

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

**in**

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

**on**

**Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> January, 2008  
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 5<sup>th</sup> September 2007
  - (b) Matters arising.
3. Update from the Police
  - 3.1 Introduction of Hartlepool's District Commander Andy Summerbell
  - 3.2 Police Update and What is Problem Solving
4. Public Question Time
5. Update from the Fire Brigade
6. Anti-Social Behaviour Perspective
7. Neighbourhood Issues
  - 7.1 CCTV
  - 7.2 Illegal Parking
8. Any issues to be raised by Councillors and Resident Representatives

## WARDS

Brus  
Dyke House  
Hart  
St Hilda  
Throston

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

**5<sup>th</sup> September 2007**

## ***MINUTES OF THE MEETING***



The meeting commenced at 10.00 a.m. in the West View Community Centre, Hartlepool

### **PRESENT:**

Chair: Councillor Mary Fleet – Hart Ward

Vice Chair: Resident Representative Linda Shields

Councillor Reuben Atkinson	- Dyke House Ward
Councillor Stephen Allison	- St Hilda Ward
Councillor Caroline Barker	- Hart Ward
Councillor Rob Cook	- Hart Ward
Councillor Tim Fleming	- St. Hilda Ward
Councillor Sheila Griffin	- Brus Ward
Councillor Peter Jackson	- Throston Ward
Councillor John Marshall	- St Hilda Ward
Councillor Michelle Plant	- Brus Ward

### Resident Representatives:

John Cambridge, Don Davison, Irene Nelson, Joan Steel, Robert Steel and Maureen Waller.

Residents: Mr Vale, J Cooke, S Cartwright, V Gardner, D Black, D Gardner, J Maxwell, C Watt, D Oliver, C Torley, E Torley.

### Hartlepool BC Officers:

Alison Mawson, Head of Community Safety and Prevention  
R Parker, Community Safety Team  
Katie Sheehan, Housing Services Business Unit  
Joe Hogan, Crime and Disorder Officer  
Sally Forth, Anti-Social Behaviour Co-ordinator  
Karen Oliver, Neighbourhood Manager (North)  
David Cosgrove, Principal Democratic Services Officer

### Police Representatives:

Sgt S Cranston and PC Bone and L Sharp, T Southcott and C Lewis.

Fire Brigade Representatives:  
I Harrington and S Patton.

Housing Hartlepool Representatives:  
Natalie Gooding and Ann-Marie Rooney

Victim Support Team:  
D Haygarth and L Anderson

## **1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Peter Jackson and Resident Representative Mary Power.

## **2. MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 11 April 2007 were confirmed.

## **3. MATTERS ARISING**

Period between meetings – Councillor Wright indicated that the Forum had agreed to hold four meetings year and it was five months since the last meeting.

Councillor J Marshall indicated that at the last meeting the alcohol zones signs on the Headland were described as redundant and due to be replaced. There were many other redundant signs around the area and the Council should try and remove the signage clutter. The Headland area also wanted the alcohol free zones extending to include the full length of the Promenade.

## **4. POLICE UPDATE**

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

- Comparison of North Forum Area Crime Figures for each ward for the period of April to June in 2006 and 2007;

- These figures compared:  
Total crime  
Burglary Dwelling;  
Burglary Other;  
Theft of Motor Vehicle;  
Theft from Motor Vehicle;  
Criminal Damage;  
Robbery;  
Violence against the Person.

Sgt Cranston commented that crime figures were down and detection rates up across the whole area. There were a number of specific issues driving certain crime figures, one of the main ones being the current high price of scrap metal. This was one of the main reasons behind the number of crimes of lead being stripped from roofs, for instance, which was on the increase across the whole Cleveland force area. The School holiday period also tended to lead to an increase in shoplifting.

Some of the figures for the North area also needed to be seen in context. The increase in robbery figures of 9.1% actually only meant one more recorded crime in the quarter than the previous quarter.

Sgt Cranston referred to a recent MORI Poll, which showed that the public perception of Cleveland Police was above the national average and in the top quartile of all local police authorities.

Operation ASP at the end of June had tackled anti-social behaviour and involved a number of agencies. The operation had

been very successful and in one evening 287 people were stopped, 99% of whom were juveniles and 253 units of alcohol confiscated and 162 anti-social behaviour report forms being submitted. The Clavering Pilot Scheme, which was an offshoot of the North Joint Action Group, was another multi-agency scheme that was having inroads into reducing anti-social behaviour in the Clavering area. There had been significant reductions in reports of anti-social behaviour and crime. Café Clavering in St Mark's Church Hall provided young people with a youth club on Thursday evenings and attendances were increasing.

