

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

**in**

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

**on**

**Friday 11<sup>th</sup> 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 11<sup>th</sup> January 2008
  - (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**

Fens  
Greatham  
Owton  
Rossmere  
Seaton

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

**11 January 2008**

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



The meeting commenced at 10.00 a.m. in the Civic Centre, Hartlepool

### **PRESENT:**

Chair: Councillor Michael Johnson - Rossmere Ward

Councillors	Councillor Bob Flintoff	- Owton Ward
	Councillor Steve Gibbon	- Fens 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 Gerald Wistow	- Owton Ward

Resident Representatives: Rose Kennedy, David Rowe, Michael Ward

Residents: E Burey, Mrs D Clark (Neighbourhood Watch), H Oxley, J Smith,

Officers: Sally Forth, Anti-Social Behaviour Coordinator  
David Frame, Neighbourhood Manager (South)  
Sue Grey, Anti-Social Behaviour Officer  
Sue McBride, Neighbourhood Development Officer (South)  
Sarah Bird, Democratic Services Officer

Cleveland Police Representatives: Superintendent Andy Summerbell, Acting Inspector Glen Ward, Sergeant Jonathan Wrigley, Police Constable John Southcott, Police Community Support Officer Barron

Fire Brigade Representatives: Temporary Station Manager Steve Patton, Community Liaison Officer Stuart Simpson

Safer Hartlepool Partnership: Angela Storm,

Housing Hartlepool: Libby Griffiths, Tenancy Relations and Enforcement Officer

Ringmaster Representatives: Mr Gorton, Mavis Williams,

## **22. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION**

The Chair Councillor Michael Johnson welcomed residents, Councillors, Resident Representatives and Officers

## **23. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor James.

## **24. MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 7 September 2007 were confirmed as an accurate record.

## **25. MATTERS ARISING**

Councillor G Lilley referred to the problem of off road bikes and mini-motos and said that this had been referred to Cabinet. The Neighbourhood Manager (South) stated that the Regeneration and Planning Department and Neighbourhood Services Departments were taking this on board. The Neighbourhood Services Manager (South) agreed to keep Councillors G Lilley and Wistow updated with this.

## **26. INTRODUCTION OF HARTLEPOOL'S DISTRICT COMMANDER**

Superintendent Andy Summerbell who recently took over as District Commander in Hartlepool was introduced to the meeting. He stated that he was impressed with crime reduction and Neighbourhood Policing in the District and said that he felt there was a need to keep the momentum going with Neighbourhood Policing and to engage with Partners.

## **27. WHAT IS PROBLEM SOLVING**

Acting Inspector Glen Ward then outlined the latest available crime figures for the South area for August – December 2007. Total numbers of crime in the South area had actually decreased from 167 offences in August 2007 to 123 offences in December 2007 and violent crime in particular had decreased from 40 in August to 12 in December. He said that this was a trend in the town as a whole. He explained that the Home Office rules for recording violent crime had changed recently and outlined the various categories included. He said that the Christmas period had been busy with alcohol more prevalent, but there had been media campaigns to attempt to reduce violent crime.

Statistics showing harassment offences throughout the town were given and these again had decreased town-wide in the period between August (53 offences) and December (46 offences).

Acting Inspector Ward outlined how shoplifting had been widespread over the Christmas period and there had been problems with theft of lead from premises. He advised people to apply anti-vandal grease to lead flashing to prevent this. He added though that all categories of theft in Hartlepool had decreased from 263 offences in August to 180 in December.

He gave details of the activity statistics for the South area officers namely 3724 hours on patrol, 74 meetings attended, 306 schools visited, 287 Intelligence Reports submitted, 920 Street Encounter forms submitted, 145 AS13 forms (for Anti Social Behaviour) handed out, 84 instances of alcohol seized and that the South area has 665 members of the Ringmaster scheme. He said that in the town generally, crime figures have reduced from 4257 offences in 2006 to 4069 offences in 2007. The numbers of detections have increased from 1573 in 2006 to 1684 in 2007.

