

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

**in**

**Owton Manor Community Centre,  
Wynyard Road, Hartlepool**

**on**

**Friday 7<sup>th</sup> 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 13<sup>th</sup> April 2007 (*attached*)
  - (b) Matters arising.
3. Update from the Police
4. Update from the fire brigade – Seaton Meadows Landfill Site
5. Alcohol Designated Areas
6. UNITE Community Mediation
7. Any other business agreed by the Chair

**WARDS**

Fens  
Greatham  
Owton  
Rossmere  
Seaton

***SOUTH POLICE &  
COMMUNITY SAFETY  
CONSULTATIVE FORUM***

***13<sup>th</sup> April, 2007***

***MINUTES OF THE MEETING***



The meeting commenced at 10.00 a.m. at Owton Manor Community Centre, Wynyard Road, Hartlepool

<b>PRESENT:</b>
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Chair: Councillor Michael Johnson - Rossmere Ward

Vice Chair: Resident Representative Mary Green

Councillor Steve Gibbon	- Fens Ward
Councillor Marjorie James	- Owton Ward
Councillor Geoff Lilley	Greatham Ward
Councillor Ann Marshall	Rossmere Ward
Councillor Maureen Waller	- Owton Ward

Residents: Mr T Rigby, Miss Joan Smith and Mr Oxley

Resident Representatives: Ann Butterfield, Mary Green, Rose Kennedy, Alison Lilley, Michael McKie, Iris Ryder.

Officers: Sally Forth, Katie Sheehan, Sue McBride, Iain Campbell, Denis Hampson and Scott Gooding.

Police Representatives: Sgt Jonathan Wrigley and PC Dave Myers

Fire Brigade Representative: Barry Waller

Housing Hartlepool Representative: Andy Elvidge

<b>18. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION</b>
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The Chair Councillor Michael Johnson welcomed residents, Councillors and Officers

<b>19. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</b>
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Apologies for absence were received from Councillors S Cook, C Hill, M James, A Preece and D Young. Also from Inspector Gary Ward and Lesley Hall, Community Network Officer.

## 20. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> January 2007 were confirmed.

Matters arising: Councillor Lilley referred to page 2 (Greatham Crime figures) – Inspector Simpson had indicated that these figures would be available at a future meeting. Sgt Wrigley indicated that Inspector Simpson had moved on to another post – the figures would now be brought to the next meeting of this Police and Community Safety Forum.

## 21. UPDATE FROM THE POLICE – Sgt Jonathan Wrigley

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

- Comparison of 2005/2006 (October – December) South 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.

Sgt Jonathan Wrigley updated the Forum on the following issues:

- lighting in Rossmere Park area had been costed and was waiting to be fitted;
- the Council are continuing to push for alcohol prohibited areas as the current byelaws were now out-of-date. New areas would have to be approved by the Government;
- Visual Audits – Sgt Wrigley had been tasked with setting up a

protocol and would be contacting appropriate agencies and people to discuss the format that would be used for the Audits;

- With regard to budgetary issues, Hartlepool is to get 5 PCs and 15 PCSOs. There had been no decision on where they would be placed but representations had been made by Sgts Wrigley and Galloway for extra staff for the South area. Councillor would be kept informed.
- From 1<sup>st</sup> May 2007 under the Serious Crime Act, the Police can seize vehicles if they have no insurance. The vehicles have to be occupied at the time and all the officer needs is suspicion that there is no insurance – insurance would have to be produced for the owner to get the vehicle returned. Also there will be a cost of £105 and £12 a day storage – this also relates to off-road motor-bikes. This would be an AA run scheme with help from the Police and the majority of vehicles would be seized and stored by Ron Perry;
- BOING UK – this is a partnership between Cleveland Police and BOING UK, where key holders details are registered with a company at a cost of £12 a year. The benefits are that insecure windows and doors can be boarded up, burst water pipes can be fixed preventing further damage, locks can be changed. Basically any tradesman can be contacted and dispatched to the address. Posters with phone numbers shortly would appear shortly
- Fens/Greatham – An extra PCSO (Johnson) would be dedicated to the area in addition to John Kennedy – they would work opposite shifts. He can be

contacted at the Jutland Road office;

- Special Constables will be based in the South area in the near future. They will probably work on Wednesday and Fridays and have the powers of arrest. The Forum would be kept informed.

Cllr Gibbon asked for continued visible presence on the Fens area – he accepted that Sgt Wrigley and PC Myers did a good job but commented that it was difficult to get through on the phone to Jutland Road Police Office.. Sgt Wrigley advised that PC John Kennedy was still patrolling the area on a regular basis, sometimes on a bike.

