

Questions & Answers - Taken from open questions at the Northern Area Forum.

- Q** How much money has this event cost? Can we have assurance that the money has not been wasted? All of us have been here before. Will there be action?
- A** The Area Forums are an ongoing initiative, so there will be follow up from the meeting. Through the Community Partnership there are a wide range of partners committed to working through the Forums and to working together with local people and elected representatives to address issues of concern.



The role of the Support Group, where representatives from the Forum will work with service providers, is also important in ensuring there is follow up action from issues raised. Of course, not everything can be solved and some issues will require long term solutions but if the Forums have achieved nothing in 12-18 months time they will have failed.

Andy Everitt, Chief Inspector, on behalf of North Yorkshire Police, reiterated Police Support for the Forums and that they were committed to action and trying to respond to issues raised.

Q Will the Forums qualify for Government Funding?

- A** At present the Forums are not receiving any external grant funding from Central Government, although the government through the Department of Communities and Local Government are keen to encourage local arrangements. This is something that will be looked at in more detail.

Q Will there be a report from tonight's meeting?

- A** Yes, there will be a newsletter which will include information about the Forums, a report from the meeting and a summary of the issues raised. This will be distributed during October, prior to the next round of Forums in December.

Q Why are we having a forum? Parish and Town councils are elected, it's only because they are ignored that a forum is needed. How is the process going to integrate with parish councils and town councils?

- A** Town and Parish councillors have a key role to play within the Forums, they have good local knowledge of the issues in their area and are well placed to represent the views of their area and then to work together with service providers, through the Forums. Sometimes there are benefits in joining with others and working together to progress issues.



The Community Partnership is keen to work with the democratic structures in place and the Board includes a Parish Council representative (nominated by the Yorkshire Local Council's Association), in addition to the representatives each forum will nominate to the Board. Parish and Town Councillors are also encouraged to become part of the support group.

Q Will the Forums include issues from the villages and surrounding areas, and not just Whitby?

- A** Yes, the Forum is for the whole of the Northern Area, not just one part of it.

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Northern Area Forum Newsletter - Autumn 2007



LESS TALK, MORE ACTION

Over 50 residents and service providers from the Northern Area participated in the launch of the first Area Forum in the Northern Area.



The forum was held at Sneaton Castle Centre, Whitby on 10th September.

Those attending included Town and Parish Councillors, members of voluntary and community groups, local residents, Borough Councillors and a number of organisations that provide services in the area including the Primary Care Trust, Youth Services, North Yorkshire Police, North York Moors National Park and the Borough and County Councils.

Stephanie Sturrock, Chief Officer of Coast and Moors Voluntary Action and Vice Chair of the North Yorkshire Coast Community Partnership, opened the meeting and explained the purpose of the Area Forums, which have been established to give a stronger voice for local communities to influence the work of the Community Partnership. The purpose of the first forum was to set the agenda for future forums by identifying the issues and concerns of people

who live and work in the Northern Area. From the group discussions there were a number of issues raised, with the big issues being transport and housing. However, there was also a lot of discussion about the purpose and role of the Forums. Those present were very clear that they expected the Forums to be about action and keen to ensure they were not just another "talking shop".



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For full minutes of this meeting and for regular updates, log on to mycoast.org.uk



TOP TOPICS

Groups were asked to think about the issues that face the Northern Area and then to identify which of the issues they thought could be best dealt with through the forums. During these group discussions a lot of issues were raised including tourism, young people, education, employment, community safety, voluntary sector, public toilets, TV and Radio reception and the economy.

The top priorities that people wanted to see the forums helping to tackle were:-

Transport - It was felt that there are problems with public transport, many of the buses don't have disabled access and there's no correlation between the services timetables. Connections between the villages are not good. Parking is an issue in many areas and some people felt that there is a lack of traffic management especially in the Whitby area and a need for better roads and a park and ride system.

Housing - There were big concerns about the impact of second homes on house prices and local amenities. The lack of affordable and

social housing especially for young people was highlighted and more schemes, such as shared equity schemes, to help people to stay in the area. New developments need to be placed appropriately so that current landscapes and green spaces aren't compromised.

Health - People were concerned about the long term future of Whitby Hospital and there were concerns about losing the services currently provided. The lack of dentists in the area and problems with the out of hours services provided by GPs were also highlighted.

Local Democracy - discussions covered a range of issues, with support for a unitary authority, for residents living in the Northern Area to have more control and autonomy over what happens in their area and for relationships with Scarborough Borough Council to be improved.

Environment - flooding was highlighted as a concern as was the need to protect the green space and issues around recycling.

AREA FORUM SUPPORT GROUP

Local Residents of the Northern Area are needed to form the support group. The support group is a vital part of the area forum structure and is the group that will help prevent the forum becoming another 'talking shop'.

The support group will be made up of local representatives from the Area Forums and local service providers who will work together to address the issues of concern. With the help of the Area Forum Support Officer they will work behind the scenes to plan the quarterly area forum meetings, and develop an action plan for the Northern Area.

If you would like any more information on the support group or if you would like to know how you can get involved please contact Gemma Ryan on 01723 383564 or gemma.ryan@scarborough.gov.uk

Future Area Forum Dates

Northern Area Forum
Monday 26 November 2007 at 7pm
Hinderwell Village Hall

Southern Area Forum
Monday 3 December 2007 at 7pm
Hunmanby Community Centre

Scarborough Rural Area Forum
Wednesday 5 December 2007 at 7pm

Scarborough Urban Area Forum
Wednesday 12 December 2007 at 7pm

All welcome, refreshments will be provided. Transport may be provided, please contact the Area Forum Support Officers to discuss your requirements.

INTRODUCING THE AREA FORUM SUPPORT TEAM

Matthew Joseph (left) joined the Area Forum Support Team on 18th June 2007.

He will primarily be working with the Scarborough Urban and Scarborough Rural Area Forums and their support groups. Before joining the Area Forum Support Team, Matthew worked for 3 years for Scarborough and District Council for Voluntary Services as Neighbourhood Participation Officer.

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Gemma Ryan (centre) joined the team on 22 May 2007. Gemma will be supporting the Southern and Northern Area Forums.

Before joining the forum support team Gemma worked in Hull as a Community Participation Worker supporting local groups and young people to get their voices heard.

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Steph Curtis (right) is the Voluntary Sector Support Officer for the Community Partnership area. I work for Coast and Moors Voluntary Action, the umbrella organisation for the voluntary sector in this area, which helps local people and provides direct support to voluntary and community groups. My job is to support the involvement of the voluntary sector in the working of the Community Partnership.

The voluntary sector covers not only large scale charities and social enterprises, but also small voluntary groups such as community associations. It is the small, local groups in particular that I am here to support in getting their voices heard, through the new Area Forums.

If you are reading this newsletter, you will already know about the Area Forums and how they are going to feed back to the Community Partnership; telling the Partnership what is needed in the different parts of the Borough to improve life in local communities. The benefits of getting people living in and involved in local communities to take part is that they are not part of a public body. They do not see things in the same way as the council or its partners, but they do see what is good and bad about where they live. Solving the problems of communities by listening to local people can lead to different ways of thinking and new ways of working. This is why we need a partnership which includes the most important people of all. The people right in the midst of our local communities.

If you belong to a local organisation, community group, club or similar, I am here to support you to get your voice heard and to help you get things done through your local Forum. No group is too small and no issues are off limits. My contact details are below.

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