

**SOUTH AREA POLICE AND  
COMMUNITY SAFETY  
CONSULTATIVE FORUM**  
in  
**Owton Manor Community Centre,  
Wynyard Road, Hartlepool**  
on  
**Friday 12 September, 2008**  
commencing at 10.00 am

**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> April 2008
  - (b) Matters arising.
3. Update from the Police
4. Update from the Fire Brigade
5. Anti-Social Behaviour Perspective
6. Neighbourhood Issues
7. Public Question Time
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 April 2008**

***MINUTES OF THE MEETING***



The meeting commenced at 2.00pm at Owton Manor Community Centre, Hartlepool

**PRESENT:**

Vice Chair: Mary Green (Resident Representative) (In the Chair)

Councillors	Councillor Bob Flintoff	- Owton Ward
	Councillor Steve Gibbon	- Fens Ward
	Councillor Marjorie James	- Owton Ward
	Councillor Geoff Lilley	- Greatham Ward
	Councillor Ann Marshall	- Rossmere Ward
	Councillor Mike Turner	- Seaton Ward

Resident Representatives: Ann Butterfield, Rosemarie Kennedy and Iris Ryder

Residents: D Clark, H Oxley and J Smith

Officers:

- David Frame, Neighbourhood Manager (South)
- Sally Forth, Anti-social Behaviour Co-ordinator
- Sue McBride, Neighbourhood Development Officer (South)
- Dave Mitchell, Neighbourhood Co-ordinator
- Brian Neale, Crime and Disorder Co-ordinator for Hartlepool
- Jo Wilson, Democratic Services Officer

Cleveland Police Representatives: Chief Inspector Phil Veitch, Inspector Glen Ward, Sergeant Dave Galloway, PC Dave Myers and PCSO Ian Gray

Fire Brigade Representative: Stuart Simpson

Housing Hartlepool Representative: Andy Elvidge (Tenancy Enforcement Officer)

### 32. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors Mick Johnson, Alison Lilley and Arthur Preece and Resident Representative Michael Ward.

### 33. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 11 January 2008 were agreed.

### 34. MATTERS ARISING

**“Matters arising – problem with off road bikes”** – Councillor Lilley asked if there had been any further action on this. The Neighbourhood Manager advised that the group involved had not met since December 2007. Any further information would be reported directly to the Forum.

**“What is problem solving? – Would it be possible to have a Ward by Ward breakdown of crime statistics?”** – Councillor Lilley indicated he had requested anti-social behaviour statistics rather than crime. The Chief Inspector said these were now available within the documentation for this meeting.

**Ongoing problem with an off-road motorbike** – Resident Representative Ann Butterfield was advised to give the details to the police officers present.

### 35. UPDATE FROM THE POLICE / PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Chief Inspector Phil Veitch gave a brief presentation on crime figures for the South area between April 2007 and March 2008. These showed that the total amount of recorded crime had decreased by 3.8% over the last 12 months while the total detection rate had increased by 5.4%. In terms of individual types of crime all had decreased apart from vehicle crime (up 3.5%), other theft (up

15%) and drugs (up 17.6%). However the Chief Inspector qualified this by explaining that these increases were fairly small and in the case of drugs this increase was as a result of increased detection and seizures.

Details were also given of the performance by the neighbourhood police teams over the last 12 months, primary actions being taken by police and other items of interest. Crime prevention advice was also given to help protect property and cars.

The Crime and Disorder Co-ordinator for Hartlepool then gave a brief update on the current status of Ringmaster. This was a computer package which sent out advisory messages (via e-mail, sms, text and telephone call) to its members. Organisers were hoping to have 10 thousand Hartlepool members by the end of 2008. Those present were urged to give their support to this initiative. Councillor Steve Gibbon reported that he had been very impressed during his visit to the Ringmaster office was would be happy to promote the service.

