

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

in

**the Council Chamber, Civic Centre,
Victoria Road, Hartlepool**

on

**Thursday 10th 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 6th 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

Elwick
Foggy Furze
Grange
Park
Rift House
Stranton

***CENTRAL POLICE &
COMMUNITY SAFETY
CONSULTATIVE FORUM***

6th September 2007

MINUTES OF THE MEETING



PRESENT:

Chair:	Councillor Lilian Sutheran	- Rift House Ward
	Councillor Jonathan Brash	- Burn Valley Ward
	Councillor Gerald Hall	- Burn Valley Ward
	Councillor Pauline Laffey	- Park Ward
	Councillor Frances London	- Foggy Furze Ward
	Councillor Carl Richardson	- Grange Ward
	Councillor Jane Shaw	- Stranton Ward
	Councillor Victor Tumilty	- Grange Ward

Resident Representatives:

Ted Jackson, Alan Lloyd, Brenda Loynes and Brian McBean

Residents: E Grint, J Harrison, D Kirkwood, G Johnson, S Johnson, M Lumley, J Lynch and J Rudge

Council Officers:

Jon Wright, Acting Neighbourhood Manager (Centre)
Sally Forth, Anti-Social Behaviour Co-ordinator
Joe Hogan, Crime and Disorder Co-ordinator
Jo Wilson, Democratic Services Officer

Cleveland Police Representatives:

Sergeant Campbell, PC Atherton, Pc Caulfield, PC Raine,
PCSO Handley, PCSO Jones, PCSO Porter, PCSO Salter and
PCSO Say.

Cleveland Fire Brigade Representative;
Ian Harrington

Housing Hartlepool Representatives:
Andy Elvidge and Angela Fusco

Safer Hartlepool Partnership Representative:
Sue Willoughby

UNITE Representative:

Wendy Edmondson

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors Stephen Akers-Belcher, Gordon Henery, George Morris, Robbie Payne, Chris Simmons and Gladys Worthy and Resident Representative Evelyn Leck.

2. MINUTES

Agreed subject to the following amendment –

Update from the police – That the reference made by Evelyn Leck to children playing football in Norfolk Walk be removed as this particular problem was only happening in Cornwall Street.

3. UPDATE FROM THE POLICE

Sergeant Catherine Campbell gave a brief update on policing issues. In the 12 months since the Neighbourhood Policing pilot scheme had been introduced crime figures had continued to drop steadily. Overall crime was down by 8% while the detection rate had increased by 36%. Details were also given of a recent MORI poll which showed that public awareness and appreciation of Neighbourhood Policing in the Cleveland Constabulary area was better than the national average.

Details were also given of the following crime reducing initiatives:

- Operation ASP – a single night multi-agency anti-social behaviour initiative involving the police, fire brigade, Anti-social Behaviour Unit and Housing Hartlepool. 287 people were stopped, 253 alcohol units were seized and 162 anti-social behaviour forms were issued

- Operation Hercules - targeting known lead thieves in known areas.
- Operation Stop Theft - increased visibility in Middleton Grange Shopping Centre and the Marina. Targeting known shoplifters.
- Operation Hammer – increased numbers of police between 7pm and 3am as this was a prime time for crime.
- 71 Grange Road – a multi-agency approach against a multi-occupancy house used as 7 bedsits. Multiple complaints had been received from residents.
- Borrowdale Street – 4 arrests in relation to drug dealing and drugs seized.

Sergeant Campbell also advised that Chief Constable Sean Price would be attending a public meeting at Hartlepool Historic Quay on Tuesday 2nd October at 6pm.

The Chair thanked Sergeant Campbell for attending the meeting and giving such a positive update.

4. UPDATE FROM THE FIRE BRIGADE

Ian Harrington, Station Manager for Stranton, gave a brief update on recent activity within the fire brigade. In the last 3 months the number of fires had continued to drop with deliberate car fires being the only increase. However this was qualified with the explanation that this only amounted to one extra car fire with a total of 8 during the period. Detailed statistical information was given

as to where these fires occurred with Foggy Furze and Stranton singled out as particular “hot spots” where mobile cameras were sited.

