

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

in

**Owton Rossmere Resource Centre,
Wynyard Road, Hartlepool**

on

**Friday 11th 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 7th 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
8. Any issues to be raised by Councillors and Resident Representatives
9. Any Other Business Agreed by the Chair

WARDS

Fens
Greatham
Owton
Rossmere
Seaton

SOUTH POLICE & COMMUNITY SAFETY CONSULTATIVE FORUM

7 September 2007

MINUTES OF THE MEETING



The meeting commenced at 10.00 a.m. in the
Owton Manor Community Centre, Hartlepool

PRESENT:

Chair: Councillor Michael Johnson - Rossmere Ward

Vice Chair: Resident Representative Mary Green

Councillor Bob Flintoff	- Owton Ward
Councillor Michael Johnson	- Rossmere Ward
Councillor Alison Lilley	- Fens Ward
Councillor Geoff Lilley	- Greatham Ward
Councillor Ann Marshall	- Rossmere Ward
Councillor Arthur Preece	- Fens Ward
Councillor Michael Turner	- Seaton Ward
Councillor Gerald Wistow	- Owton Ward
Councillor David Young	- Seaton Ward

Resident Representatives:

Ann Butterfield, Rose Kennedy, David Rowe, Iris Ryder and Michael Ward.

Residents: S Hotham, H Oxley, D M Clark, S Kell.

Officers:

- David Frame, South Neighbourhood Manager
- Dave Mitchell, Neighbourhood Coordinator
- Sue McBride, Neighbourhood Development Officer (South)
- Sally Forth, Anti-Social Behaviour Coordinator
- Joe Hogan, Crime and Disorder Coordinator
- Sue Grey, South Anti-Social Behaviour Officer
- Sue Willoughby, Safer Hartlepool Partnership

Housing Hartlepool Representative: Libby Griffiths.

Cleveland Police Representatives: Sgt Jonathan Wrigley, PC Helen Barron.

Cleveland Fire Brigade Representatives: Ian Harrington and Kevin Readhead.

**Resident Representative Mary Green
(Vice-Chair) in the Chair.**

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Steve Gibbon, Cath Hill and Marjorie James and resident representative Michael McKie.

2. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 13 April 2007 were confirmed.

3. MATTERS ARISING

Councillor G Lilley referred to minute 21 and asked when Steve Ashman would be attending a meeting of the forum. David Frame reported that the Chair had written to Supt. Ashman asking if he would attend a future meeting.

4. 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 South 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.

F3 – deliberately set “anti-social behaviour fires” – there had been 68 in the district.

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.

Ian Harrington indicated that the Owton Ward had been designated a Fire Safety Zone due to the number of incidents. Fire Officers worked closely with local Police and had requested increased patrols to combat deliberately set fires. There had also been incidents of crews being attacked when attending incidents. All Fire vehicles had CCTV installed recording from the time the vehicle left the station.

Ian Harrington did stress that in comparison to other districts, the Hartlepool figures were quite low and the percentage increases tended to only reveal a few additional incidents being recorded.

As a ward councillor, Councillor Wistow was concerned at the statistics for the Owton Ward and asked if any specific individuals had been identified as causing the problems reported. Mr Harrington indicated that the ward was monitored closely and had a concentrated service provision through increased police patrols and fire assessments etc. The ‘Play with Football not with Fire’ campaign had also been implemented in the ward with young school children. In conjunction with Housing Hartlepool homes had been visited to carry out free fire safety assessments and installing free fire

alarms for those that didn't have them. Commercial premises were also being visited as part of the campaign.

Kevin Readhead updated the forum on the situation at Seaton Meadows Waste Disposal site. In April and May, the brigade had attended the site eight times to deal with fires. The Brigade was working closely with the Environment Agency, as the site was becoming a significant draw on resources. The site had been served with an enforcement notice that gave the site management a list of works that needed to be undertaken. It was estimated that it would take 6-9 months for the company to comply in full with the notice. In the short-term, improvements had been made and the brigade had only had to attend the site once in the last three months.

