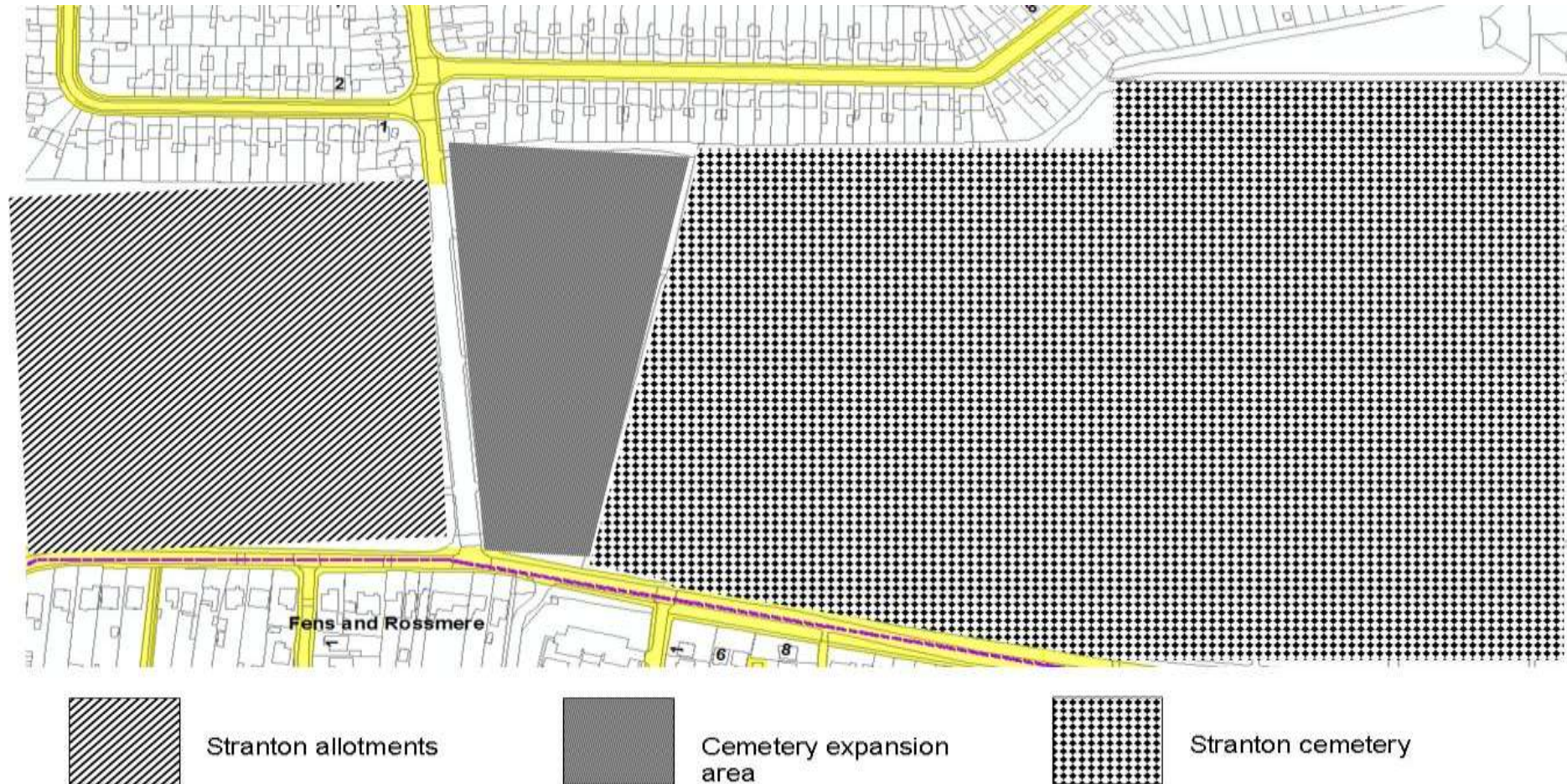
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SITE PLAN FOR CEMETERY EXTENSION



NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES COMMITTEE

25th January 2016



Report of: Assistant Director (Neighbourhoods)

Subject: 'RESPECT YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD' -
ENVIRONMENTAL CRIME CAMPAIGN UPDATE

1. TYPE OF DECISION/APPLICABLE CATEGORY

1.1 For information.

2. PURPOSE OF REPORT

2.1 To update the Neighbourhood Services Committee on current progress to date in relation to the 'Respect Your Neighbourhood' Environmental Crime Campaign.

