

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

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

**on
Thursday 3rd April, 2008
commencing at 2pm**

A G E N D A

1. Apologies for absence
2. **MINUTES**
 - (a) To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 10th January 2008 (*attached*)
 - (b) Matters arising.
3. Update from the Police
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***

10th January 2008

MINUTES OF THE MEETING



PRESENT:

Chair:	Councillor Lilian Sutheran	- Rift House Ward
	Councillor Gerald Hall	- Burn Valley Ward
	Councillor Pam Hargreaves	- Stranton Ward
	Councillor Pauline Laffey	- Park Ward
	Councillor Frances London	- Foggy Furze Ward
	Councillor George Morris	- Park Ward
	Councillor Chris Simmons	- Grange Ward
	Councillor Victor Tumilty	- Grange Ward
	Councillor Gladys Worthly	- Rift House Ward

Resident Representatives: Bob Farrow, Ted Jackson, Brenda Loynes, Sarah Maness and Brian McBean

Residents: Ian Campbell, E Cordiner, Doug Ferriday, A Jobson, Gordon Johnson, Stella Johnson, ME Lumley, R Marshall, Paul McGrath, William Morrish, Paul Nugent, R Rigg, V Rigg, Julie Rudge, J Shenara, Ray Waller

Council Officers:

Alison Mawson, Head of Community Safety and Prevention
Clare Clark, Neighbourhood Manager (Central)
Sally Forth, Anti-Social Behaviour Coordinator
Jon Wright, Neighbourhood Co-ordinator
Brian Neale, Safe in Tees Valley Project Manager
Jo Wilson, Democratic Services Officer

Cleveland Police Representatives: Superintendent Andy Summerbell, Acting Inspector Glen Ward, Sergeant Cath Campbell, PC Arthur Southcott, PCSO Jones

Cleveland Fire Brigade Representative; Steve Patton, Stuart Simpson

Safer Hartlepool Partnership Representative: Mike Whitfield

Housing Hartlepool Representatives: Natalie Gooding and Libby Griffiths

7. JAMES ATKINSON

Prior to the commencement of the meeting, the Chair referred in terms of regret to the death of the Vice-Chair, Resident Representative James Atkinson. Members stood in silence as a mark of respect.

8. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors Stephen Akers-Belcher, Gordon Henery and Carl Richardson and Resident Representative Evelyn Leck

9. MINUTES

The minutes for the meeting held on 6th September 2007 were agreed.

10. MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising

11. INTRODUCTION OF HARTLEPOOL'S DISTRICT COMMANDER ANDY SUMMERBELL

Andy Summerbell, the new District Commander for Hartlepool, introduced himself to those present. He indicated that police performance figures continued to improve and said he was committed to developing neighbourhood policing with the community.

11. POLICE UPDATE AND WHAT IS PROBLEM SOLVING

Acting Inspector Glen Ward gave a brief presentation on crime figures for the Central area between August and December 2007. These showed that the total amount of crime had decreased in that time with the majority of crime showing a decline since August. However drug offences had increased

very slightly. Crime prevention tips were also given.

A number of crime issues were highlighted including the increase in thefts of metal and lead and incidents of shoplifting over the Christmas period. Reference was also made to the Ringmaster scheme which the police were keen to utilise. The following issues were then raised:

Resident Paul Nugent – How is a crime defined as such? It is initially recorded as an event. Are we manipulating the crime figures? – There are strict guidelines governing this. Anyone reporting a crime is given an event number but if the victim confirms a crime has taken place, and this is supported by an enquiry, then it is recorded as a crime

Resident Ian Campbell – How long will it be before the Park Ward as given their own dedicated PC/PCSO(s)? Currently sharing with Elwick Ward – The District Commander advised he could make no promises but would look into the matter. The Chief Inspector had been asked to justify the existing structure. Demand would then be judged and any necessary changes made. Resident Julie Rudge commented that although she was sympathetic there was less crime in the Park Ward than others. Mr Campbell countered this by advising that the Park Ward was a large area with a lot of open space. There had also been issues with anti-social behaviour in Ward Jackson Park recently.

Councillor Chris Simmons – What contribution have the PCSOs made to crime reduction? – A great difference. They have no special skills so are always based exclusively in their geographical area. Resident Julie Rudge supported this, saying her area had been improved since the advent of the PCSOs.

Resident Representative Brian McBean – Please could we be supplied with an updated list of the PCSOs for each ward, as they were previously? -

It was vital that every member of the public know their PCs and PCSOs. Consideration was currently being given as to forms of publicity, such as leaflets and posters in post offices.