Councillor Turner commented that there were many conflicting views as to the causes of the fires and asked if the Fire Officers could indicate if the fires were deliberately set or accidental. Mr Readhead commented that it was difficult to investigate these fires. It was considered that most were naturally occurring from the waste in the ground; the site was a long way from residential areas and he couldn't see children or youths going there to set fires.

Councillor Turner asked if the fire was still burning on the site. Mr Readhead indicated that it was not. It had been burning in a cell in the site but that had been capped and flooded and the fire was out. The site in general was quite a dangerous area for fire crews to operate, due to ground conditions and not knowing what was burning.

Councillor G Lilley understood that the cells were walled off using shredded tyres, were they not a fire risk. Mr Readhead commented that the site was

using shredded tyres for both drainage and walling off cells. They were not a fire risk.

Resident Representative Iris Ryder commented that the Planning inspector had recently approved another planning application for the site which included conditions for the new way the site would operate that would involve the Council and the Environment Agency in monitoring. Ina Harrington indicated that he considered that the Fire Brigade's recent action against the management of the site had caused them to act to improve the management of the site and materials on it.

Councillor Johnson in the Chair.

5. POLICE UPDATE

Sgt Jonathan Wrigley reported on the crime figures for the south area for August 2006 through to July 2007. In general, total crime was down 8.1% with the detection rate up over 30%. Some figures had increased; robbery, vehicle crime, other crime and criminal damage. However, the vehicle crime increase related to only one additional vehicle. Criminal damage was becoming a particular problem and Sgt Wrigley reported that in the central area a group of children had been caught spray-painting cars in Surtees Street.

Sgt Wrigley referred to a recently published MORI survey that showed that the public perception of Cleveland Police was above the national average and in the top quartile of all local police authorities.

Sgt Wrigley also reported on Operation Asp at the end of June, which 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.

In Rossmere Park the new lighting had been completed and bushes thinned out. Youths were continuing to drink in the park but patrols were regularly going in and confiscating drink. There was concern that this activity was spilling out into the nearby residential areas.

No further problems had been reported at Brierton Allotments and the allotment holders were setting up a watch group.

A number of mini-moto and off-road bikes had been seized. There was to be an operation tackling these problems later in the month in the south area.

Drug usage and selling seemed to be on the increase in the Owton area. The drugs team were aware of the problem and actively tackling it. However, as with most drug related crime, the Police relied on the public to pass on any information and Sgt Wrigley sought the forums support in reporting any drugs matters to the Jutland Road office on 861678.

Resident Representative Mary Green indicated that she had reported a number of incidents of pigeons being shot in the green areas near McCrae Road. Sgt Wrigley indicated that officers would be looking into these incidents.

Councillor G Lilley referred to the ward crime figures and questioned the burglary figures for Greatham. Sgt Wrigley indicated that these referred to the Sharwood factory site. The problem had reduced dramatically following the installation of a new security camera.

Councillor G Lilley referred to incidents of anti-social behaviour in the Spillsby Close area. He also referred to milkmen having delivered milk stolen from doorsteps.

This had been reported to the Police but the milkman had commented that he didn't think the issue had been taken seriously.

Councillor Lilley also reported what he considered a statutory nuisance, which was the smell coming from the Northumbrian Water treatment plant that was affecting people living in Greatham. David Frame indicated that he would refer the matter to the Public Protection team.

Resident Representative Iris Ryder raised concern in relation to response times, particularly for ambulances and cited a recent incident, which the Chair undertook to discuss further with her.

Councillor A Marshall asked if the Police now had keys to Rossmere Park and if they would publicise the names of those who were fined for consuming alcohol in the park. Sgt Wrigley indicated that they were discussing the issue of keys with the Council's security contractors, NES.