Hurworth Street had been an area where a number of anti-social behaviour issues had been experienced. Again through multi-agency working and involvement with the private landlords in the area, Sgt Cranston reported that some of the problem residents had been moved out of the area.

Hartlepool's excellent community policing was being recognised as two North area officers, PC Val Marley and PCSO Andy Leight had been nominated by Cleveland Police for the National Community Policing Awards.

In ending his presentation, Sgt Cranston reminded the forum that the Police relied on the community to report anti-social behaviour incidents. Criminal damage tended to follow anti-social behaviour, which tended to follow alcohol consumption. The Police need the support of the community in tackling these issues. Sgt Cranston also informed the meeting that the Chief Constable, Sean Price would be holding an open consultation meeting at the Historic Quay at 6.00pm on Tuesday 2nd October.

Joan Steel indicated that the Clavering Pilot Scheme had been very successful and the residents were very pleased with

the results. In relation to the MORI poll, Mrs Steel asked if the results were based on peoples perception of crime or actual figures as perceptions were often much worse. Sgt Cranston stated that poll was of peoples perceptions.

Liz Torley was pleased to hear the problems in Hurworth Street had been tackled but was concerned that the problems had only been 'dumped' elsewhere. Sgt Cranston commented that the problem tenants had been moved and split up. The majority of the problems were due to certain people being in the same vicinity. The issues had been dealt with stringently.

Councillor Wright questioned the issue of ASB Form 13 to youths and what these forms actually did. Sgt Cranston indicated that 162 ASB report forms had been submitted to the Anti-Social Behaviour Team. They logged individuals, their address, the location they were issued with the form and what they were involved in. These reports could then be used in the future, should the individual be reported again.

Councillor Barker expressed concern at the recent thefts of metals and the thefts of cars for their scrap value. Sgt Cranston stated that the Police were actively pursuing these crimes including scrap yards that are required to maintain detailed records of all the scrap brought in and processed.

Bob Steel commented on the very good work being done with young people at Clavering School.

Bob steel highlighted the recent armed robbery on the Headland and asked of the Police still had a list of key holders. Sgt Cranston indicated that the days of the key holder list had passed as premises tended to have contracts with

security companies who responded to alarms.

The Chair thanked Sgt Cranston for the informative presentation and answering the Forums questions.

## **5. FIRE BRIGADE UPDATE**

Ian Harrington, Station Manager at Hartlepool Fire Station gave a presentation to the Forum in the fire incidents throughout the borough and specifically in the North Area.

Mr Harrington highlighted that the joint working arrangements in Hartlepool were very much ahead of the other divisions in Cleveland and an example to other forces in the country.

The figures quoted by Mr Harrington related to April to June 2007.

Vehicle fires had increased 166%. This related to only 8 additional such fires. As a comparison this could occur in Stockton or Middlesbrough in one night. In Hartlepool the Fire Brigade worked closely with the Neighbourhood Services Department to remove these vehicles before they became a fire risk. Five of these vehicle fires had occurred in the Brus ward.

F3 – deliberately set “anti-social behaviour fires” – there had been 68 in the district with Brus Ward being the highest with 30 such fires.

The Fire Brigade worked closely again with the local authority to remove rubbish that may end up being a fire risk. Grass fires had not been an issue in the recent months due to the weather.

There had only been 5 dwelling fires in the three months. Until recently, there had not been a death in Hartlepool from a fire for nine years. Whenever incidents

occurred, officers would put a concentrated campaign in place in the local area to undertake home fire checks, install free smoke alarms and talk to residents about fire safety and escape plans.

Mr Harrington indicated that as apart of the service’s approach to tackling deliberately set fires, covert cctv cameras had been purchased, which would be used to monitor and hopefully identify those setting deliberate fires so they could be prosecuted.

Mr Harrington highlighted the extensive community work fire officers were undertaking and referred to the recent ‘Play with Football Not Fire’ event which had been used to get the fire safety message across to young children.

Liz Torley raised local residents concern at the number of occasions that the Fire Brigade had had to attend incidents at the abandoned Steetley site.

Councillors Wright and Plant asked if more detailed statistics could be brought to future meetings. Ian Harrington acknowledged that some of the statistics were not particularly clear at this meeting but he would endeavour to bring more detailed and relevant information to the next meeting.

Councillor Fleming asked if the loss of the third fire tender and staff at Hartlepool Station had had an effect on the effectiveness of the local fire service. It was commented that the Headland Station was now fully staffed. Ian Harrington stated that the loss of the third tender had been monitored closely to see if there had been any effect. To date there had been no adverse effects. If there was, the Chief Fire Officer had given an undertaking to consider its reinstatement.