The Crime and Disorder Co-ordinator asked if any fires had taken place as a result of scrap metal theft. The Station Manager advised that fires had started around scrap metal thefts but it was hard to clarify which came first – the theft or the fire. The removal of floorboards was a particular danger to fire officers

Resident Representative Brian McBean referred to the problem of dwellings being boarded up at the back leaving only one means of escape. The Station Manager indicated that they had no legal jurisdiction over private houses but could identify such properties as high risk and send more fire appliances in an emergency.

The Chair thanked the Station Manager for attending the meeting and answering questions.

5. ALCOHOL DESIGNATED AREAS

Joe Hogan, Crime and Disorder Co-ordinator gave a brief presentation on alcohol designated areas. He advised that this had been introduced in 2001 and gave additional enforcement powers to the police. It was not a blanket drinking ban but did mean officers could confiscate alcohol if they suspected it was contributing to anti-social behaviour. In order to designate an area there needed to be evidence of anti-social behaviour and the areas chosen must be selective rather than town wide.

There were three phases to the process:

- Replacing the old byelaws
- Consideration of areas where people traditionally congregate (shops, playgrounds etc)

- Consideration of residential areas

Councillor Jonathan Brash requested clarification on what constituted ‘evidence’ in this case. The Crime and Disorder Co-ordinator advised that there was no specific definition in the guidelines but a handful of incidents would not be sufficient. Consultation would need to be carried out with the residents and their views would constitute evidence. This would then be brought before the Licensing Committee, along with any statistical information from the police, where the final decision would be made. Councillor Carl Richardson asked if the consultation would involve a whole street or just parts of it. The Crime and Disorder Co-ordinator felt there was no reason not to consult the whole street and the surrounding streets. Displacement had to be considered when deciding whether to make an area alcohol designated

Councillor Victor Tumilty referred to a previous suggestion whereby alcohol would be tagged to show which shop it had come from. Sergeant Campbell advised that consideration was being given to a similar scheme whereby the batch numbers of alcohol could be coupled up with the shop that sold it. This was simpler than tagging and had been used successfully previously.

Resident Representative Brian McBean asked that preference be given to residential areas rather than commercial areas as anti-social behaviour would have more of an impact on residents where they lived. Mr McBean also asked what powers the police had at the moment in relation to public drinking. Sergeant Campbell explained that police could only remove alcohol from people if they suspected they were under-age. Under alcohol designated areas it could be confiscated if it was contributing to anti-social behaviour. If those concerned

refused to hand it over this would constitute a criminal offence.

The Chair thanked the Crime and Disorder Co-ordinator for attending the meeting and answering questions.

6. UNITE COMMUNITY MEDIATION

Wendy Edmenson gave a brief presentation on UNITE. This was a free service available to all residents aimed at mediating in personal disputes with neighbours, landlords, businesses and the like. It was independent, impartial and confidential and issues previously dealt with included parking, noise, dogs barking and hedge size.

Trained local mediators would visit people in their own homes before arranging a meeting between the parties in a neutral venue. Clients would sign a personally worded agreement and the whole process would take no more than 23 days from referral to a mediator. Contact details were available at the meeting.

The Crime and Disorder Co-ordinator referred to previous experience in this area, saying mediation could stop trivial incidents escalating into something more serious. A lot of the time people being anti-social were unaware that they were doing it.

Resident Julie Rudge felt that the waiting period was too long. However Wendy Edmenson advised that it was best to wait given the free nature of the service.

Resident Representative Ted Jackson advised that he was personally aware of people who had used the service and been impressed.

The Chair thanked Wendy Edmenson for attending the meeting and answering questions

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS AGREED WITH THE CHAIR

The Anti-Social Behaviour Co-ordinator gave a brief presentation on the Off Road Motor Cycle Strategy for Hartlepool. There had been 800 reports in a 6-month period in 2006 and the increased availability of vehicles and lack of awareness as to where these could be legally ridden meant that this problem would only increase.

The primary objectives of the strategy were as follows:

- Research
- Reduce the illegal use of motorcycles
- Reduce the number of complaints
- Educate in their safe use

Details were also given of secondary objectives and the co-ordinated approach to the problem.

Resident Julie Rudge asked how the strategy would dealt with retailers. The Anti-Social Behaviour Co-ordinator advised that this was up to them but officers would ask that a legal notice be displayed at the point of sale.

LILIAN SUTHERAN

CHAIR