

NORTH NEIGHBOURHOOD CONSULTATIVE FORUM AGENDA



Wednesday, 13 August 2008

at 6.00 pm

in Throston Grange Community Centre, Glamorgan Grove, Hartlepool

NORTH NEIGHBOURHOOD CONSULTATIVE FORUM:

Councillors Allison, Atkinson, Barker, R W Cook, Fenwick, Fleet, Fleming, Griffin, Jackson, McKenna, J Marshall, Plant, Rogan, Wallace and Wright.

Resident Representatives: John Cambridge, John Lynch, Mary Power, Linda Shields, Bob Steel, Joan Steel, Maureen Waller and Vacancy

- 1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**
- 2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**
- 3. TO RECEIVE ANY DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS**
- 4. MINUTES**
 - 4.1 To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 18 June 2008
 - 4.2 Matters arising
 - 4.3 To receive the minutes of the meeting of the North Area Police and Community Safety Consultative Forum held on 23 July 2008 – *to follow*
- 5. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**
- 6. ITEMS FOR CONSULTATION**

7. RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVE ISSUES

8. WARD MEMBERS AND WARD ISSUES

9. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION/INFORMATION

9.1 Anhydrite Mine - *Engineering Manager*

9.2 Scrutiny Investigation Into The Condition Of The Highways In Hartlepool -
Chair of the Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Forum

10. ITEMS FOR DECISION

10.1 Minor Works Schemes 2008/2009 – *Head of Neighbourhood Services*

11. DATE, TIME AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, 15 October 2008 at 2.00 pm in West View Community Centre

12. ITEMS OF ANY OTHER BUSINESS AGREED BY THE CHAIR

NORTH NEIGHBOURHOOD CONSULTATIVE FORUM

WARDS

Brus
Dyke House
Hart
St Hilda
Throston

18 June 2008

MINUTES OF THE MEETING



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

PRESENT:

Chair: Councillor Mary Fleet - Dyke House Ward

Vice Chair: Linda Shields (Resident Representative)

Councillor Reuben Atkinson	Dyke House Ward
Councillor Caroline Barker	- Hart Ward
Councillor Rob Cook	Hart Ward
Councillor Sheila Griffin	- Brus Ward
Councillor John Marshall	- St Hilda Ward
Councillor Michelle Plant	- Brus Ward

Resident Representatives: Mary Power, Joan Steel and Robert Steel

Public: G Albrighton, R Dickson, W Cook, G Johnson, S Johnson, B Loynes, Dave Oliver, D Thompson, M Thompson, Cath Torley, Liz Torley, Alan Vale and G Wilson

Officers: Karen Oliver, Neighbourhood Manager (North)
Garry Jones, Neighbourhood Services Officer
Peter Frost, Traffic Team Leader
Craig Thelwell, Environmental Action Manager
Amy Waters, (Senior) Planning Officer
Brian Dixon, Programme Manager
Jo Wilson, Democratic Services Officer

Housing Hartlepool Representative: Janis Ledger

Police Representative: Sgt Porritt

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Fenwick, Fleming, McKenna and Wright and Resident Representative John Lynch.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS

None.

3. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 26th March 2008 were confirmed as a true record.

4. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the North Area Police and Community Safety Consultative Forum held on 9th April 2008 were received by the Forum.

5. MATTERS ARISING

Oaksway Industrial Estate – The Environmental Action Manager advised that the site had been cleared of litter but was now looking somewhat unkempt. The company had argued that it was naturalised land and there was no funding available for it to be tidied. It had been suggested that the Probation Service work with Council departments on this problem. The Neighbourhood Manager indicated that a feasibility study was currently in progress in order to find a more long term solution to the problem. It was important that the Council and company work together. Members commented that if the Council paid for the tidying of this site it would set a precedent. He urged officers to contact Central Government regarding possibly changing the regulations covering these matters. In the meantime a letter should be sent to the owner asking them to tidy the site and enforcement action considered should the required action not be taken. The Environmental Action Manager gave assurances that they had been campaigning for stronger legislation in this area for some time and would continue to do so.

