

Neighbourhood and Community Forum

10 June 2026, 10:00am – 11:30am, Online, Teams

Agenda

09:55 Online access open

10:00 Welcome, introductions and housekeeping
Dawn Smithson, Head of Estates, Thirteen Group and Club Chair

10:05 **Actions From the Previous Meeting: Putting Service Improvements into Practice**
In March we looked at service improvements, identifying issues and streamlining workflow. Since then, has anyone started to put those ideas or solutions into practice, and what have you seen so far?

10:25 **Cleaner Spaces, Safer Places: Practical Steps to Reduce Fly-Tipping, Tackle Dog Fouling, and Improve Communal Spaces**

This session will focus on practical, achievable steps that help frontline teams to create cleaner, safer, and more welcoming neighbourhoods. We will explore how targeted environmental improvements, effective resident engagement, coordinated operational responses, and strong cross-agency partnerships can help reduce persistent issues such as fly-tipping, dog fouling, vandalism, and poorly maintained communal spaces.

Through exploring rural and urban perspectives, the session will highlight what works, the challenges, and how teams can adapt approaches to their own local context.

West Lothian Council

Paul and Jane will outline how West Lothian is improving environmental quality across their communities through the *Don't Waste West Lothian* campaign and the area's *Litter Prevention Action Plan*. They will highlight how strengthened service standards, partnership working, and active community groups are helping to reduce fly-tipping and improve shared spaces across dispersed settlements.

Gateshead Council

Fiona and Solain will share Gateshead's approach to tackling those issues in urban areas, including tower blocks and end-lane hotspots. They will discuss how targeted action, resident involvement, and initiatives like *Love Where You Live* are reshaping neighbourhoods and reducing long-term demand in high-demand environments.

Speaker panel:

Paul Mallis, Strategy Support Officer and Jane Ritchie, Interim Cleaner Communities Manager, Cleaner Communities – NETs, Land & Countryside Services, West Lothian Council

*Fiona Maddick, Team Manager and Solain Watson, Environmental ASB Admin Officer,
Private Sector Housing, Gateshead Council*

11:05 Q&A and a discussion

What strategies is your organisation using to support cleaner and more connected neighbourhoods, and how are these approaches helping you address local environmental challenges?

11:20 Wrap Up & Key Takeaways

11:30 Next Steps and close

Dawn Smithson, Head of Estates, Thirteen Group and Club Chair