

**Rift House Community Forum**

**Thursday 1 April at 6.00 pm**

Masefield Centre

**A G E N D A**

- 1. Introductions & Apologies**
- 2. Minutes of Previous Meeting – Thursday 4 March 2010**
- 3. Matters Arising**
- 4. Orwell Walk Update** **Andy Powell**
- 5. Catcote Shops Update** **Julia Pinchen**
- 6. Resident Priorities Budget Report** **Tracy Rowe**
- 7. Any Other Business**
- 8. Date of next meeting Thursday 3 June 2010 at 6.00 pm in the Masefield Centre**

**Minutes of the Rift House Forum  
Thursday, 4 March 2010, 6.00pm  
Rift House Community Building**

**Present**

Christopher Akers-Belcher (Chair)	Resident, Rift House East Residents Association
Peter Goodier (Vice-Chair)	Resident, Rift House Community Association
Lynn Knaggs	Housing Hartlepool
PCSO Simon Thompson	Cleveland Police
Linda Pine	Resident, Rift House East Residents Association
Mary Standing	Resident, Rift House Community Association
Frank Sowerby	Resident, Rift House Community Association
Jean Mayes	Resident, Rift House Community Association
Cllr Stephen Akers-Belcher	Ward Councillor
Ron Bage	Resident
Phil Matthews	Resident, Rift House Community Association
Tracy Rowe	Regeneration and Neighbourhoods, HBC
Irene Cross	Central Neighbourhood Development Officer, HBC
Peter Frost	Traffic Team Leader, HBC
Andrew Carter	Senior Planning Officer, HBC

**Apologies**

Hilda Wales	Resident, Rift House Community Association
Linda Harvey	Resident, Rift House East Residents Association
Mel Thomas	Resident, Rift House East Residents Association
Linda Mowbray	Resident, Rift House East Residents Association
Clare Clark	Central Neighbourhood Manager, HBC
Fr. Jonathan Rhodes	St Aidan and St Columba Churches
SGT Dave Galloway	Safer Hartlepool Partnership

**Action**

**1. Welcome, Introductions and Apologies**

The Chair welcomed those present, a round of introductions followed and apologies were noted.

**2. Minutes of Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed as a true and accurate record. Proposed by Phil Matthews and Seconded by Mary Standing.

**3. Matters Arising**

At this point in the meeting, the Police provided an update, which the Forum noted. PCSO Thompson referred to an off-road moto's operation to be set-up over a two day period at the top of Masefield Road. He also reported that the youth bus may become located at Shakespeare Avenue.

Cllr Akers-Belcher provided an update in relation to a recent dog fouling campaign in which he was involved. He reported that 17 dog owners had been fined. The enforcement team work evenings and weekends. Letters will be going to households also. One dog had been put in the pound, for which its owner will have to pay costs in order to get it back. Cllr Akers-Belcher urged residents to let him know of areas in which fouling is a problem. The grassed area in Sitwell Walk was mentioned.

SGT Dave Galloway was not present to confirm the annual cost of CCTV monitoring, however, Irene agreed to follow this up.

**ACTION: Dave to confirm the yearly CCTV monitoring cost.**

**Dave Galloway**

Macaulay Road was reported again as not being complete. It was previously reported that the works would be completed by the end of March. Peter Frost agreed to look into this. Residents were assured that Garrick Grove and Galsworthy Road would also be completed by the end of March.

The need for funding room hire costs for the weight management course was reported. The course can be delivered to a minimum of six people. The Forum discussed ringfencing some of their 2010 / 11 WNF – Residents Priority Budget for room hire charges associated with the course, so long as there is sufficient interest in participating.

It was reported that 29 young people attended the Youth Internet Café at St. Columba's last week.

Peter Frost reported that consultation in relation to the Sixth Form College proposals closes this week. Responses will then be analysed. More car parking within the site has been proposed. Waiting before introducing the permit scheme.

The Forum will look to commission first-aid training in the new financial year. Tracy confirmed that this had been prioritised.

Andy Powell has been invited to attend a future meeting.

Irene sought clarification on the following action and noted the response.

**ACTION: Irene to organise for an overview of progress for both the Central Youth Forum and 'The Rifty' to be provided at a future meeting.**

**Irene Cross**

Irene reported that the logo is still being designed by the Central Youth Forum members and will be brought to a future meeting.

**ACTION: Irene to bring along Rift House Forum logo designs to a future meeting.**

Irene Cross

Frank reported that he had attended the public meeting on the 24 February along with Phil regarding the allotments. It was reported that the allotments had been the subject of a scrutiny investigation. Rift House East Residents Association expressed their interest in CCTV for the Community Garden in Waverley Terrace. The Forum discussed ringfencing some of next financial year's WNF – Residents Priority Budget for CCTV provision so that it could be used to lever in funding from other sources. Irene informed the Forum that the cost of improving the fencing at Summerhill allotments was £26,000.

#### **4. Time & Venues for Future Meetings**

It was proposed that all future Forum meetings be held in the Rift House Community Building where possible. There were no objections to this.