Acting Inspector Ward advised the meeting of crime prevention strategies including leaving lights and radios on timer switches and getting neighbours to remove outstanding post.

Acting Inspector Ward then went on to outline the links between the Neighbourhood Project Board, Community Safety Forum, Neighbourhood Briefing, and Joint Action Group and how they all work together for a safer Hartlepool.

He outlined the ethos behind problem solving i.e. that the Victim, Offender and Located are identified and the Agencies work together with the community to solve the problem to ensure enforcement, prevention and information sharing.

The following issues were raised:-

**Councillor Geoff Lilley – Would it be possible to have a Ward by Ward breakdown of crime statistics?** – Acting Inspector Ward said that it should be possible to provide this.

**Councillor Geoff Lilley – Anti-Social behaviour impacts on the lives of other people. How is this recorded and do the Police take it seriously?** – This is recorded and dealt with as appropriate but currently figures are not available on a Ward by Ward basis.

**Councillor Geoff Lilley – Supports Neighbourhood Policing but would like more police presence at certain times, e.g. when children are off school there are more incidents of anti-social behaviour** – Acting Inspector Ward said that there had been work done on the shift patterns of Police Officers and Police Community Support Officers to ensure that at busy times, there was more staff available i.e. on a Friday and Saturday night.

**Councillor Geoff Lilley – Is the ongoing cell refurbishment at Hartlepool Police Office impacting on Officer's time with having to use the custody suite in Middlesbrough** – The District Commander confirmed that the Hartlepool Custody Suite had closed on 2 January 2008 and that had made an impact on Officer's time but provisions had been put into place to try and alleviate this, i.e. having more officers on duty on a Friday and Saturday, the use of the detention vehicle around the Christmas period and officers bailing suspects back to the Hartlepool Office rather than Middlesbrough. He added that he hoped that the cells would be refurbished ahead of schedule although it would still be a few months before they were completed.

**Councillor Wistow – Although he values Neighbourhood Policing and in particular the Owton Manor Police Office, there have been difficulties with staffing. Overall offences have decreased but those in the Owton Manor area appear to have increased.** – Acting Inspector Ward said that he was unsure of the exact figures for the Ward but there are interviews for extra staff at that office taking place on 22 January 2008 so this should alleviate the problem. Sgt Wrigley agreed to provide crime figures for Councillor Wistow and it was agreed that crime statistics as well as Ward by Ward detection rates would be provided with the next agenda papers.

**Councillor Wistow – Not all officers have been trained in use of all equipment provided, which is not a good use of resources** – The District Commander agreed and said that he hoped this would be rectified as soon as possible.

**Councillor Wistow – Congratulated Officers on the work they did with young people** – The District Commander thanked him and said that the Fire Service was also involved with this good work.

**Resident Dorothy Clark – What is the minimum number of youths allowed to gather together before they are moved on?** - Acting Inspector Ward stated that each incident is treated individually and action taken is dependent on circumstances. He said that officers would engage with the youths so as not to alienate any youths who are not doing anything illegal.

**Resident Dorothy Clark – Is concerned about the mess left by youths congregating in Greatham village and the impact it has on other residents.** – Acting Inspector Ward said that if informed of any offence appropriate action would be enforced and if appropriate the Anti-Social Behaviour team would become involved to try and divert behaviour so that residents were not afraid to go out.

**Councillor Lilley – Although the idea of Ringmaster is a good one, the Twelve Days of Christmas Campaign had annoyed people rather than achieving its objectives.** – This was noted by the Ringmaster team.

**Councillor Gibbon – Would it be possible to distribute a leaflet introducing local officers?** – The District Commander said that although this was a good idea there would be cost implications involved. It was suggested that the information screens in local Post Offices could be utilised or distribution via residents' associations.

The Chair thanked the District Commander and Acting Inspector for

attending the meeting and answering questions.