Anhydrite Mine – The Neighbourhood Manager advised that the report had been received by the Council and

subsequently returned to the consultants for amendments. The amended report had been sent back to the Council and was now being checked over by officers. A resident queried why the original report had been returned to the consultants. The Neighbourhood Manager advised that ward members had been updated and as soon as the report was available the Forum would be updated.

Post box, Central Estate – This had been moved but was still unusable. The Neighbourhood Manager indicated that this was in hand.

Headland paddling pool – This was currently empty. The Neighbourhood Manager reported that there were cracks in the surface and dry weather was needed for any repairs to take place. It was hoped that said repairs would be carried out by the following Monday depending on weather conditions. Further comments were made by residents regarding the state of the land around the pool. These comments were noted.

Brus Tunnel – Groups of children had been seen going through the tunnel with large quantities of alcohol. Sgt Porritt advised that regular Friday night patrols were carried out in the area. A resident commented that those who were selling alcohol to children should be targeted also. The Neighbourhood Manager would raise the issue of illegal sales of alcohol with the relevant officer.

Traffic calming in King Oswy Drive – The Traffic Team Leader acknowledged that the recently implemented speed humps were inadequate and advised that officers were looking at modified designs.

St John Vianney RC Primary School – A resident asked if parents collecting children from the school could use the pub car park as a collection point rather

than adding to the build-up of traffic. The Neighbourhood Manager reported that the Manager of the pub had refused to allow this without payment.

Radioactive Waste from Power Station

– Members requested that a representative from the Power Station be invited to the next Forum to answer queries relating to the disposal of radioactive waste. The Neighbourhood Manager to action this.

6. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

‘May the overhanging tree and bush branches covering the pavement between the trading estate entrance near the Powlett roundabout and Netto please be cut back to the boundary’ – This was being actioned with the company. The Neighbourhood Services Officer would ascertain if this was a highways issue.

‘The former putting green, High Street. What are the options to change its use?’ – There were no plans for change of use currently in place. However members indicated they had heard rumours of it possibly being converted into a car park. A Councillor referred to the Headland Brief which had described the area as being overgrown and used primarily by dog walkers. He felt these allegations were untrue and asked that this issue be brought to a future meeting of the forum. Such an expensive report should be accurate. The comments were noted.

‘Regarding the proposed pedestrian crossing in Holdforth Road the traffic section of HBC have indicated that because of the proximity of junctions and bus stops there is no location available to install a Pedestrian Crossing. However the placing of a Pinch Point in Holdforth Road is being

investigated to enable pedestrians to cross the road more safely’ – The Traffic Team Leader advised that a report by independent consultants on this matter was due the following week.

‘Some of the potholes in Verner Road were filled in last week. Is the target for a complete resurface in September still going ahead?’ – The Neighbourhood Services Officer confirmed this.

‘In Verner Road, at my request, the grass verges were cut on 9th June 2008 for the first time this year. The result is that they look a mess with dried grass all over them. Is there not an inspection process to ensure that this work is carried out correctly?’ – Officers indicated that they were regulations covering grass cutting but no requirement for discarded grass to be collected. The Neighbourhood Manager would check that the grass was being cut on a regular basis.

‘The speed cushions at Barnard Grove School are the wrong size. They cause a bumpy ride on the service bus and I am sure that the same will happen with an ambulance. With the growing fuel shortage and the cost to the environment is it not time to have a rethink on safety measures on feeder roads like King Oswy Drive, Woodstock Way, Clarence Road and Lancaster Road? The use of variable speed limits, pedestrian crossings and illuminated speed signs should now be considered instead of a blanket 24/7 20mph speed limit’ – The Traffic Team Leader advised that a feasibility study was currently being taken to look at possible alternative measures.

Steetley – A resident asked if barriers could be put up restricting access to the beach. The Environmental Action

Manager gave a brief update on progress so far including a forthcoming decision to be made by the Planning Committee. The Neighbourhood Manager advised that access was needed by Network Rail and the Emergency Services and therefore could not be blocked.