2.2 To consider improvements to the planning of Neighbourhood Action Days; and to agree the 2016 /17 Neighbourhood Action Day schedule as attached at **Appendix A**.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The 'Respect Your Neighbourhood' campaign was introduced in February 2013 to tackle environmental crime following Neighbourhood Services Committee approval. One of the key elements of the campaign is a multi-agency 'day of action' organised by the Council which is primarily enforcement orientated, but also includes measures to improve neighbourhood safety and resolve quality of life issues.
- 3.2 As originally agreed by the Neighbourhood Services Committee, Neighbourhood Action Days are underpinned by a problem solving approach involving the analysis of community concerns, visual audits, and partnership data. It operates on one day per month, with all eleven wards within Hartlepool benefiting from the initiative on a rotational basis.

3.3 Depending upon what the issues are in any particular area on the basis of the evidence collated, Neighbourhood Action Days could include:

- Litter, dog fouling, dogs off lead enforcement;
- Planning enforcement activity such as section 215;
- Highways enforcement such as overhanging trees;
- Illegal Parking enforcement;
- Housing standards enforcement;
- Proactive anti-social behaviour patrols;
- Trading standards and environmental health activity including illegal waste carrying, noise nuisance and pest control;
- Arson reduction activity;
- Community and/or school litter picking;
- Off road bikes;
- Scrap metal theft; and
- Community Payback completing reparation work – such as street furniture repairs / refreshing painting.

3.4 The 'Respect Your Neighbourhood Initiative' is accompanied by a coordinated media campaign with an updated case study report, illustrated with "before" and "after" photographs. The campaign has been extensively covered in the local press and an example article that appeared in the Mail on Friday 11th December is attached for information at **Appendix B**.

4. DAYS OF ACTION 2015/16 – SUMMARY

4.1 During 2015/16, nine of the eleven annual action days have been undertaken. In April the Neighbourhood Action Day did not take place due to the Purdah period in the run up to the May elections. The July Neighbourhood Action Day was rescheduled to take place in December due to key staff being involved in an emergency enforcement operation in July. As a result two Neighbourhood Action Days will take place in January 2016, one in the Foggy Furze Ward, and one in Jesmond Ward.

4.2 Case studies have been completed for each of the Neighbourhood Action Days that have taken place during 2015. The following provides a summary of outcomes achieved over the nine days of action:

- 14 warning issued to inconsiderate parkers
- 5 untaxed vehicles seized
- 3 Penalty Charge Notices issued for illegally parked vehicles
- 17 warnings issued under section 34 of the Environmental Protection Act
- 17 actions carried out in relation to Section 215 of the Housing Act
- 8 Fixed Penalty notices issued for dog fouling/littering
- 50 locations/streets benefiting from permanent signage in relation to dog fouling
- 40 households benefiting from free bulky waste collections (sponsored

- through ward member budgets)
- 3 locations benefiting from graffiti removal
- 1,212 properties letter dropped in relation to bin presentations
- 15 abandoned bins removed from rear alleyways
- 209 properties letter dropped in relation to anti-social behaviour
- 11 repairs undertaken to property within the public realm e.g. fences; footpaths; play equipment
- 7 locations cleared of fly tipped rubbish
- 11 locations/properties made safe and secure
- 78 Homes benefiting from home fire safety visits

4.3 The above outcomes suggest that the Respect Your Neighbourhood Campaign as a whole has continued to be a successful method of tackling local environmental problems that matter to local residents. Outside Neighbourhood Action Days, the Environmental Enforcement team has employed a sustained and widespread education campaign around environmental issues such as dog fouling across all wards. Ongoing action using evidence emerging from Neighbourhood Action Days is also underway, such as several cases currently being prepared for prosecution in relation to fly-tipping.