Councillor Pamela Hargreaves – During the presentation advice had been given to leave lights on if you will be home late. Had any consideration been given to financial subsidies for the elderly, possibly from fuel poverty action groups? – The Acting Inspector felt this was a valid point. However they were not suggesting people should leave their lights on all day, rather they could use timer switches. Warmpoint and Help the Aged were suggested as possible avenues to be explored on this issue.

Resident William Morrish – Our PC only works 30 hours a week. What happens the rest of the time? – Resources were allocated on the basis of crime figures and perceived vulnerability. Police would love to give more officers but did not have the budget.

Resident Paul Nugent – We were promised dedicated officers but they are moved on for other incidents – Officers were only extracted for major incidents or if they had special skills

The Chair thanked the District Commander and Acting Inspector for attending the meeting and answering questions.

12. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

No items raised.

13. UPDATE FROM THE FIRE BRIGADE

The Temporary Station Manager gave a brief update on recent performance by the fire brigade. He advised that at the moment Hartlepool was the best performing fire service of the four local districts. Figures showed there had been a decrease in accidental dwelling fires and small fires although deliberate fires and road traffic collisions had gone up.

The Temporary Station Manager went on to discuss the proposed emphasis in 2008. This would include issues such as home safety visits, smoke alarms, deaf alarms, deep fat fryers and bed packs. There would also be efforts made to prevent fires by education through schools, neighbourhood group meetings and youth activity programmes. Relevant numbers for the various fire services were given out as follows:

Fire Headquarters (01429) 872311
Home Safety Visit (01429) 874063
Refuse Removal (01429) 523333
Vehicle Removal (01429) 523333

Resident Julie Rudge referred to fires in two derelict buildings in Dent Street on bonfire night asking what was being done about this. She was advised that officers were waiting for the insurance company before removing flammable materials

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

14. ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR PERSPECTIVE

The Anti-Social Behaviour Coordinator and the Tenancy Relations and Enforcement Team Manager gave a brief presentation on the issue of working in partnership to tackle anti-social behaviour. Detailed statistical information was provided showing the number of anti-social behaviour cases in Hartlepool

between July 06 and December 07. This was broken down between individual wards and case categories were shown for each of the three neighbourhood forum areas. Further figures showed the amount of cases dealt with by the anti-social behaviour unit and by Housing Hartlepool.

The Tenancy Relations and Enforcement Team Manager went on to discuss the various local groups they had been working with to combat this problem, including the neighbourhood policing teams, Unite, Victim Support and Cleveland Fire Brigade. Details were given of anti-social behaviour improvements which had been made in 2007/08 and improvement plans for 2008/9. The following issues were then raised:

Resident Representative Brian McBean – Congratulations on Housing Hartlepool's pro-active approach to anti-social behaviour. Do you have any statistics on anti-social behaviour evictions? – Libby Griffiths indicated there were very few evictions on that basis. This was always seen as the last resort when all else had failed. Concentration was on changing behaviour.

Councillor George Morris – Have the Council house rules been carried over to short term housing in terms of length of lease? – Libby Griffiths confirmed they had been. All new tenants were given a short-term tenancy of 12 months initially. If there were no problems this was converted to long term.

Councillor Pauline Laffey, a member of the Housing Hartlepool Board, praised the organisation for the time, money and effort they put in to combat anti-social behaviour. Libby Griffiths thanked her for her kind comments.

The Chair thanked the Anti-Social Behaviour Co-ordinator and the Tenancy Relations and Enforcement Team Manager for attending the meeting and answering questions.

15. NEIGHBOURHOOD ISSUES

The Safe in Tees Valley Project Manager indicated that police officers would be available after the meeting to speak to residents in confidence should they wish to.

16. ANY ISSUES TO BE RAISED BY COUNCILLORS AND RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVES

Councillor Victor Tumilty praised the work of the PCSOs, particularly in relation to drug arrests. Initially he had been against the use of PCSOs but withdrew these comments now.

Councillor Gerard Hall commented that the reason crime figures were increasing was because more people were reporting crimes. Victims tended to fear recrimination but without evidence there would be no results. Councillor Hall encouraged residents to help combat anti-social behaviour by keeping notes. This would be particularly important in areas where selective licensing was introduced.

17. ANY OTHER BUSINESS AGREED BY THE CHAIR

None

LILIAN SUTHERAN

CHAIR