A resident asked if priority during the cleaning process on site could be given to the filling the tanks as children were using them as swimming pools. The Environmental Action Manager reported that CJC were planning to puncture the tanks and remove the debris when the water had drained as an alternative to filling them. A resident commented that recently a PCSO had been injured by a flying shed and these should be removed before any other work was carried out.

The Chair of Planning Committee requested that any further information on this matter be passed on to the Assistant Director (Planning and Economic Development) and Development Control Manager in advance of the Planning Committee meeting on 25th June. No action would be taken until Planning Committee members had made a decision. Members asked if it was true that Police had been instructed not to enter the site for their own safety. Sgt Porritt indicated there was no such instruction but officers had to consider their own safety at all times. He felt the onus should be on parents to be aware of where their children were. The Forum to be kept updated regarding any major changes.

Central Estate – Children from the North area were regularly terrorising residents living in bungalows on the Central Estate. The Neighbourhood Manager advised that residents needed to contact the Police with individual incident reports. Members were reminded of a number of successful initiatives for children on the Central Estate.

Playing area opposite Saxon pub – There was no signage regarding dog fouling. The Environmental Action Manager reported that the Dog Control Orders would be implemented shortly. When this happened signage would be erected for all relevant areas.

Wells Avenue – Cars using the hospital were parking on Wells Avenue because of parking charges at the hospital. Could it be made a one-way road? The Traffic Team Leader would look at this again but there had previously been no problem. To make it a one-way system would have a knock-on effect on the surrounding streets.

Holdforth Road – Suggestion made that a mini-roundabout be installed to help with public transport. The Traffic Team Leader reported no major delays and felt the current situation may not warrant such a measure.

A resident asked if action could be taken by the hospital regarding low hanging branches on the footpath. Also could the ramp opposite Howbeck Lane be repaired? The ramp to be repaired and the overhanging bushes to be investigated. The Neighbourhood Manager advised residents to phone (01429) 523333 regarding matters of litter, shrubs etc in future rather than waiting to bring the matter up at the Neighbourhood Forum.

Headland Moor – There was no signage regarding the banning of vehicles. The Environmental Action Manager indicated the Council had no enforcement powers. The Traffic Team Leader to check the relevant legislation.

HBC Contact Centre – A resident had been left on hold for 20 minutes. The Neighbourhood Manager to advise the Contact Centre Manager.

King George V Playground – Where there any plans for a revamp? The Neighbourhood Manager reported that there were not but she would put the issue on the agenda for the next NAP meeting.

Bruce Crescent – A resident suggested land on Warren Road be used as a covered car park for use by parents collecting children from the school. However other members present felt it was too far from the school and parents would not walk that distance.

Headland Parish Council office – A representative of the Headland Parish Council reported that tall weeds were growing outside the back of the office. The Neighbourhood Manager would investigate ownership of this land and make the relevant people aware of the problem.

7. RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVE QUESTION TIME

Junction of Bruce Crescent and Miers Avenue – Despite recent repairs there were still a number of potholes in the road. The Neighbourhood Services Officer to check the list for resurfacing work.

Northgate – Could there be a speed limit put on this road? A representative of the Headland Parish Council advised that a traffic survey was currently taking place.

Retirement Village – Potential residents had been unable to ascertain the Council Tax banding they would be placed in. They were advised to contact the developers who would be able to advise them. Failing that the HBC Council Tax department should have the relevant information.

Easington Road bus shelter – The Neighbourhood Services Officer was thanked for cleaning this.

Easington Road Central Reservation – Concern was raised regarding overhanging bushes causing an obstruction to pushchairs. The Neighbourhood Services Officer advised that the Horticulture Department would pick this up.

Street maps – It was reported that Atkinson Court was still not included on s maps of Hartlepool despite it being built for 14 years. The Traffic Team Leader to report to the relevant officers.

8. WARD MEMBERS QUESTION TIME

Bishop Cuthbert – Exploding charges in Hart Quarry could possibly undermine the foundations of new houses in Bishop Cuthbert. Did the Quarry owners have permission to do this? An update was requested.

