

**CENTRAL AREA POLICE AND
COMMUNITY SAFETY
CONSULTATIVE FORUM**
in
**Belle Vue Community Sports and Youth Centre,
Kendal Road, Hartlepool**
on
Thursday, 11th September, 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 3rd April 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

Burn Valley
Elwick
Foggy Furze
Grange
Park
Rift House
Stranton

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

3 April 2008

MINUTES OF THE MEETING



The meeting commenced at 2.00 p.m. in the Civic Centre, Hartlepool

PRESENT:

Chair:	Councillor Lilian Sutheran	- Rift House Ward
	Councillor Stephen Akers-Belcher	- Rift House Ward
	Councillor Jonathan Brash	- Burn Valley Ward
	Councillor Gerald Hall	- Burn Valley Ward
	Councillor Dr George Morris	- Park Ward
	Councillor Carl Richardson	- Grange Ward
	Councillor Victor Tumilty	- Grange Ward
	Councillor Jane Shaw	- Stranton Ward

Resident Representatives: Elizabeth Carroll, Ted Jackson, Jean Kennedy, Brenda Loynes and Brian McBean

Residents: A Barclay, G Harrison, A E Jobson, M E Lumley, R Rigg, M Thorburn, Hilda Wales,

Council Officers:

- Denise Ogden, Head of Neighbourhood Management
- Jon Wright, Neighbourhood Co-ordinator
- Irene Cross, Neighbourhood Development Officer
- Brian Neale, Crime and Disorder Co-ordinator
- Sally Forth, Anti-Social Behaviour Co-ordinator
- Sarah Bird, Democratic Services Officer

Fire Brigade Representatives: Community Liaison Officer Stuart Simpson, Arson Task Force Manager Lol Craven

Police Representatives: Chief Inspector Phil Veitch, Acting Inspector Glen Ward, Sergeant Brian Crawley.

Housing Hartlepool Representatives: Libby Griffiths, Tenancy Relations and Enforcement Manager

18. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

The Chair Councillor Lilian Sutheran welcomed residents, Councillors, Resident Representatives and Officers.

19. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Coward, Cranney, London, Simmons, Tumilty, Resident Representatives, Bob Farrow and Evelyn Leck, Neighbourhood Manager, Clare Clark and Steve Patton, Fire Brigade.

20. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 10 January 2008 were agreed as an accurate record.

21. MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

Chief Inspector Phil Veitch presented details of the recorded crime performance between April 2007 and March 2008 which indicated that total crime had fallen by 4.2% with a drop in drug, robbery, house burglary, criminal damage and other burglaries, although there had been a rise in vehicle crime and other theft (theft of metal included). He stated that the police were working in collaboration with other agencies such as Housing Hartlepool and British Transport Police. Detections for the same period had risen by 5.4%, with rises in forgery, other theft, other burglary and drugs. He stated that the rise in detection of drug offences was due to the pro-active work of officers. Detections in vehicle crime, house burglaries, violence and criminal damage had fallen over than period.

He stated that the Neighbourhood Policing system appeared to be working well in Hartlepool and gave details of performance in the last twelve months. He stated that there was a joint Police/Partnership analytical unit and outlined the asset seizing powers of the Proceeds of Crime Act (POCA). He stated that there was currently particular focus on Class A Drug activity, burglaries, anti-social behaviour, criminal damage, valuable metal theft and counter terrorism.

Items of interest were:-

- Ringmaster scheme – This currently has 2700 members
- Polish Community – A liaison officer has recently been appointed
- Deaf Community – There is a sign trained Police Community Support Officer (PCSO)
- Emergency Services Deaf and Speech Impaired Initiative – This is to be launched at Police Headquarters on Monday, 21 April 2008 between 6.00 pm and 8.00 pm
- Respect Football Tournament – This had taken place recently between Police and Hartlepool College of Further Education and further events were to be planned.

Crime prevention advice regarding home and vehicle safety was outlined.

The following issues were then raised:-

Councillor Richardson – Why are the figures for street encounters much higher for the Neighbourhood Policing teams than for the rest of the District?

Chief Inspector Veitch stated that the nature of the team's role was about engaging with a challenging communities whereas response teams' duties were dealing with 999 calls and emergencies and therefore their opportunities to

produce street encounter forms were not as great.

Councillor Shaw – Why is there no police presence in the Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) Monitoring Office when Middlesbrough have a dedicated officer? Chief Inspector Veitch said that the policy was currently under review but a balance had to be obtained between having a visible presence on the streets or having a dedicated officer as opposed to using CCTV control centre staff.

Councillor Shaw – When young people are moved on by Police Officers where are they supposed to go? Acting Inspector Ward stated that youngsters were not moved on unless they were causing a nuisance but when a complaint had been made officers would attend.