Councillor Young reported problems of motorcycles around the Tees Road Retail Park and the fact there seemed to be a regular meeting on a Saturday morning. Sgt Wrigley indicated that he had noted the report. The Chair considered that the problem was there was nowhere for people to go to ride mini-motos and off-road motorcycles. Councillor G Lilley reported that Durham Police had become involved in organising regular events where owners of mini-motos could go to ride their bikes. Sgt Wrigley indicated that he would contact Durham Police to discuss the matter further.

Councillor Turner commented that because of the limited resources of the police motorcycle team, operations had to be planned weeks ahead; could Hartlepool not have its own team based here to deal with the problems we had. Sgt Wrigley commented that he would

like greater access to the motorcycle squad but did inform the forum that they would be in the town shortly.

Councillor Wistow formally proposed that the forum request that the Executive look to the possibility of finding land for the provision of a recreational off-road motorcycling facility in Hartlepool in an area acceptable to local residents. After discussion on the issues relating to the provision of such a facility, the forum supported the proposal.

Councillor Wistow stated that the on average Police in Cleveland and the Northeast do better than other forces but are rarely recognised for their work. Councillor Wistow noted from the presentation that crime figures in the Owton ward were up and asked what action was being taken. Sgt Wrigley stated that three officers were now based in the Owton area. There had been problems over recent months when cover had been down to one officer. Councillor Wistow also reported the problems being caused by the illegal drinking that was taking place behind the M Block area would be highlighted.

A resident pointed out that the CCTV camera at St Peters Shops appeared to be out of order as it was pointing into the trees. In addition, the phone box at the shops was being used as drugs ordering and delivery point. This had been reported to the Police but nothing appeared to have happened. Sgt Wrigley indicated he would report the CCTV camera to the control centre and report the drugs activity to the drugs squad.

Councillor A Lilley reported that the anti-social behaviour problems in the Upton Walk area had peaked again. Residents were reporting particular problems in the late evening. Sgt Wrigley indicated he would pass the issue on to the local beat officers.

The Chair thanked Sgt Wrigley for the presentation and asked for updates on the issue raised to be reported to the next meeting.

6. 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 to the forum, Sue Grey, the Anti-Social Behaviour Officer for the south area.

The key statistics for the south area were:-

ASB Cases by ward:

Fens	3
Owton	8
Rossmere	7
Seaton	4

A total 22 cases were closed in the period (147 Borough wide)

Currently 13 cases were open (89 Borough wide)

The types of issues/complaints:-

Animal related	1
Substance misuse	1
Football nuisance	2
Intimidation/ Harassment	3
Noise	5
Nuisance behaviour	2
Rowdy behaviour	7
Vehicle related	1

ASBO/CRASBO statistics:-

- 2 ASBOs obtained.
- Total number of active ASBO/ CRASBOs – 3 (34 Boroughwide)
- 2 current Acceptable Behaviour Contracts and 1 current Acceptable Behaviour Agreement. (Currently 22 ABAs and ABCs boroughwide)

- Working with 3 Families under the Family Intervention Project

Sally Forth indicated that future statistics to the Forum would be done in conjunction with Housing Hartlepool who also deal with many ASB referrals. It was highlighted that the anti-social behaviour problems in the south were relatively less than the other areas of the town.

7. 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 byelaws, 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.

8. UNITE COMMUNITY MEDIATION

Jayne Grey 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 34 cases in Hartlepool in the last year. The Chair thanked Jayne Grey for her presentation to the forum.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The forum was informed that Neighbourhood Watch was being re-launched and everyone who was interested in being involved was invited to the re-launch event at The Peoples Centre on 13 September at 10.00am.

A resident expressed concern at Council Officers who were undertaking the update of the electoral roll calling on residents in the evening. Sgt Wrigley commented that the Police had received calls and advice had been passed onto the Electoral Registration Team in the council.

A resident raised repeated problems of people parking cars across crossing points. David Frame commented that the issue had been reported to the Police and there was a possibility of yellow lines being introduced to alleviate the problem.

CHAIR