Warren Road – Newly erected buildings were interfering with existing residents' television reception. The Neighbourhood Manager advised that this had been resolved.

A request was also made for resident-only parking permits to be introduced. The Traffic Team Manager would forward this request on to the Car Parking Manager.

Play area opposite the Saxon Pub – When would CCTV be installed on this site? There were ongoing problems with fly tipping, arson and youngsters consuming alcohol. Shards of plastic from broken bottles were also being left by the grass cutters meaning children were unable to play in safety. The Neighbourhood Manager indicated that any broken glass was cleared away every day. A review into CCTV provision in

Hartlepool was currently underway and officers were waiting for the results of the review before taking further action. In terms of the reports of arson this had reduced in recent weeks and the area was not designated a hot spot by Police. A Councillor requested a report on the number of incidents which had taken place there. At a previous Ward audit Neighbourhood Police had suggested that better lighting in the Winter months might solve the problem, Officers would consider this.

**9. AFFORDABLE HOUSING
DEVELOPMENT PLAN DOCUMENT
– ISSUES AND OPTIONS
DISCUSSION PAPER
CONSULTATION**

The (Senior) Planning Officer informed the Forum of the consultation arrangements for the Issues and Options discussion paper, comprising the first stage in the preparation of the Hartlepool Affordable Housing Development Plan Document. This represented the first stage in the production of the Affordable Housing Development Plan Document, part of the Local Development Framework, addressing the issue of affordable housing provision in Hartlepool and suggesting possible policy options. The outcome of this consultation would provide a policy framework to secure affordable housing on new developments in Hartlepool.

The consultation would run from 31st March 2008 until 30th June 2008. The Issues and Options discussion paper and associated documents were available from the Civic Centre, Bryan Hanson House, and Central Library and branch libraries throughout Hartlepool. Drop-in sessions had been arranged at the Central Library with a further drop-in session taking place at the Middleton Grange Shopping Centre on 27th June 2008. Comments could be submitted via

questionnaire to Bryan Hanson House or online via planningpolicy.hartlepool.co.uk. Planning Officers would be happy to give a detailed presentation on the issues to any groups that requested this.

A Resident Representative referred to the grassed area in Coronation Drive at Seaton Carew, requesting that this be regarded as sacred when any new building work was considered. The (Senior) Planning Officer advised that this was a more general policy document and no specific areas would be discussed.

The Chair thanked the (Senior) Planning Officer for attending the meeting and answering questions.

**10. MINOR WORKS BUDGET
2008/2009 AND PROPOSALS**

The Neighbourhood Manager reported details of the Minor Works Budget allocation for 2008/2009 and the Forum's role with regard to the proposal and approval of schemes.

The Minor Works Budget for the North Neighbourhood Consultative Forum was allocated for 2008/2009 as follows: -

- ❖ £52,000 from the Council for Forum schemes
- ❖ £20,000 from Highways (£10,000 from Local Transport Plan and £10,000 from Highways Maintenance) to address minor highway works identified by the Forum
- ❖ £15,000 to address the conversion of grass verges to hard standing identified by the Forum.

The Forum were then asked to agree to recommend the following minor works schemes to the Portfolio Holder for approval:

1. St Hilda Ward – Hazelwood Rise tree and bollards - £4,850
2. St Hilda Ward – Rear St Mary street steps - £4,460
3. St Hilda Ward – Prissick Street parking - £9,000
4. Hart Ward – Coast Road steps - £3,000
5. Dyke House Ward – Allerton Close Environmental Improvements - £3,400
6. Brus Ward – West View Road verge works - £11,550
7. Throston Ward – Throston Allotments security - £7,000
8. Various Wards – Pride in Hartlepool - £5,000
9. Various Wards – Dropped crossings - £3,500

Detailed information on all schemes was given.

With reference to scheme 4 Members requested that additional work be undertaken specifically the distance between the bottom step and ground be decreased. The Neighbourhood Services Officer advised that the proposal was just for the implementation of a handrail but he would investigate the cost of these additional works.