The Chair thanked Ian Harrington for his presentation and answering the Forums questions.

## **6. ALCOHOL DESIGNATED AREAS**

Joe Hogan, Community Safety Officer, gave a presentation updating the forum on the implementation of the alcohol designated zones in Hartlepool and specifically the North area.

The orders were designed to reduce anti-social behaviour and were being introduced under new powers in the Criminal Justice and police Act 2001. All the previous orders ceased to exist on 1 September 2007. Under the Act, it was the role of the local authority to designate areas but for local police and PCSO's to enforce. The new designations were being rolled out in three phases. The first was the replacement of the previous bye-laws which was nearly complete. The second phase would be to look at 'congregation areas' such as shopping parades and the cemeteries. The third phase would look at residential areas. If hotspots developed they would be looked at individually and designated only if there was 'reasonable' evidence. Without evidence a designation could not go ahead. The list of designated areas would be submitted to Licensing Committee for its approval.

In this stage of the process, Joe Hogan indicated that he was looking for feedback on the proposals relating to the shopping parades and the cemeteries.

Councillor R Cook asked why the process was taking so long if the previous bye-laws had ended on 1 September and how long would it be before the process was complete. Joe Hogan highlighted that a very extensive consultation exercise had been undertaken which included the licensed premises and landowners. It had not proved to be as straight forward

as originally anticipated. Signs were starting to go up around the town and legal notices had been posted in the local press.

The Chair thanked Joe Hogan for his update report.

## **7. UNITE COMMUNITY MEDIATION**

Mohammed Zafarullah from Unite gave a presentation of the range of services provided by Unite in Hartlepool and the Tees Valley. Unite could become involved in neighbour disputes acting as a mediator between two parties. The service was also used by Hartlepool Housing as well as the council itself. The service was used in issues of noise and problems with dogs for example.

It was highlighted that Unite mediators could only mediate between two parties and could not impose any resolution to problems. It did however have an 85% success rate. The service had dealt with 36 cases in Hartlepool in the last year.

The Chair thanked Mohammed Zafarullah for his presentation to the forum.

## **8. ANTI SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR ACTIVITY**

Sally Forth, the Anti-Social Behaviour Unit Coordinator, gave a presentation to the forum updating them on recorded anti-social behaviour between April and June 2007. Sally Forth also introduced Katie Sheehan to the forum, the new North area Anti-Social Behaviour Officer.

The key statistics for the north area were:-

ASB Cases by ward:

Brus	5
Dyke House	23
Hart	12
St Hilda	6
Throston	6

A total 56 cases closed in the period (147 Borough wide)  
Currently 29 cases were open (89 Borough wide)

The types of issues/complaints:-

Animal related	1
Football nuisance	14
Intimidation/harassment	3
Noise	8
Nuisance behaviour	4
Rowdy Behaviour	10
Vehicle related	2
Criminal	1
Vandalism	2
Hate Crime	3
Street Drinking	8

ASBO/CRASBO statistics:-

- 2 CRASBOs obtained.  
Total number of active ASBO/CRASBOs to 13. (34 across Hartlepool)
- 2 current Acceptable Behaviour Contracts
- 1 Acceptable Behaviour Agreement. (22 Current ABAs and ABCs across Hartlepool).

Sally Forth indicated that future statistics to the Forum would be done in conjunction with Housing Hartlepool who also deal with many ASB referrals.

Councillor R Cook considered that children playing football shouldn't be listed as anti-social behaviour when many of the places that children could previously play football had gone. People needed to be more tolerant of children playing games. Councillor R Cook did acknowledge that youths playing football in the street, often late into the evening was a different issue and was anti-social.

Councillor J Marshall was concerned at the anti-social problems caused by people parking vehicles without little thought to the safety of pedestrians or other drivers. Councillor J Marshall

indicated that he had raised this problem with the Police on several occasions and was not satisfied with their response and asked that they look at the incidents he had referred to them again. Councillor R Cook supported Councillor J Marshall's comments indicating that similar problems were occurring in his ward. Councillor R Cook commented that some problems still seemed to occur due to the decriminalisation of parking and it wasn't always clear who dealt with what type of issue. Councillor Wright suggested that at the next meeting, the forum receive a presentation from the appropriate officers on these problems.

## 9. OFF ROAD MOTORCYCLES

Sally Forth reported that the Anti-Social Behaviour Team received many reports of problems caused by off-road motorbikes and mini-motos from all over the town. There was, however, nowhere these bikes could be ridden legally in Hartlepool. Council officers were looking at other ways of dealing with these issues, as it was difficult for the Police's motorcycle team to respond to all the calls they received.

CHAIR