The following issues were then raised

**Resident Representative Ann Butterfield – A few weeks ago my neighbour was burgled but there was nothing on Ringmaster. It would have been nice to know what was happening** – The Crime and Disorder Co-ordinator for Hartlepool indicated that that care was being taken not to increase the public fear of crime.

**Councillor Geoff Lilley – The Ringmaster 12 days of Christmas campaign was seen as a nuisance call and I received a number of complaints. Also we recently ran out of information packs during a Ringmaster promotional event.**

**Resident Representative Iris Ryder – I was told that you cannot sign up to Ringmaster without disclosing your date of birth. Why?** – The Crime and Disorder Co-ordinator for Hartlepool reported that applicants could put as much information as they wanted to on the form. Date of birth information was used to analyse the age range of those involved and formulate effective ways of getting the message across. However failing to disclose this information did not prohibit anyone from taking part.

**Councillor Ann Marshall – Could we have additional contact details for neighbourhood police officers?** – Inspector Ward advised that Cleveland Police were considering republishing business-type cards containing this information. The Chief Inspector acknowledged that leaflets had been beneficial in the past but there were cost implications. Councillor Marshall suggested that tear off cards could be provided within Hartbeat magazine.

**Councillor Geoff Lilley – Could CCTV be used to catch scrap metal thieves when they try to sell it on to dealers?** – Inspector Ward acknowledged that this was a good idea but businesses would need to agree to the provision of CCTV on their premises before it could be done.

**Councillor Marjorie James – Could statistical breakdowns of violent crime be supplied periodically to show the number of domestic violence incidents? Concerned that victims are not being supported.** – The Chief Inspector advised that domestic violence was a Police priority with dedicated teams and trained officers on hand. Councillor James expressed concerns that should the profile of this issue fall refuge funding could be reduced. However The Crime and Disorder Co-ordinator for Hartlepool commented that funding had already

been allocated to this area and emphasis would not be lost.

**Councillor Bob Flintoff – Which are the appropriate police telephone numbers to contact? There are three contact numbers for the Jutland Road residents** – The Chief Inspector advised that 999 should be used in the case of emergency and the neighbourhood policing numbers for the forwarding on of community information. The Ladgate Lane number was best to use to report an incident or crime, unless it was an emergency situation such as a crime in progress. Calls made to this number would be deployed to the most appropriate department via the switchboard.

**Resident Dorothy Clark – High number of lead thefts in Greatham. Are the statistics included as part of Hartlepool or separated?** These figures were included as part of Hartlepool but individual wards were analysed for trends.

**Councillor Steve Gibbon – Could we have an update on the refurbishment of Hartlepool's police cells?** Initially completion had been scheduled for October/November 08. Now had been brought forward to August/September 08.

**Resident Representative Iris Ryder – Why were home owners advised to avoid stone or gravel drives?** – This was generic advice designed to avoid items being used as missiles. However Councillor Marjorie James highlighted that drives of this type could help to alleviate flooding problems.

**Councillor Mike Turner – Do officers give consideration to the issue of secured loads on lorries or vans?** – The Chief Inspector indicated that they did have a pro-active department looking at issues of this kind.

The Chair thanked the Chief Inspector, Officers and the Crime and Disorder Co-ordinator for Hartlepool for attending the meeting and answering questions

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

Cleveland Fire Brigade representative Stuart Simpson gave a brief update on recent performance by the fire brigade. In the South area there had been a decrease in all categories of fire over the past 3 months, despite there being an increase in the district figures. There would be a number of initiatives taking place in the coming weeks, including "Play with a football not a fire", aimed at young people and "Operation Eggshell", a home fire safety and arson initiative. Members were also advised that fire brigade officers had recently undertaken a visit to the Cerebos site accompanied by Council enforcement officers. As a result of this the site owners had been given 4 weeks to clear the site up.

The following issues were then raised.

**Resident – Are sealed glass jars classed as explosives?** – This depended on what was contained within them. Fizzy drink cans were projectiles when dropped into fire.