Following the presentation Members raised several possible avenues for funding including lighting provision in playgrounds and parks and improvements to bus shelters and provision of timetables therein

Members also queried the lack of increase in minor works funding in recent years. The Neighbourhood Manager advised that all three neighbourhood forum areas were awarded identical amounts of money and it was up to ward councillors to request an increase in funding.

Decision

That schemes 1-9 be recommended for approval to the Portfolio Holder.

Chair

North Neighbourhood Consultative Forum

Wednesday 18th June 2008

Issues Raised

ISSUE DETAILS	ACTIONS	OFFICER
<p><u>Matters Arising</u></p> <p>Radioactive Waste from Power Station Members requested that a representative from the Power Station be invited to the next Forum to answer queries relating to the disposal of radioactive waste.</p> <p><u>Public Question Time</u></p> <p>Proposed pedestrian crossing in Holdforth Road The traffic section of HBC have indicated that because of the proximity of junctions and bus stops there is no location available to install a Pedestrian Crossing. However the placing of a Pinch Point in Holdforth Road is being investigated to enable pedestrians to cross the road more safely' – The Traffic Team Leader advised that a report by independent consultants on this matter was due the following week.</p> <p>Speed cushions at Barnard Grove School These are the wrong size. They cause a bumpy ride on the service bus and I am sure that the same will happen with an ambulance. With the growing fuel shortage and the cost to the environment is it not time to have a rethink on safety measures on feeder roads like King Oswy Drive, Woodstock Way, Clarence Road and Lancaster Road? The use of variable speed limits, pedestrian crossings and illuminated</p>	<p>Neighbourhood Manager has invited a representative to the next Forum</p> <p>Report back to Forum</p> <p>Report back to Forum</p>	<p>Karen Oliver</p> <p>Peter Frost</p> <p>Peter Frost</p>

ISSUE DETAILS	ACTIONS	OFFICER
<p>speed signs should now be considered instead of a blanket 24/7 20mph speed limit' – The Traffic Team Leader advised that a feasibility study was currently being taken to look at possible alternative measures.</p> <p>Contact Centre Delays in telephone response.</p> <p>Headland Moor There was no signage regarding the banning of vehicles. The Environmental Action Manager indicated the Council had no enforcement powers. The Traffic Team Leader to check the relevant legislation.</p> <p>Headland Parish Council Office A representative of the Headland Parish Council reported that tall weeds were growing outside the back of the office. The Neighbourhood Manager would investigate ownership of this land and make the relevant people aware of the problem.</p> <p><u>Resident Representatives Question Time</u></p> <p>Junction of Bruce Crescent and Miers Avenue Despite recent repairs there were still a number of potholes in the road. The Neighbourhood Services Officer to check the list for resurfacing work.</p> <p>Easington Road Central Reservation Concern was raised regarding overhanging bushes causing an obstruction to pushchairs. The Neighbourhood Services Officer advised that the Horticulture Department would pick this up.</p>	<p>Julie Howard, Contact Centre Manager has written to complainees. Monitoring data suggests that the average time is 2 minutes.</p> <p>Report back to Forum</p> <p>Ownership of land – Hartlepool Borough Council. Arrangements have now been made to regular maintain this land.</p> <p>Report back to Forum</p> <p>Report back to Forum</p>	<p>Julie Howard</p> <p>Peter Frost</p> <p>Karen Oliver</p> <p>Garry Jones</p> <p>Garry Jones</p>

ISSUE DETAILS	ACTIONS	OFFICER
<p><u>Ward Members Question Time</u></p> <p>Play area opposite the Saxon Pub When would CCTV be installed on this site? There were ongoing problems with fly tipping, arson and youngsters consuming alcohol. Shards of plastic from broken bottles were also being left by the grass cutters meaning children were unable to play in safety. The Neighbourhood Manager indicated that any broken glass was cleared away every day. A review into CCTV provision in Hartlepool was currently underway and officers were waiting for the results of the review before taking further action. In terms of the reports of arson this had reduced in recent weeks and the area was not designated a hot spot by Police. A Councillor requested a report on the number of incidents which had taken place there. At a previous Ward audit Neighbourhood Police had suggested that better lighting in the Winter months might solve the problem, Officers would consider this.</p> <p>Hart Quarry Member raised issue regarding concerns he had received from local resident of potential undermining due to quarry activities.</p>	<p>In addition to looking at feasibility of installation of CCTV. Consideration to be given to the feasibility of improved lighting in this location</p> <p>Planning Enforcement Officer to investigate</p>	<p>Karen Oliver</p> <p>Richard Teece</p>