4.4 To ensure resources are maximised to increase the number of actions carried out on Neighbourhood Action Days there has also been improved co-ordination between existing work programmes and Neighbourhood Action Days over the last year. For example, action days, where possible, are now tied into street cleansing rounds. The Enforcement Team have also co-ordinated their work programme to fit in with the action days by spending a week in the target area ahead of the action day gathering up to date intelligence. Further partnership working in the future with VOSA and the Economic Development Team will increase the ability to tackle waste carrier vehicles travelling through town with inadequate or missing nets allowing litter to escape. New legislative powers allowing for the seizure of vehicles found to be involved in fly tipping offences will further enhance the teams ability to undertake enforcement action in the future

5. REVIEW OF NEIGHBOURHOOD ACTION DAYS

5.1 As Neighbourhood Action Days have been rolled out across the wards of Hartlepool for almost two years now, the Community Safety and Engagement Team has undertaken a quick review of Neighbourhood Action Days to date. This review will identify any learning points that could be used to improve the days of action in the future. The review is based upon the experience of those responsible for co-ordinating neighbourhood actions days, along with feedback received from those involved in delivery, and other key individuals involved in the process such as Ward Councillors and residents.

5.2 The Co-ordination of Neighbourhood Action Days is currently undertaken by the Community Safety and Engagement Team on the basis of a programme agreed by the Safer Hartlepool Partnership Joint Action Group. This process was agreed by the Neighbourhood Services Committee at their meeting in November 2013. As outlined in the background to this report, the process is underpinned by a problem solving approach involving the analysis of community concerns, visual audits, and partnership data. The following provides an overview of what has worked well under the current system:

- Strong support from the Council's Environmental Enforcement team, Neighbourhood Development Officers, Private Sector Housing Team and Cleveland Fire Brigade
- A wide range of actions achieved during neighbourhood action days from issuing enforcement notices to undertaking street repairs
- Improvements have been made over the year to Neighbourhood Action Days to ensure best use is made of agency resources.
- Linking the action days to the Joint Action Group (JAG) to identify the priorities for each area using Partnership data has helped to target agency resources
- There has been good involvement from local residents who have raised issues and priorities that have been fed into the action plan for their ward neighbourhood action day through attending the audit.

5.3 The following provides an overview of what has not worked well over the last year:

- Changes of date and/or location for some action days have meant that the link between the action day and the cleansing and enforcement work programmes was lost making it more difficult for these teams to participate
- As the target areas were identified through the community intelligence process this meant that in some wards the 2014 and 2015 action days were in the same location, whilst in other wards the location changed. Feedback from Ward Councillors in some of those wards where the location was duplicated would have preferred a different location
- Disappointing level of support due to other demands from some partners
- Some Ward Councillors and residents were unable to fully participate in Neighbourhood Action Days due to poor communication / insufficient notice being given.
- During discussion at the Neighbourhood Services Committee in March last year some Members requested that consideration be given to rotating the annual schedule of Neighbourhood Action Days so that their wards benefited from action days taking place at different times of the year.

6 PROPOSALS

- 6.1 To ensure the continued success of the Respect Your Neighbourhood campaign it is apparent that improvements need to be made in relation to the planning of Neighbourhood Action Days to ensure the full participation of all agencies and Ward Councillors, and those residents that wish to participate. As such, it is proposed that an annual schedule for Neighbourhood Action Days outlining the months and wards where neighbourhood action days will take place is agreed in advance by the Neighbourhood Services Committee in January of each year with April remaining dormant due to Purdah. A proposed schedule for 2016/17 Neighbourhood Action Days is attached at **Appendix A**.
- 6.2 Under this proposal the schedule could be altered on an annual basis to ensure days of action took place in different months, thereby taking account of seasonal variations and the desire from Ward Councillors for rotation. To preserve the integrity of potential enforcement activity that will take place on Neighbourhood Action Days the actual dates of Neighbourhood Action Days will not be published in advance. However the dates will be agreed with relevant Ward Councillors in advance, at the beginning of each year to enable Ward Councillors and agencies to arrange diaries alongside other commitments. Discussions with Ward Councillors will also take place in relation to the proposed areas for action to ensure flexibility within Wards. This will include a discussion of the major issues collated in relation to the ward from Partnership data along with intelligence from Ward Councillors. Once agreed, key residents will be informed when their Neighbourhood Action Day and Audit will take place to ensure they are fully involved in setting priorities.

7. RISK IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 There are no risk implications to this report.

8. FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

- 8.1 There are no financial considerations associated with this report.

9. LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

- 9.1 There are no legal considerations associated with this report save ensuring the Council's statutory enforcement powers are appropriately discharged.

10. CHILD POVERTY CONSIDERATIONS

- 10.1 There are no child poverty considerations associated with this report.

11. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY CONSIDERATIONS

- 11.1 There are no equality and diversity considerations associated with this report.