## **28. UPDATE FROM THE FIRE SERVICE**

Temporary Station Manager Steve Patton updated the forum on the latest figures available. These were District and South figures for the months October to December for 2006 and 2007. The number of all F1 fires in the South area had increased from 11 in 2006 to 14 in 2007. Accidental Dwelling Fires had halved from 2 in 2006 to 1 in 2007. The number of deliberate F1 fires had stayed the same, F3 fires had decreased from 40 to 39 but Road Traffic Collisions had doubled from 2 to 4. He stated that the south area was on a par with the trends in the rest of the town and stated that the Fire Services is working well with partner agencies.

The Temporary Station Manager said that there had been recurring problems in Greenock Road but as this site was currently being developed, this should improve the number of occurrences. He stated that on a number of occasions in that area, crews had been subject to minor attacks or verbal abuse and asked help from councillors and residents in identifying those responsible. He added that the appliances had CCTV fitted to them.

The emphasis in 2008 was to be on preventative home safety measures. There had been 3750 home safety visits in 2007 and over 4500 smoke alarms installed. Safety measures in use were alarms for the deaf, the use of deep fat fryers rather than chip pans, and bed packs.

Other preventative action included educating the public, either in their homes, residential care homes or schools and colleges, youth activity programmes

and working in partnership with police, the anti-social behaviour unit and housing authorities. The Temporary Station Manager advised the audience of useful non emergency numbers on which to contact the Fire Service:-

- Fire Headquarters 872311
- Home Safety Visit 874863
- Refuse Removal 522333
- Vehicle Removal 522333

Councillor Lilley said that he supported the work of the Fire Service and proposed that **the South Forum should write to the Secretary of State to express their concern that funding for the Cleveland Fire Service had been reduced this year making a shortfall of £2.1 million.** This motion was seconded by Councillor Alison Lilley. It was highlighted that the criteria for funding had changed from being based on risk to being based on population. Councillor Wistow suggested that because of the good work done by the service in supporting vulnerable people, it should be noted their preventative stance appeared to be working.

**Councillor Ann Marshall – Fully supports the Fire Service. Are attacks on Fire fighters more prevalent around Bonfire Night?** – The Temporary Station Manager said that it was a year round problem.

**Councillor Steve Gibbon – Fully supports the Fire Service and the home fire safety checks but following the Fens Open Day, one resident still had not had a visit.** – The Temporary Station Manager said that he was not aware of any large backlog and would investigate why this had not taken place.

**Councillor Gerald Wistow – The statistics provided indicate that although town wide deliberate fires are decreasing, they had increased in the**

**South area.** – The Temporary Station Manager said that there had been an increase in car fires but work was being done with the South Hartlepool Partnership to see whether the cars were local or whether they had been dumped in the area, by other town residents.

## **29. ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR PERSPECTIVE**

A joint presentation was given by the Anti-Social Behaviour Co-ordinator and Housing Hartlepool's Tenancy Relations and Enforcement Officer.

The agencies explained how they worked together and with other agencies ensuring that the people of Hartlepool were able to live their lives free from harassment alarm or distress and their goal was to work effectively to deal with the factors affecting the quality of life through prevention, diversion or enforcement.

A breakdown of figures of incidents of Anti-Social Behaviour in the South Area was given with all wards apart from Greatham showing an increase in October – December 2007 compared to the same period in 2006. It was thought that the increases could be attributable to increased confidence by members of the public in reporting Anti-Social Behaviour Incidents to the Authorities and Housing Hartlepool accompanied by the launch of Neighbourhood Policing in April 2007.

There were 83 cases of Anti-Social Behaviour reported in the South area during the period October – December 2007. The highest volume of cases related to:

- Intimidation, harassment or threatening behaviour – 15 cases (18%)
- Rowdy behaviour – 15 cases (18%)

- Nuisance behaviour – 12 cases (14%)

Details of current enforcement agreements and orders in the South area were given. A number of improvements were planned for Housing Hartlepool this financial year, including reviewed tenancy agreements, reviewed policy and procedures, an ongoing Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy, the Respect Standard for Housing Management and more out of hours working. There are 8 neighbourhood officers and 3 tenancy enforcement officers. Local and national improvements planned for the next financial year were outlined.

**Councillor Geoff Lilley – Does the Anti-Social Behaviour Unit work with all housing providers?** – The Anti-Social Behaviour Co-ordinator confirmed that the unit will work with all landlords.