WARDS

Brus
Dyke House
Hart
St Hilda
Throston

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

23 July 2008

MINUTES OF THE MEETING



The meeting commenced at 6.00 pm in West View Community Centre, Miers Avenue, Hartlepool

PRESENT:

Chair: Councillor Mary Fleet – Dyke House Ward

Vice Chair: Resident Representative Linda Shields

Councillor Caroline Barker - Hart Ward
Councillor Edna Wright - Hart Ward

Residents: Lisa Atkinson, Jean Lynn, M Martin, John Maxwell, Cath Torley, Liz Torley, Richard Turner, Alan Vale, Denis Waller

Resident Representatives: John Lynch, Mary Power, Joan Steel, Robert Steel and Maureen Waller

Officers: Alison Mawson, Head of Community Safety and Prevention
Sally Forth, Anti Social Behaviour Co-ordinator
Katie Sheehan, Anti Social Behaviour Officer
Karen Oliver, Neighbourhood Manager
Sarah Bird, Democratic Services Officer

Housing Hartlepool Representative: Janis Ledger, Senior Estates Officer

Police Representatives: Sergeant Jonathan Wrigley and PC Chris Stonehouse

Fire Brigade Representative: Station Manager Jimmy Ruse

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

The Chair Councillor Mary Fleet welcomed residents, Councillors and Officers.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Steve Allison, Rob Cook and Sheila Griffin and resident representative John Cambridge.

3. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 9 April 2008 were confirmed as an accurate record.

4. POLICE UPDATE

PC Stonehouse gave a presentation on crime figures for the North area for April, May and June 2008 and figures for recorded were generally static compared to the previous year. He said that there were more incidents of Anti-social behaviour being reported in those three months and a higher number of arrests. He reported that the Neighbourhood Policing Teams had changed their shift patterns to accommodate Anti-Social Behaviour on Friday, Saturday and Sunday nights. He stated that there had been a joint Operation with Hartlepool Borough Council's licensing department the previous week to try and curb alcohol consumption by youths. He said that the usual procedure was to issue AS13 forms to youths found with alcohol and return them to their parents in order that parents were aware that they had had alcohol.

PC Stonehouse reminded those present of the need to be vigilant in relation to crime and he issued crime prevention advice to try and alleviate vehicle crime, i.e. retract wing mirrors, remove visible items and leave the glove box open to show that there were no contents.

The Neighbourhood Manager stated that over the school holidays police would be working with the FAST (Families Accessing Support Team) project providing activities for school children in the area.

PC Stonehouse said that police had visited local schools before the end of term and gave statistics of the numbers of resulting actions. He said that extra

officers would be on duty for the Headland Carnival weekend and Police Officers would be visiting schools over the holidays liaising with caretakers re any damage.

The following issues were then raised:-

Why hasn't the North area got a Neighbourhood Support Team? There are currently three Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) on long term restricted duties but an outstanding vacancy has recently been filled by PC Henderson.

Can Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) evidence be used to provide evidence to assist in prosecution of off licences selling to under age drinkers? PC Stonehouse confirmed that if shops were identified then the shop CCTV footage would be examined as well as footage from the Local Authority CCTV monitoring centre if applicable.

Police and Paramedics were credited for attending a robbery immediately in the Bruce Crescent Area, however in relation to a further incident, no one had attended an assault despite several phone calls to Police. Sgt Wrigley agreed to look into the Police job queue regarding this incident.