The Forum discussed the situation with the formal request for the Masefield Road Centre building to be named the Rift House Community Building. It was reported that this issue was being pursued with John Mennear. The Forum requested an update at a future meeting.

**ACTION: Clare to update the Forum in relation to the naming of the Masefield Road Centre at a future meeting.**

Clare Clark

The Forum agreed to hold all future meetings on an evening, with a 6.00pm start, although allowing this to be flexible to accommodate guest speakers. The Forum also agreed to hold future meetings on a bi-monthly basis.

#### **5. Traffic Plan – Oxford Road / Catcote Road Junction**

Peter Frost firstly apologised for the plan attached to the meeting papers being of poor quality and circulated an improved copy. He then gave an update on the signalisation which is due to start in September and is linked to a major bid to the Department of Transport.

Cllr Akers-Belcher expressed concern at the timing of the works, particularly as Brierton School will be used by pupils and staff of Dyke House School from September whilst their school is being improved through the Building Schools for the Future programme. He asked whether the works could be carried out during the summer holidays to limit inconvenience. Peter stated that a lot of the works should be done without many road closures, however, roads will be closed for a couple of days whilst they are resurfaced.

#### **6. Core Strategy Consultation**

A copy of the map and a comments form linked to the Core Strategy were circulated for information. Andrew Carter then provided information in relation to proposals outlined in the Core Strategy.

Andrew confirmed that similar presentations were given at the North, Central and South Neighbourhood Consultative Forum. Cllr Akers-Belcher asked whether there were plans to consult the communities that will be most affected by the proposed new housing developments. Andrew confirmed that presentations have / will be given to Resident Associations of those areas, where applicable and that consultation has been taking place in supermarkets across the town. He stated that residents have the opportunity of stating their views up until the 26 March via the Hartlepool Borough Council website, a form or by any other means such as a letter, e-mail etc. Andrew stated that the legal requirement for affordable housing on the proposed sites is 10%. Concerns around an increased population, school and amenity provision, a reduction in agricultural land and drainage were raised.

## **7. Resident Priorities Budget Report**

Tracy referred to the budget report on the Working Neighbourhoods Fund (WNF) Residents Priority Budget for 2009 / 10 that was issued with the papers and highlighted the position to-date. She explained that the budget had been fully allocated.

The commissioning form for the health event to take place on the 7 April was considered and recommended for approval at the next meeting when the 2010 / 11 budget becomes available. Irene stated that it is intended that the event will take place between 10.00am and 3.00pm in the Rift House Community Building – all welcome.

Cllr Akers-Belcher expressed his disappointment at not having prior notice for the submission of commissioning forms at this meeting. Tracy explained that the submission of commissioning forms prior to the new financial year was not normal practice. However, Irene explained that she wanted to give the Forum as much notice as possible owing to the event planned to take place six days following the April Forum meeting so as to coincide with the Easter holidays. Tracy assured Cllr Akers-Belcher of the opportunity from April onwards to submit a commissioning form for 'The Rifty' which the Forum has prioritised.

Cllr Akers-Belcher also asked whether the population statistics for the Rift House area now include the new developments.

**ACTION: Tracy to confirm whether the Rift House population statistics have been updated to include the new developments.**

**Tracy Rowe**

## **8. Resident Issues**

Quad bikes seen in the dip at the top of Masefield Road and also along the paths at Summerhill were reported. Cllr Akers-Belcher urged residents to let him know of any other sightings. He also stated that it is important to request feedback from the Police. The Chair proposed that Resident Issues be removed from the agenda in future as such issues can be fed into Resident Association meetings. There were no objections to this.

**ACTION: Irene to remove Resident Issues from the agenda of future Forum meetings.**

**Irene Cross**

### **9. Any Other Business**

Phil mentioned that the Val Armstrong School of Dance group, the Rough Diamonds were looking for funding. Irene advised Phil to contact Peter Gowland at HVDA. The Forum indicated that they could not fund the group directly, however, the opportunity of the group performing at Rift House events for a fee was discussed. Phil was asked to find out how much the group would charge to perform at such events.

Cllr Akers-Belcher raised awareness of a fundraiser event in aid of the Hartlepool & District Hospice taking place on St. George's Day, 22 April at the Catholic Club. £5.00 per ticket with all proceeds going to the charity – all welcome.

Irene referred to the leaflets in relation to distraction burglaries that were available for residents to take away from the meeting.

It was suggested that the reassurance roadshow be repeated during 2010 / 11. Tracy confirmed that this had been prioritised.

Irene agreed to assist Rift House Community Association in holding a coffee morning on a Saturday morning in the Rift House Community Building. There were issues with the building not being opened on a Saturday morning. There were also issues with using the kitchen at the rear of the building. Cllr Akers-Belcher reported that he was liaising with the Centre's management with regard to this.

### **10. Date and Time of Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Rift House Forum will take place on Thursday, 1 April 2010, 6.00pm, venue to be confirmed.