12. SECTION 17 OF THE CRIME AND DISORDER ACT 1998 CONSIDERATIONS

- 12.1 The 'Respect Your Neighbourhood' Initiative assists the Council in addressing its Section 17 obligations. Environmental crime has a significant impact on communities' feelings of safety and if these issues are not addressed at the earliest opportunity, there is a risk that more incidents, disorder, or serious crime may occur.
- 12.2 A delayed and uncoordinated response to this type of crime can also signal to communities that no-one cares about them, leading to a downward spiral in community cohesion, an increase in anxiety and fear, and changes in behaviour to protect themselves.

13. STAFF CONSIDERATIONS

- 13.1 There are no staff considerations associated with this report.

14. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 14.1 That the Neighbourhood Services Committee notes and comments on the current progress to date on the 'Respect your Neighbourhood' – Environmental Crime Campaign.
- 14.2 That the Neighbourhood Services Committee considers and agrees the proposed changes to the planning of Neighbourhood Action Days, and agrees the 2016 Neighbourhood Action Day Schedule attached as **Appendix A**.

15. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 15.1 'Environmental Crime Campaign' - Neighbourhood Services Committee, November 2013.
- 15.2 'Respect Your Neighbourhood - Environmental Crime Campaign Update' - Neighbourhood Services Committee January 2015.
- 15.3 Previously published Action Day Cases Studies are available in the Members room.

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APPENDIX A

‘Respect Your Neighbourhood’ Action Day Programme 2016

Month	Ward	Proposed location and actions
February	Headland and Harbour	
March	Manor House	Week commencing 14 th March to fit with the bulky waste scheme. Audit last week in Feb. Area to include Macrae Rd, Eaglesfield Road across to Doyle Walk, Gulliver Road and part of Masefield Road.
April		Elections purdah period
May	Victoria	
June	Rural West	
July	Jesmond	
August	Foggy Furze	
September	Seaton	
October	De Brus	
November	Burn Valley	
December	Hart	
January	Fens and Rossmere	

APPENDIX B

4 HARTLEPOOL MAIL

NEWS

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NEIGHBOURHOOD PRIDE CAMPAIGN CARRIES OUT DAY OF ACTION IN AREAS OF TOWN

Community task force targets ward nuisances

By Peter Tennick
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Hartlepool's Victoria ward has been the latest focus of an ongoing campaign to ensure that neighbourhoods take pride in their area.

The Respect Your Neighbourhood campaign saw untaxed vehicles seized and officers looking into targeting environmental nuisances.

The campaign, led by Hartlepool Borough Council, but involving organisations, including the police and fire brigade under the banner of the Safer Hartlepool Partnership, involves a full day of action in a particular area of town one day a month, aimed at improving local neighbourhoods.

Prior to the day, the key organisations involved worked with the ward councillors and public to help identify issues which needed tackling.

The Victoria Ward day of action concentrated on the area from Chester Road and Brougham Terrace to the north, Clarence Road to the east, the Mill House Leisure Centre car park to the south and Jesmond Road to the west. Among the range of activities on the day were:

- The council's enforcement team patrolled the area, seizing four untaxed vehicles and issuing a fixed-penalty notice for dog fouling.
- The enforcement team also removed 15 bins which had been left out in back streets and carried out a letter drop in 13 streets, reminding people to store their bins on their property, rather than leaving them out in the back streets, where they block access to the council's cleansing teams and become arson targets.
- Eight locations were drawn to the attention of the council's Private Sector Housing Team for action. These include properties which were not properly secured, one with rubbish stockpiled in the yard, which posed an arson risk, and an empty house – which was notified to the police – where thieves had broken into the property and removed the copper piping.
- New permanent metal warning signs were issued in the back lane of Derwent Street to caution people that it is not to be used as a dog toilet and exercise area, and dog fouling warning stickers were put on signs and lamp-posts in the wider area.
- The council's cleansing team carried out litter picking and mechanical sweeping and the hedges and bushes along Middleton Road were trimmed and fallen leaves were removed.

Councillor Marjorie James, chairwoman of the council's Neighbourhood Services Policy Committee, said: "We have listened to residents' comments and have taken prompt action on the things which concern them in their local area."

"One other issue which was flagged up to us was parking congestion around the Haglan Quilt Club and discussions are ongoing to find a mutually acceptable solution."