What were the 23 street incidents referred to in the statistics given in the presentation? PC Stonehouse clarified that this was the number of people stopped or stopped and searched by Neighbourhood Officers patrolling in the area. These did not relate to phone calls received by residents. Sgt Wrigley referred to an Operation at the King Oswy Shops where ringleaders of anti-social behaviour were identified and targeted and since then the anti-social behaviour had decreased markedly.

Praise was given by a resident regarding an incident a couple of days earlier when there had been a skirmish involving schoolchildren and police were on the scene immediately. However he asked whether people arrested were all taken to Middlesbrough at present due to the upgrading of Hartlepool Police Office. It was clarified that voluntary attendees could be interviewed at Hartlepool but if arrests were made, then prisoners would have to be transported to Middlesbrough. Sgt Wrigley confirmed that two officers were needed to transport prisoners, but these were not necessarily officers taken off street patrols, as the designated Prisoner Handling Team could take over.

How long does it take for officers to attend an incident? PC Stonehouse explained that call handlers at the Police Headquarters grade all incidents from 0 – 9, with 0 being an immediate response. It was requested that information on response times be brought back to this Forum.

There is a problem with car parking at bus stops on Throston Grange Lane. The Neighbourhood Manager agreed to pass this on to the Council's Parking Services Manager.

Is the CCTV camera on the Central Estate subject to 'night blindness'? The Neighbourhood Manager confirmed that this is not so.

5. FIRE BRIGADE UPDATE

The Station Manager from Thomaby, Jimmy Ruse gave a presentation and showed a video to highlight fire risks, give fire safety advice and smoking cessation advice. He informed those present of the availability of free home safety fire visits.

He said that over the past year, there have been 259 accidental house fires in Hartlepool, mostly preventable, 57 of

these were caused by electrical faults, 11 fires involving children playing with matches or cigarette lighters, 70 fires involving smoking materials and 121 were kitchen fires.

The following points were raised:-

Will this presentation be given to all ages? The Station Manager said that it would be shown initially to 16 – 18 year olds and was to be launched at the Hartlepool College of Further Education to make students in bedsits aware of the dangers.

What is the difference between using a chip pan and using a deep fat fryer? The Station Manager explained that a deep fat fryer had a thermostatic control which should prevent it overheating.

The Senior Estates Officer informed the Forum that Housing Hartlepool visit new tenants to encourage them to sign up for the Home Safety Fire Visits.

6. ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR UPDATE

The Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) Co-ordinator informed the meeting of current ASB statistics relating to Hartlepool. It was pointed out that most referrals (61%) came direct from residents and the April – June referrals were broken down ward by ward. Most of the incidents dealt with by the ASBU were relating to rowdy behaviour and these were dealt with by a variety of measures, many of which were referred to partner agencies. The ASB Co-ordinator informed those present that should anyone under 17 be breathalysed and give a positive result, then they are referred to the Straight Line project.

The following points were then raised:-

What was the outcome of the 23 Street Encounters referred to by the Police in their presentation? It was explained

that the street encounters are for police monitoring purposes only and are not passed on to the ASBU, who get the AS 13 forms which concern instances of Anti-social Behaviour. The system of follow up action/referrals following receipt of AS13s was explained and what action could be taken. In addition, at the time the AS13 form is issued by the Police Officer or PCSO, they may decide to take home any under age youths who were suspected of drinking alcohol and a recent Police development is for the youths to be breathalysed in the presence of their parents.

We know who the trouble causers are why isn't something done about them? The ASB Co-ordinator agreed to speak to this resident representative after the meeting to get details.

A resident representative stated that it appeared that the intervention measures must be working if there had been 72 referrals and only 6 of these had resulted in ASB Agreements.

5. CRIME AND DISORDER CO-ORDINATION UPDATE

The Head of Community Safety and Prevention then informed the Forum of the Community Safety team which comprised of Council, Fire Brigade and Police Officers and covered issues such as Crime Prevention, Domestic Violence and CCTV and mentioned the current investigation by one of the Council's Scrutiny Forms into the CCTV provision in the town. There is to be a public meeting in the Civic Centre on 30 July 2008 at 6.00 pm.