**Councillor Geoff Lilley – Does Anti-Social Behaviour intervention add value?** - The Anti-Social Behaviour Co-ordinator stated that the Respect Toolkit should help with determining this. She agreed that there was a need for analysis and that currently questionnaires were issued, but sometimes a problem would recur after work has been done on it and the initial issue resolved.

Councillor Gerald Wistow said that he was on the board of Housing Hartlepool and supported their working with the Anti-Social Behaviour Unit and acknowledged that Anti-Social Behaviour was a problem for private housing as well as Registered Social Landlords (RSLs). He therefore proposed that **the Community Safety Partnership did everything in its power and influence to ensure that all RSLs contribute to the maximum possible extent to reduce Anti-Social Behaviour.** This motion was seconded by Councillor Ann Marshall and carried by the members of the forum. RSLs have a

responsibility in law to ensure that their tenants behave.

**Councillor Alison Lilley – How many Anti-Social Behaviour Order 13 forms are given before action is taken by the unit?** - The Anti-Social Behaviour Co-ordinator stated that this depended on the circumstances but other agencies and parents are usually incorporated after the second ASBO 13 is handed out.

**Resident Mr Gorton – A number of youths regularly congregate outside his home in Jameson Road at school lunchtimes and although they don't cause a nuisance, litter is left. Who has responsibility for these youths at lunchtime?** & **Councillor Wistow - What level of co-operation is there with schools over the lunchtime supervision of pupils as schools were in the process of promoting responsibility for social cohesion and work is needed to get schools to accept that they have a responsibility to nearby residents** – The Neighbourhood Manager (South) stated that Manor School is to have lunchtime patrols to identify any problems. Councillor Flintoff stated that the groups of pupils tended to move around the area but there was a problem with litter. The Neighbourhood Manager (South) agreed to liaise with Councillors and Mr Gorton after the meeting regarding problems with local pupils, as he worked closely with schools. Councillor Ann Marshall stated that English Martyrs and Manor School have a policy of not allowing pupils to leave the premises at lunch time to alleviate any Anti-Social Behaviour in the neighbourhood.

There was to be an Anti-Social Behaviour Awareness day held in the week beginning 21 January 2008.

### **30. NEIGHBOURHOOD ISSUES**

**Resident Representative Mike Ward – The issue of parking in the vicinity of the Fens Primary School has improved thanks to visible police presence on a number of occasions, but could this be done on a more regular basis –** Sgt Wrigley stated that he was aware of the problem and would endeavour to continue to get Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) to be in the area as much as possible at the relevant times.

**Resident Representative David Roe – Could the Ringmaster Team inform people of any criminal activity in the area that residents should be aware of –** The Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator said that this was already being done and Councillor Flintoff said that he was aware that because of information received via the Ringmaster system, some cannabis plants had been found in his area.

**Resident Representative Rose Kennedy – There is a problem with parking outside the community building and speeding on Rossmere Way –** The Neighbourhood Manager (South) said that people using the community building could park in Alford Court as there were no parking restrictions there. Ardrossan Road currently has resident only parking restrictions but he is working to try and alleviate the parking problems.

**Councillor Geoff Lilley – A resident has asked him to highlight the problems with road safety in Honiton Way and Truro Drive.**

**Councillor Geoff Lilley – Residents have reported a smell of cannabis in the bus shelter in Greatham and it has already been reported to the local community police officer –** Sgt Wrigley agreed to follow this up.

**Councillor Mick Johnson (Chair) – Dog walkers and allotment holders have expressed concern over the inadequate street lighting in the area of Brierton Lane and Kingsley Avenue –** The Neighbourhood Manager (South) stated that he is aware of this and is currently looking into this with the Neighbourhood Co-ordinator.

**Councillor Ann Marshall – Due to inadequate street lighting in Brierton Lane, she had been injured as cyclists had been unable to see her –** This would be considered by the Neighbourhood Manager (South)

<b>31. ANY OTHER BUSINESS AGREED BY THE CHAIR</b>
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None.

MICHAEL JOHNSON

CHAIR