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From left, Hartlepool Borough Council neighbourhood caretaker Brent Atkinson, housing standards officer Michael Croft, Kate Ainger of the Community Safety and Engagement Team and Victoria ward Councillors Trisha Lawton and Carl Richardson, taking part in the day of action.

NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES COMMITTEE

25th January 2016



Report of: Assistant Director (Neighbourhoods)

Subject: THE COLLECTION OF SEA COAL

1. TYPE OF DECISION/APPLICABLE CATEGORY

1.1 Non-key

2. PURPOSE OF REPORT

2.1 To update the Neighbourhood Services Committee of the findings of a working group which was established to pursue the idea of adopting a scheme which would enable the sea coalers to legitimately access the beach to take off the coal to assist with cleansing.

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 A report was brought to Committee on 19th January, 2015 to give a position statement with regards to the practice of sea coaling on Hartlepool beaches. This was in response to concerns raised by members as Insurers have indicated that the current public liability insurance cover would not include unauthorised vehicles on beaches. Therefore all reasonable measures to prohibit this from occurring must be undertaken in order to prevent potential liability if an accident occurs.

3.2 The recommendations of the Committee report stated that members agreed to pursue the idea of adopting a scheme which would enable the sea coalers to legitimately access the beach to take off the coal to assist with cleansing and providing employment for the sea coalers.

3.3 The foreshore is currently leased by the Council from the Crown Estate Commissioners (lease originally dated 9th April, 1987). Clauses 3 (8) of the lease states that the Council may "Not permit any person to drive any mechanically propelled vehicle on the demised premises." In order to allow the collection of sea coal with vehicles from the foreshore a Variation of the Lease has been provisionally agreed with the Crown Commissioners to allow

the collection of sea coal with vehicles from the foreshore area indicated on the attached plan in **Appendix 1**.

4. PROPOSALS

4.1 Further to negotiations with the Crown Estate provisional agreement has been reached for the Deed of Variation to proceed on the following basis:

- The Council bear the legal and surveyors costs incurred by the Crown Commissioners in the preparation of the Deed of Variation and grant of Landlords consent.
- A licence has been levied by the Crown Commissioners at a cost of £50 per vehicle per annum to allow for sea coaling activity to take place. This fee would normally attract a £20 administrative fee by the Council; however this additional charge will not be levied on sea coalers and will be absorbed by the Council. Therefore the overall charge to the sea coalers will be the £50 set by the Crown Commissioners.
- All sea coalers must be insured for public liability and produce a valid MOT and Insurance Certificate in order for a permit to be granted by the Council to enter onto the beach.

5. RISK IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Failure to complete the Deed of Variation may result in action being taken for a breach of the Lease and the Council's obligations under that provision.

6. FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

6.1 The cost of administration for monitoring the foreshore area and the regular inspection of issued permits to the sea coalers will be absorbed by the Neighbourhoods Division.

7. LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

7.1 The Chief Solicitor will undertake any works associated with the preparation of the Deed of Variation in conjunction with the Licences.

8. CHILD AND FAMILY POVERTY

8.1 There are no child and family poverty implications attached to this report.

9. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY CONSIDERATIONS

- 9.1 There are no equality and diversity considerations attached to this report.

10. SECTION 17 OF THE CRIME AND DISORDER ACT 1998 CONSIDERATIONS

- 10.1 There are many reasons why some members of the public try to gain unauthorised access to the beaches, and damage or antisocial behaviour cannot be attributed to any one group without direct evidence. The police will enforce their duties under the Road Traffic act 1998 and work in partnership via the licencing system to ensure controls are prevalent.

11. STAFF CONSIDERATIONS

- 11.1 Monitoring of the foreshore and regular inspection of the issued permits will be absorbed by the Neighbourhoods Division.

12. ASSET MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

- 12.1 The towns' beaches are owned by the Crown Commissioners and leased by the Council. The Council presently cleans the bathing beach at Seaton as part of its scheduled cleansing operations. The sea coaling operations play a valuable part in assisting the Councils role.

13. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 13.1 1) That Members note the findings of the Sea coal working group.
- 2) That Members support the proposed Deed of Variation and the form of Licence annexed to the Deed; this will allow the sea coalers to legitimately access the beach to remove sea coal.

14. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 14.1 To regularise the situation regarding sea coal extraction and safeguard against future public liability claims.

15. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Neighbourhood Services Committee – 16th December 2013

Neighbourhood Services Committee – 19th January 2015

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