**Councillor Geoff Lilley – Could we have an update on the Bonne Bouche fire?** – The details were not confirmed as yet but it was being dealt with.

The Chair thanked the Fire Brigade representative for attending the meeting and answering questions.

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

The Anti Social Behaviour Co-ordinator and a Housing Hartlepool Representative 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 January 08 and March 08. This was broken down between individual wards and category of cases. Further figures showed the amount of cases dealt with by the anti-social behaviour unit and by Housing Hartlepool.

Details were also given of a range of initiatives being carried out by the Anti-Social Behaviour Unit including Anti-social Behaviour Awareness Day, a new Anti-social behaviour Action Plan and a Good Tenant Scheme. The latter would have three levels of membership and would speed moves through pre-referencing. Over the coming year officers would be exploring options for co-location, developing a parenting Protocol and improving links with schools to ensure early intervention.

The Housing Hartlepool representative reported the results of their recent Audit Commission Inspection. Housing Hartlepool had been awarded 2 stars with promising prospects for improvement. Their anti-social behaviour service was seen as a particular strength, specifically their response to domestic violence, partnership working and prevention and support. Details were also given of recent activity over the past 3 months including the drafting of a statement of anti-social behaviour policy, the development of Good Neighbourhood Agreements, the securing of funding for a Drug and Alcohol Worker and plans to extend furnished tenancies.

The following issues were then raised

**Councillor Mike Turner – Does anti-social behaviour increase at certain**

**times of the year?** – There tended to be fewer anti-social incidents during the Winter months. It started to build up around Easter holiday time although Summer was usually relatively quiet due to people taking holidays.

**Councillor Geoff Lilley – Are all anti-social behaviour incidents which are reported to the police then passed on to the Anti-Social behaviour unit?** – Not necessarily. Certain incidents did not fall within their remit. Following further queries the Anti-Social Behaviour co-ordinator advised that research officers were able to access both the Council and police records in order to gain an accurate picture of incidents.

Councillor Marjorie James referred to Housing Hartlepool's active role within the Financial Inclusion Partnership, specifically their recent decision to give anti-social families in rent arrears space to pull themselves together without immediate eviction.

**Resident Representative Ann Butterfield – A cottage at Owton Manor has recently been vandalised and is covered in green paint** – The Chief Inspector advised that the incident had been reported that morning.

The Chair thanked the Anti-Social Behaviour Co-ordinator and representative of Housing Hartlepool for attending the meeting and answering questions.

### **38. NEIGHBOURHOOD ISSUES / ANY ISSUES TO BE RAISED BY COUNCILLORS AND RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVES**

**Councillor Mike Turner – During the Easter holidays graffiti had been put on Seaton Carew fences. There had also been an incident on Warrior Park in the summer holidays. Where there**

**any increases in police patrols during the school holidays?** – Inspector Ward advised that shift patterns were changed as a matter of course, specifically so there was a full complement of officers available on Fridays. However he highlighted the responsibilities of parents to ensure their children were not causing trouble. Police offered a number of activities for children during the holidays but they could not be forced to attend.

**Councillor Geoff Lilley – There are still problems at the back of Fens shops. What progress is being made?** – The Neighbourhood Manager and police officers present advised that there had been no great increase in incidents recently. Evidence was needed from residents before further action could be taken but despite officers' best efforts none had come forward so far. Councillor Steve Gibbon reported that many residents were reluctant to come forward on this issue but he would urge them to do so. Moving the stairwell would also help.

A resident referred to the practice of recording the name and address of those present, saying it would be easy for someone to give a false name. He also questioned the number of bags in the room, none of which had been checked for explosive devices.

### **39. ANY OTHER BUSINESS AGREED BY THE CHAIR**

None.

Councillor Marjorie James praised the Vice-Chair for her chairing of the meeting.

MARY GREEN

CHAIR