

**NORTH AREA POLICE AND
COMMUNITY SAFETY
CONSULTATIVE FORUM**

in

**West View Community Centre
Miers Avenue, Hartlepool**

on

**Wednesday 5th September, 2007
commencing at 10am**

A G E N D A

1. Apologies for absence
2. **MINUTES**
 - (a) To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 11th April 2007 (*attached*)
 - (b) Matters arising.
3. Update from the Police
4. Update from the Fire Brigade
5. Alcohol Designated Areas
6. UNITE Community Mediation
7. Any other business agreed by the Chair

WARDS

Brus
Dyke House
Hart
St Hilda
Throston

***NORTH POLICE &
COMMUNITY SAFETY
CONSULTATIVE FORUM***

11th April 2007

MINUTES OF THE MEETING



The meeting commenced at 10.00 a.m. at Throston Grange Community Centre, Hartlepool

PRESENT:

Chair: Councillor Rob Cook – Hart Ward

Vice Chair: Resident Representative Linda Shields

Councillor Mary Fleet	- Dyke House Ward
Councillor Sheila Griffin	- Brus Ward
Councillor Jane Shaw	Dyke House Ward
Councillor Stephen Wallace	Throston Ward
Councillor Denis Waller	Brus Ward
Councillor Edna Wright	- Hart Ward

The Mayor, Stuart Drummond was also in attendance

Resident Representatives: Don Davison, Irene Nelson, Joan Norman, Joan Steele and Bob Steele

Residents: John Maxwell, Liz Torley, Cath Torley and John Lynch

Housing Hartlepool Representative: Sue Horseman

Officers: Alison Mawson, Joe Hogan, Ian Harrison, Katie Sheahan, Garry Jones, Ann Callaghan

Police Representatives: Glenn Ward (Neighbourhood Inspector) and PCs Jason Coverdale and Mark O'Brien

21. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors D Allison, C Barker and S Fenwick. Also from Resident Representatives John Cambridge and Mary Power.

22. UPDATE FROM POLICE

The following information was circulated at the start of the meeting:

- Comparison of 2005/2006 (October – December) North

Forum Area Crime Figures for each ward;

- Comparison for same period in respect of:
 - Burglary Dwelling;
 - Burglary Other;
 - Theft of Motor Vehicle;
 - Theft from Motor Vehicle;
 - Criminal Damage;
 - Robbery;
 - Violence against the Person.

Inspector Glen Ward advised that he would be covering the Neighbourhood Forums for the foreseeable future as Inspector Alastair Simpson had moved on to another post.

Inspector Ward advised that Neighbourhood Policing had recently been re-launched and he thanked all the partners involved and the public for the success to date. Work was ongoing by the Chief Constable and Partners to progress and it was intended to increase the establishment over the next 12 months. Inspector Ward explained some of the issues indicated on the sheets and advised that Operation Hammer was ongoing in respect of domestic burglaries. He made an offer of crime prevention advice if required. Anti-social behaviour and criminal damage were being concentrated on in the North area and there was to be a programme for the Summer months. He spoke of the quality of life issue and asked residents to report any problem areas. The message from the partners involved in Neighbourhood Policing was that they want to continue to deal with problem issues.

Councillor Wright and Liz Torley both advised of problem issues in relation to the supposed single point of contact number indicated on the leaflet circulated earlier – On several occasions no-one could be contacted. Comments were also made that messages left on the

Ladgate Lane number were not being passed on. Councillor Shaw and Resident Representative John Cambridge also reported problem issues and it was felt that the current situation was not helping build up confidence in the Police – Neighbourhood Policing was good but the downside was that the technology was not working or some of the people using it were not sufficiently trained or aware of the Hartlepool area.

Inspector Ward accepted that there were problems. – in relation to the single point of contact numbers and the main headquarters phone line He said the single point number was being reviewed and what needed to be re-assessed in relation to the main line was are the calls going to the right place and are the call centre staff sufficiently trained to answer. The lack of coordination needed to be researched.

The Chairman commented that the Police need to be sure to follow up on promises. The Head of Community Safety and Prevention, Alison Mawson, advised that she would raise this issue at the Partnership Board meeting the following week and bring a report back to the Forum.

An incident at the complex for the elderly on Central Estate was reported. A youth had been seen trying to get in and had hung around for about an hour and a half. This had been reported to Richard Court but no Police had attended the incident. Inspector Ward agreed to make enquiries about this. The Neighbourhood Manager, Karen Oliver, suggested that the Police visit wardens, sheltered accommodation etc.

Councillor Wright asked how many additional officers there would be. Inspector Ward advised that there would be 15 PCSOs across the town.

The Chairman expressed concern at the increase, up by 67%, in violence against the person in the Hart Ward and asked for more information. Inspector Ward advised that the Home Officer categorise – these incidents could be anything from harassment to murder (covering a few categories). The Chairman also expressed bitter disappointment at the massive increase in theft from motor vehicles.

