

Inaugural Meeting Of Hurworth in Partnership (HiP).

Held at the Grange on Wednesday 12th May 2010

The Agenda for the evening was as follows:-

- 1. Short Introduction – Peter Allan**
- 2. Action Items and Priorities – John Buxton**
- 3. Open Forum**
- 4. Refreshments and discussions**

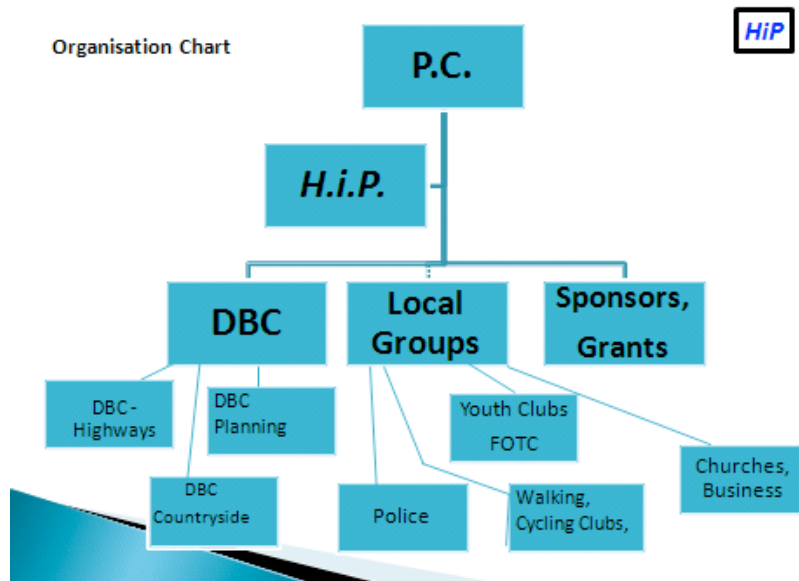
The meeting was attended by over forty people, who represented most of the local groups and associations, but lacked the presence of senior executives of the DBC Highways, Planning and Countryside Departments.

The introduction included a short recap of the Parish Plan process, and attention was drawn to the Action List, which represents the residents' wishes for the next five years.

HiP has been launched as the vehicle to roll out the Plan, and as such will comprise local groups, parishioners and other stakeholders, who have an interest in any section of the Action Plan. Hence HiP will become the interface between the Parish Council, who own the Plan, and the various groups and DBC Departments, who undertake tasks in the fulfilment. The mandate of HiP is summarised as follows:-

- Act as a Co-ordinating Group
- Generating Funds
- Project by Project basis.
- Monitoring Progress v Plan
- Reporting to P.C.

The Organisation Chart is depicted in the following schematic. Clearly HiP will be an interface between the activity groups and the PC, and also co-ordinate discussions with the Police and DBC departments. It is visualised that HiP will be a small group, whose role is to guide and assist the fulfilment of the Plan, and generate funding whenever necessary.



Since the release of the Plan, there has already been activity and progress, and this is summarised as follows:-

- DBC Traffic Speed Survey
- Input into DBC Framework
- Village Clean-up
- Playground Grant
- Hurworth to Darlington Cyclepath initiative by DBC
- Comprehensive School project
- Village Hall Upgrades
- Fletcher Hall upgrade plans
- Nature Reserve and Orchard
- Parish Council Newsletter & web site

John Buxton made a presentation which highlighted the Action List, and in particular the High Priority items, which included:-

- ▣ Traffic danger, particularly speed
- ▣ Parking concerns
- ▣ Youth activities

- 🎬 Public Rights of Way
- 🎬 Bus services
- 🎬 Police presence in the villages
- 🎬 Neighbourhood Watch further development
- 🎬 Planning, with regard to the Parishioners' wish to oppose further housing development

John explained the reason for the priorities, and elaborated on the principal topics.

John Buxton will be the leader of HiP, and will play a leading part in rolling out the Plan. He invited all present at the meeting who can assist with implementing the actions to participate in any way they feel they can help.