Councillor Lilley referred to the offer made last year by Steve Ashman to come back to the Forum but this had not happened. The Chairman requested that a letter be sent to him asking him to attend a future meeting to give a formal update on Neighbourhood Policing.

Resident Representative Iris Ryder referred to the additional officers to be available and asked for extra officers for Seaton.- Sgt Wrigley indicated an extra PCSO would cover the area.

Resident Representative Michael McKie referred to the good job being done by PC Myers and the PCSO but commented that over the Easter Holiday period the area was not covered – he understood this was because of cost. He also asked by the PCSOs did not have cars available so they could move between areas faster. Sgt Wrigley advised that the PCSOs are on foot to provide a visible presence.

Joan Smith indicated that she had a list of problem issues from residents (passed to the Police). She advised that residents often felt it was useless to ring the main Police number as issues are often trivialised. Also the phone numbers

provided cause confusion – could clearer guidance of who to ring be given. Sgt Wrigley indicated that a review of phone numbers was being undertaken (he understood by Inspector G Ward) and as soon as they are available would be passed to Councillors.

Resident Representative Alison Lilley referred to residents giving information to the Police and then not getting any feedback – just a knock on the door to update the resident. Jonathan said this should happen, when possible, and he would pass on the request.

The Chairman thanked Sgt Wrigley and commented on the excellent co-ordination of the Police and Anti-social Behaviour Unit and the work undertaken over the last couple of weekends.

## **22. UPDATE FROM CLEVELAND FIRE BRIGADE – Barry Waller**

Barry Waller, District Manager for Hartlepool, gave a brief update on recent activity within the Fire Brigade. In the last 3 months the number of dwelling fires had continued to drop. This meant that there had been no deaths in a fire in Hartlepool in the last 12 months (and in the last 10 years). The number of property fires had also dropped as had small fires and hoax calls.

Details were given of a number of initiatives currently being undertaken by the Fire Brigade, including:

- The formulation of a risk register for 'at risk' properties
- A boat safety week
- Heartstart – CPR resuscitation training
- Schemes involving children
- Funding for anti-arson letter-boxes.

There had been 7 calls recently relating to rubbish fires in the Greenock Road area. Action had been taken, ie letters in doors etc re possible prison sentences and fines.

Resident Representative, Iris Ryder, advised that she had objected to planning permission at the Seaton Meadows site and she was assured that materials would be separated and would not cause problems. She felt the current working arrangements were against planning permission. Barry indicated that the site was being monitored.

The Chairman thanked Barry for his presentation and for answering questions.

### **23. UPDATE ON EMERGENCY PLANNING PROCEDURE – Scott Gooding**

The Emergency Planning Officer gave a short presentation relating to Emergency Planning issues following concerns raised at the previous Forum meeting.

He advised that the use of Sirens is for on-site information – they are designed to inform the work-force. They differ on sites and are often very loud. If the public outside the site need to be informed of any situation then the Police would take the necessary action. The Cleveland Community Strategy contains a simple system whereby if there is an emergency that could affect the public then a fax is sent to the relevant Councils. If people have concerns about a particular issue then they should contact the Emergency Services on 999 (if urgent) or ring the Council through the Contact Centre on 01429 523333.

Councillor Lilley referred to concerns of residents in Greatham Village and asked if residents could be given more information about sirens and test sirens. Residents also wish to know what

procedures are in place for when things go wrong. Cllr Lilley said he had asked Emergency Planning to contact the man near the railway crossing and Scott Gooding indicated he had sent a letter. Cllr Lilley said he felt Emergency Planning were missing the opportunity to keep people informed. Scott indicated that cards had gone out twice to all households in Cleveland – residents would have been told if they needed to take any action. Calendars are sent to some areas, close to sites, by the HSE.

Scott offered to attend Parish Council meetings and agreed to liaise with Cllr Lilley and the Parish Clerk with regard to setting up a meeting in the Village Community Centre.

Cllr Gibbon referred to induction videos (re major incidents) that companies use for new staff and suggested that something similar would be good to bring out to public meetings. Scott indicated that such videos did not relate to public areas / roads etc, but he agreed to look at what was available and relevant.

If Councillors were concerned about an emergency incident that they thought was in progress and wanted more information it was suggested that they contact Alastair Rae, the Council's Press Officer as he is usually kept updated by the Emergency Planning Office.

The Chairman thanked Scott for his presentation and for answering questions.

### **24. UPDATE ON ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR PROCEDURES – Sally Forth**

The Anti-Social Behaviour Coordinator, Sally Forth, advised the Forum of the new Anti-Social Behaviour Unit structure, as follows:-

- Co-ordinator
- 2 Enforcement Officers
- 3.5 Area Based Officers (2.5 posts currently vacant)
- 2 Support / Administrative Officers
- Research Officer

She indicated that:

- 2500 reports had been recorded
- Over 800 warning letters sent out
- 444 cases (91 open at April 2007)
- Over 200 referrals to other agencies
- 37 current ABCs
- 26 Current ASBOs

A graph indicating the growth in enforcement activity covering periods 2000, 2002, 2004 and 2006 was also provided and this showed a big increase in activity in 2006.

