

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

in

**Throston Grange Community Centre
Glamorgan Grove, Hartlepool**

on

**Wednesday 10th September, 2008
commencing at 10 am**

A G E N D A

1. Apologies for absence
2. MINUTES
 - (a) To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 23rd July 2008
 - (b) Matters arising.
3. Update from the Police
4. Update from the Fire Brigade
5. Anti-Social Behaviour Unit Update
6. Crime and Disorder Co-ordination Update
7. Public Question Time
8. Any issues to be raised by Councillors and Resident Representatives
9. Any Other Business Agreed by the Chair

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