Open Forum

Rebecca Morgan, representing DBC Sports Development Team (SDP), outlined the work that her group is doing in the borough, and made a commitment to fully support the Hurworth Plan. Lindsey Middleton who is Art Co ordinator for the Art Centre who was also present and has been working alongside SDT also expressed her commitment. The group has been working with Councillor Jill Russell alongside the Maths and Computing College to initiate a programme of activities for the youth of the village, starting by offering 'taster sessions' in the Summer holidays. The School Council has been approached and has agreed to be involved in the whole process. They have designed a questionnaire asking the pupils of their school what they would like to do.

UPDATE - Since the HiP meeting the team have carried out 2 successful presentations at the school assemblies alongside another member Lloyd Murray who runs a company called Outdoor Pursuits. The same process will be carried out at the Primary school.

Lisa Kwok, representing PlayBuilders outlined the work which their group perform in the borough, and announced that £50,000 has been awarded to Hurworth for the upgrade of the existing playground, and to develop a second site in the parish. Lisa committed to work with HiP in rolling out the playground plan.

Mr John Doeis, Deputy Headmaster of Hurworth Primary School, explained the present plans and activities which are being implemented at the school. He stated that there are changing room facilities and a sports ground at the rear of the new school, which have been designed with community out-of-hours involvement in mind.

The Primary School applauds the Parish Plan, and commits to assist and participate wherever practical. He also agreed to work with Lisa Kwok in discussions regarding the new playground projects.

UPDATE - Following the meeting, an assembly has been booked for Lisa to conduct a workshop with the children and questionnaires will be taken home to start the consultation process with parents over the holiday period.

Chief Inspector Chris Reeves addressed the meeting, and immediately covered the subject of police presence in the villages. He referred to the possibility of employing our own policeman, and dispelled this as costing in the order of £60,000 per annum.

Hurworth is a low crime area, and in statistical terms is well catered for at present. He also outlined the current infrastructure of PACT and other police hosted meetings; he urged residents to attend.

He advised the meeting that a new person would be starting this month to head-up the Neighbourhood Watch scheme, and that he would ensure that interactions would commence quickly.

He suggested that we consider funding the appointment of a local Special Constable, who could work limited hours, on a voluntary basis. The cost would be restricted to the cost of a uniform, mobile phone and basic training. A Special Constable has all the powers of a regular policeman, and can make arrests, unlike the limited powers of John Angus, who is the local Police Community Support Officer (PCSO).

He offered to give HiP his support for the appointment of a Special Constable (subject to agreement with Assistant Chief Constable Michael Banks), and believes it is the most appropriate solution for this parish.

Patrick Carr of the Bike Club addressed the meeting, and expressed the support of his group in establishing a young cycling group in Hurworth. He intimated that they could provide funds (£2,000) to help the setting up. He envisages using a container, available from the Model Car Club, to provide a central base, and teach youngsters to repair and maintain their cycles.

Martin Swainston, Borough Councillor, addressed the meeting, and expressed his support to the Plan and agreed to assist whenever appropriate. As a Borough Councillor, he has the opportunity to assist us from the inside, and give advice on ways to achieve our objectives.

During refreshments, several new alliances were created, which included interest from the Hurworth Cricket Club in encouraging youngsters to join the club. Representatives of the walking club are interested in specifying and routing the parish walks, and FOTC are eager to further develop the nature reserve. The Model

engineers may be asked to construct a circular seat surrounding the large tree in the Grange grounds. The scouts helped in the village clean-up, and will participate in future events, which are appropriate to their objectives. Barbara Bell from Friends of Rockliffe also attended and expressed her interest in the HiP initiative and bringing the community together.

Jill Russell provided an excellent buffet, and wine and soft drinks were provided, courtesy of the Parish Council.

DBC Youth Services were unable to attend the meeting, but have since met with members of HiP to discuss how they can be involved in the process. They have offered their support and commitment to placing a youth worker once a week in the village to work alongside SPD in the summer holidays. They are also placing a youth worker within the Maths and Computing College for 2 1/2 days a week, in order to make it easier for the youth to discuss the issues they have. Jill Russell has also been working with Youth Services towards forming a Youth Council providing the youth of the village more of a voice, and to encourage them to take an interest in the village. So far this has met with a good response, and there is interest from 2 School Councillors and 1 teenage resident.