Resident Representative, Bob Steele, asked for an update on any progress which had been made which would enable pedestrians to cross the A179 from Bishop Cuthbert Estate to Clavering without endangering their lives from oncoming traffic in both directions. The Chairman said he had been told that Planning Section were still in negotiation with the Pub and Sainsburys with regard to a Toucan/Pelican crossing on both sides of the road. This was in the early stages and could be agreed in the next few months. Bob said he was concerned about the interim. The Chairman said he had asked the traffic section to monitor the area.

The Chairman thanked Inspector Ward for his presentation and for answering questions.

23. ALCOHOL FREE ZONES

The Head of Community Safety and Prevention gave a presentation on The Local Authority (Alcohol Consumption in Designated Public Places) Regulations 2001.

The Forum was advised that the old Byelaws were no longer in existence. The legal process to designate new areas has to be commenced and must first cover the areas that previously had Byelaws in place. There would have to

be evidence of anti-social drinking and nuisance.

There were prescribed consultees – the Police Chief, the Parish Council, licensees, landowners and occupiers in immediate area. Additional local consultees were Joint Action Groups (JAGs), Ward Councillors and the Council's Portfolio Holder.

The legal process was described further and the Forum was advised that the areas being considered for designation were:

(a) Those areas on the Headland covered previously by Byelaws.

(b) New areas – Phase 1:

- all shopping parades) If evidence
- all play areas) of anti-social
- all recreation grounds) drinking &
- all parks) nuisance

A separate sheet was circulated listing all of the areas covered previously by Byelaws on the Headland.

Another sheet detailing the North JAG Areas / Shopping Parades to be considered as designated areas.

Alison indicated that a public meeting would be held on the Headland to progress the matter.

At the end of the formal process a report would be taken to Licensing Committee who would decide if a Designation Order should be made. Enforcement of Regulations would be carried out by the Police.

The Chairman commented that if a separate meeting was being held on the Headland then the same should be done in all areas and why should the Headland be first.

Resident, John Lynch, commented that reference to the Headland should actually be St Hilda Ward.

The Head of Community Safety and Prevention advised that the first phase of the process had to be undertaken in the area where there had previously been byelaws and these were listed on the sheet circulated at the meeting. The next phase would be consideration of other areas for designation (as indicated in the presentation above). Officers were currently embarking on the first phase of the process for new areas. Alison advised that there would be another phase around problem streets and Alison asked residents to let the Unit know of any.

The Forum were advised that the regulations do not allow the Council to have blanket coverage of the town – there has to be evidence of anti-social drinking and nuisance. Public meetings could be arranged in other areas if the need is identified throughout the process. The North Neighbourhood Manager commented that, in terms of consultation on new areas, this should be more inclusive – she suggested Members, Resident Representatives and interested parties should be involved.

Councillor Fleet reported vast alcohol problems in the Dyke House area.

Comments from Central Estate residents were that the shops in that area selling alcohol should be prosecuted.

Councillor Wright asked how long it would take to complete the Headland area and then see some action in the Hart Ward area.

The Chairman of the Headland Parish Council commented that there are too many 'no drinking alcohol' type signs around the Headland – 64 around the sea

front area which looked bad when the area was looking to attract tourists.

The Head of Community Safety and Prevention summed up peoples views – the old Bye-laws were no longer in existence – the Headland Councillors were saying they don't want new Bye-laws and they don't have a problem.

Other areas – ie Central Estate – have problems and should be investigated for future designation. She said the selection of other areas, ie shopping parades, was because that is where the problems are.

Resident Representative, Bob Steele, asked how long it would take to designate a problem area. Alison advised around 6 months.

John Lynch commented that as Central Estate area is already a pilot area then they could be considered for early consultation and designation if recognised.

Resident Representative, Irene Nelson, asked for North Cemetery to be considered.

The Chairman commented that a framework for prioritising over the whole town was needed and it is important that people work together. Cllr Wright suggested that hot-spot areas should go first.

Principal Licensing Officer and Trading Standards Officer, Ian Harrison, explained the current Licensing process and commented that often the Sub-Committees (consisting of 3 Councillors) may suspend or take away a licence, only to be revoked by the Magistrates Court. He also mentioned that to get prosecutions of licensed premises, including shops, evidence is needed. Ian advised that Trading Standards Section does a lot of work in this area, ie test

purchases, and every sale to a an under-age person results in a prosecution.

Ian also advised of the launch of the Challenge 21 approach and all licensees are encouraged to take part. Proof of age cards were also being considered and these were described to the Forum.

The Chaiman agreed that it is frustrating to see action taken against licensees by the Licensing Sub-Committees, only to see it rescinded by the Court. He also commented that he firmly believed that Licence Holders should be responsible for their employees. In Review situations training schemes are put forward as proof and Licensing Sub-Committees have not been able to act because people can prove they have followed the requirement.

The Chaiman ended by asking the Head of Community Safety and Prevention to note all the issues raised and progress the matter as soon as possible. He also requested an update to the next Police and Community Safety Forum.

ROB COOK

CHAIRMAN