The Chairman expressed concern that the Unit were understaffed. He had extreme concerns about the outstanding vacancy. He felt this could seriously undermine the work of the Partnerships and indicated he would raise the issue with The Mayor.

Councillor Lilley referred to the increase in ABCs and ASBOs and asked how people could see evidence of the measures working. Sally indicated that work was being undertaken on the Strategy and it would have to include evidence.

Resident Representative, Mary Green, expressed growing concerns about teenage gangs and stabbing incidents. She asked if there had been any incidents of young people in this area carrying knives. Sally said there was no evidence of knives in the area.

## **25. OFF-ROAD MOTORCYCLE STRATEGY – Sally Forth**

The Anti-Social Behaviour Coordinator, Sally Forth, gave a presentation relating to the Strategy across Cleveland.

Firstly, she advised on the extent of the problem, as follows:

- 800 reports in 6 month period to October 2006;
- Problem increasing – easy availability of mini motos;
- Lack of awareness that there is nowhere to ride these vehicles legally within Hartlepool;

A Multi Agency Steering Group had been set up consisting of the following:

- Chaired by The Mayor
- Police
- HBC Environmental Enforcement Team
- Safer Hartlepool ASBU
- Housing Hartlepool

It had 4 primary objectives:

- Research; co-ordinate and implement strategy
- Reduce illegal use of motorcycles across Hartlepool
- Reduce complaints received regarding motorcycles
- Educate in safe use of motorcycles

And secondary objectives:

- Develop and maintain one system for recording section 59 notices across Cleveland Police area
- Develop robust information sharing processes across partner agencies
- Access funding for the development and delivery of projects in support of the strategy

Co-ordination would be undertaken by the following means:

- Single Point of contact
- Notification to landlords
- Work with HBC to put up barriers where appropriate
- ASBU – warning letters; contracts, ASBOs
- Trading standards – sale of petrol to under 16s

It was hoped the Strategy would have a real impact and that Hartlepool would have an increased in Police Motorcycle Squad time.

Resident Representative, Iris Ryder, suggested that a training centre be set up. Sally said the Steering Group had looked at the possibility of a legal site but there would be 'hurdles', ie funding, insurance etc. Councillor Lilley said we should recognise Cleveland and Durham Constabularies for the schemes they have in place – they are “on the ball”, but these are only for those wanting to ride legally. He said “it’s the illegal ones that cause the problems – I feel all motorbikes should be registered”.

The Chairman thanked Sally and Officers in the Unit for putting together the much needed strategy.

## 26. QUESTION TIME (Public, Resident Reps and Councillors)

(a) Stranton Allotments – Mr Rigby voiced his concerns at the increase in vandalism, break-ins and anti-social behaviour on Stranton Allotments and asked what actions HBC and Cleveland Police would put in place to address these serious issues. Sgt Wrigley indicated he would look into the issues and reply direct to Mr Rigby.

(b) Loud Buzz at Seaton – Iris Ryder said this had occurred the night before the meeting and asked what it was.

Technical Officer, Iain Campbell, agreed to investigate.

(c) Fens school Field – Councillor Lilley advised that problems had started again and the fences at the rear of Burwell Walk had been damaged. Also skateboarders on the road at Caister Drive and refuse to move at times. PC Myers noted the issues.

(d) Fly-tipping and motorbike riding at The Beck. Councillor Lilley said the rider was legal but he rode through people dangerously. Council Officers noted the fly-tipping and PC Myers noted the bike issue.

(e) Speeding Cars – Councillor Gibbon reported speeding cars around the I block and agreed to speak to Sgt Wrigley after the meeting.

(f) Stranton Allotments – tipping reported. The Chairman indicated that officers were aware of this and rubbish had been moved, but more had since been left. The area would be monitored.

(g) Resident Representative, Michael McKie said 6 allotments looked derelict. Sue McBride noted and would investigate.

(h) Resident Representative, Iris Ryder, referred to Wainwright Walk area – residents had been told the pot-holes were not deep enough but they were now worse. Technical Officer, Iain Campbell agreed to carry out an assessment after the work and wagons in the area are finished.

(i) Councillor A Marshall referred to contact cards from Community Safety that contain local police office numbers.. Neighbourhood Development Officer, Sue McBride, indicated that a new logo was awaited and the cards would then be printed. One this had been done Sue indicated she would bring them along to a Forum meeting.

MICHAEL JOHNSON

CHAIRMAN