Resident Representative Brian McBean – Why aren't PCSOs been allowed to hand out fixed penalty notices for dog fouling as it is a problem in the town, and despite receiving training in 2002 but have not yet been given the power to hand out cautions? Acting Inspector Ward explained that further training had taken place in October 2007 but a uniformed presence was usually a sufficient deterrent to offenders. The Head of Neighbourhood Management confirmed that the soon to be instated Dog Control Orders did insist that dogs should be kept on a lead in rear alleys and the dog control wardens would be working in conjunction with Police to ensure that these Orders were complied with.

Councillor Akers Belcher – Could heat detectors be used in open green spaces to deal with anti-social behaviour? Acting Inspector Ward stated that a crowd of people would not necessarily be moved on unless they were causing trouble but tools to combat

anti-social behaviour were always being considered.

The Crime and Disorder Co-ordinator then outlined the benefits of the Ringmaster scheme as an effective communication tool which runs alongside the Neighbourhood Watch scheme in sending safety awareness and crime prevention messages to residents in the appropriate areas of the town. He issued an open invitation to residents who wished to view the Ringmaster equipment in Church Street and welcomed any feedback on the service.

23. FIRE BRIGADE UPDATE

The Arson Task Force Manager and the Community Liaison Officer outlined the annual figures for F1 Fires, Accidental Dwelling Fires, Deliberate F1 Fires, Deliberate F3 Fires and Road Traffic Collisions (RTC) both in the Hartlepool District and the Central Neighbourhood. There had been a decrease in all fires in the calendar year across the town as well as in the Central area. Figures were also provided for the period January to March 2008 in comparison with the same period in 2007. There had been a slight reduction in F1 fires; accidental dwelling fires and deliberate F3 fires had remained the same; deliberate F1 fires had increased by 1 and there had been 3 more RTCs than the same period last year in the Central area.

The Arson Task Force Manager informed the Forum that there was now a fire fighter seconded into the Local Authority Community Safety Team and believed that this had been a success. He said that the latest Department of Communities and Local Government Figures had placed Cleveland 45th out of 45 Forces as there was a real problem with small fires but hoped that the Community Safety link would alleviate this.

The Community Liaison Officer outlined a multi-agency strategy at the Longhill and Sandgate industrial estate which had had a problem with fires that had taken up a lot of the brigade's time. He stated that there was close liaison with the Police and the Council's Enforcement Unit. The strategy had proved successful with one business recently being fined £24,000.

Resident Representative Jean Kennedy – Some Seaton Carew residents feel unsafe because of the underground fires on the Seaton Meadows site. The Arson Task Force Manager stated that a number of agencies were involved in looking at the internal combustion which caused the problem and the Head of Neighbourhood Management confirmed that the Environment Agency visited the site on a regular basis and the Council's Planning Committee was leading on the issue.

24. ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR UPDATE

The Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) Co-ordinator and the Housing Hartlepool Tenancy Relations and Enforcement Manager gave a presentation regarding anti-social behaviour activity in the central area. There had been an increase of 27% in the Central area compared to the same period last year and over 500 referrals have been made to other agencies including Police, Private and Registered Social Landlords, Victim Support, Family Intervention Project and Parenting Support. A breakdown of referrals by ward was provided as well as details of the Unit's activities in the past three months along with the work carried out by Housing Hartlepool's tenancy relations and enforcement team (TRET).

The ASB Co-ordinator felt it was positive that there were more referrals to the unit as it meant that people were reporting

more incidents and help could be given early on.

The Anti-Social Behaviour Co-ordinator reported on the Good Tenant Scheme whereby tenants were given a green/amber/red rating to assist landlords in allocation of housing.

Councillor Brash – As noise appears to be the largest complaint, is there a noise abatement officer in the ASB Unit? It was established that any such complaint would be referred to the Authority's Neighbourhood Services Department but there were fortnightly liaison meetings between the departments. The Head of Neighbourhood Management advised it would be difficult to relocate this officer to the ASB Unit as they had other Environmental Health responsibilities included in their role.

Resident Alan Barclay – Will those tenants with a red card find it difficult to find housing and therefore won't this make the homelessness problem worse? The ASB Co-ordinator would liaise with the private sector landlords but it would be an incentive for tenants to re-think their behaviour in order to get a better rating. The scheme was linked to support through the supported housing panel and in extreme cases the Family Intervention Project could help.

Resident Representative Jean Kennedy – Private Landlords are more likely to give tenants with a red card substandard accommodation and therefore this would make a vicious circle which was difficult to break. The ASB Co-ordinator said that with Selective Licensing, standards of property are inspected and there is a private sector team which links into the Housing Aid Centre team. One measure of the success of the good tenants scheme

would be assessed by monitoring how many tenants went from red to amber.

Councillor Hall suggested that the ASB Unit should visit residents' associations in order to publicise the work it does.

25. NEIGHBOURHOOD ISSUES

The Chair informed the meeting that Police Officers would be in attendance to speak about any concerns at the end of the meeting.

Acting Inspector Ward thanked the public for attending recent visual audits.

The Chair commented that it was disappointing that so few members of the public had attended the forum.

CHAIR