She informed the meeting of the North Cemetery project and schemes in the Dyke House area to improve fencing and street lighting. The Neighbourhood Watch and Ringmaster schemes were

highlighted and those present were encouraged to join.

Community Safety issues raised at the forum included:-

What has happened about the CCTV camera on the North Cemetery which was cut down? This has not yet been replaced. The Head of Community Safety and Prevention said that this will be re-instated although possibly at a different location.

Is there any update on the theft of the Civic regalia from the Civic Centre? Has any insurance money been received from the Council. Why was the case housing the Regalia not re-inforced? Was there any CCTV evidence? The Forum was told that this was still an ongoing investigation by Police so no answers could as yet be provided.

Are CCTV cameras a deterrent to ASB? There are some successes i.e. fixed cameras have been placed in ASB hotspots and this appears to have worked. The camera on Old Cemetery Road appears to have alleviated the problem with fly tipping.

Older residents would feel safer if there was a CCTV camera around their homes rather than being based mainly around shops and businesses. The Neighbourhood Manager said that she would liaise with the police to pass this on.

The meeting concluded at 8.10 pm.

Chair

NORTH NEIGHBOURHOOD CONSULTATIVE FORUM REPORT

13 August 2008



Report of: Scrutiny Support Officer

Subject: SCRUTINY INVESTIGATION INTO THE CONDITION
OF THE HIGHWAYS IN HARTLEPOOL

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To provide Members with an introduction to the presentation, which will be delivered at today's meeting by the Chair of the Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Forum and the Scrutiny Support Officer, as part of the Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Forum's investigation into the 'Condition of the Highways in Hartlepool'

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 The Chair of the Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Forum and the Scrutiny Support Officer will be in attendance at today's meeting to deliver a presentation, as part of the Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Forum's investigation into the 'Condition of the Highways in Hartlepool' in relation to the following issues:-
- a) the overall aim of the investigation;
 - b) the terms of reference for the investigation; and
 - c) key dates.

3. RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 That Members of the Forum note the presentation and submit their views and comments on the subject matter, which will then be fed directly into future meetings of the Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Forum.

CONTACT OFFICER

Laura Starrs – Scrutiny Support Officer
Chief Executive's Department - Corporate Strategy
Hartlepool Borough Council
Tel: 01429 523 647
Email: laura.starrs@hartlepool.gov.uk

BACKGROUND PAPERS

The following background paper was used in preparation of this report:-

- (a) Scrutiny Investigation into the Condition of the Highways in Hartlepool –
Scoping Report (Scrutiny Support Officer) – 11.07.08

North Neighbourhood Consultative Forum

Minor Works - 2008/2009 - £88,831

Forum - £52,000
 Highway Maintenance - £20,000
 Grass Verges - £15,000
 Carried Forward - £1,831

Ward	Name of Scheme	Date Approved	Minor Works Funding £	Other Funding
St Hilda	Hazelwood Rise trees and bollards	18 th June 2008	4,850	
St Hilda	St Mary Street (rear) steps	18 th June 2008	4,460	
St Hilda	Prissick Street parking	18 th June 2008	9,000	
Hart	Coast Road steps	18 th June 2008	3,000	
Dyke House	Allerton Close environmental improvements	18 th June 2008	3,400	
St Hilda	West View Road verge works	18 th June 2008	11,550	
Throston	Throston Allotments security	18 th June 2008	7,000	
Various	Dropped crossings	18 th June 2008	3,500	
Various	Pride in Hartlepool	18 th June 2008	5,000	
Various	Key Routes	13 th June 2007	20,000	
Various	Multi Use Games Areas	13 th June 2007	10,000	
Total spend			£81,760	
Balance			£7,071	

Minor Works Schemes – 2008/09

Ward	Total cost of Schemes
Brus	
Dyke House	3,400
Hart	3,000
St Hilda	29,860
Throston	7,000
Various	38,500 } £20,000 Key Routes £10,000 Multi Use Games Areas £5,000 Pride in Hartlepool £3,500 Dropped Crossings
TOTAL	81,760

Key Routes and MUGA's (second year of a three year rolling programme)