

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

in

**West View Community Centre
Miers Avenue, Hartlepool**

on

**Wednesday 14th January, 2009
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 10th September 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
 - (a) HBC Community CCTV Operation
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

10 September 2008

MINUTES OF THE MEETING



The meeting commenced at 10.00 am at Throston Grange Community Centre,
Glamorgan Grove, Hartlepool

PRESENT:

Chair: Councillor Mary Fleet – Dyke House Ward

Vice Chair: Resident Representative Linda Shields

Councillor Caroline Barker	- Hart Ward
Councillor Tim Fleming	- St Hilda Ward
Councillor Edna Wright	- Hart Ward

Resident Representatives: John Cambridge and Joan Steel

Residents: Alan Vale

Officers:
Karen Oliver, Neighbourhood Manager
Garry Jones, Neighbourhood Services Officer
Sally Forth, Anti-Social Behaviour Co-ordinator
Jo Wilson, Democratic Services Officer

Housing Hartlepool Representatives: Natalie Gooding and Libby Griffiths

Police Representatives: Chief Inspector Phil Veitch, Inspector Glen Ward,
Sergeant Stuart Porritt and PC Steve Cranston

Fire Brigade Representative: Stuart Simpson

6. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors Allison, Atkinson, R Cook, Griffin, Plant and Rogan and Resident Representatives John Lynch, Mary Power, Bob Steel and Maureen Waller.

7. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 23rd July 2008 were confirmed as an accurate record.

8. MATTERS ARISING

None

9. UPDATE FROM THE POLICE

Chief Inspector Veitch gave a brief update on recorded crime figures for Hartlepool district and the North area over June, July and August 2008. These showed a reduction in violence and criminal damage when compared with the same period in 2007. The number of drug offences had increased but the Chief Inspector felt this was an example of officers being more pro-active in catching the perpetrators rather than an actual increase in the number of offences. It was also noted that although there had been an increase in dwelling house burglaries across the district the North area had seen a reduction.

Details were also given of the District's performance in relation to arrests, cautions, those charged, those arrested on warrants as well as numbers of AS13 forms issued for follow up by the Anti-Social Behaviour Unit. 95.4% of calls had been responded to within the required time. The Forum were advised that the Neighbourhood Policing Teams had changed their shift patterns so that there would be sufficient officers on duty at key times. The police were working to stem the supply of alcohol to young people and there was now a policy of returning young people who were suspected of drinking alcohol home to their parents where consent to breathalyse them could be sought if required.

Information on the Crime Stompers initiative was given and details of a recent Operation Relentless drug conviction outlined.

The Forum were also advised that open days would be held at Hartlepool Police Station on 4th/5th October to celebrate the

opening of the new custody suite. All would be welcome to attend and inspect the new facilities.

Crime Prevention Officer PC Cranston then gave advice on crime prevention to those present. Using the 'onion skin principle' PC Cranston showed how householders could protect their perimeter, out buildings, grounds, building line (shell). House and contents from unwanted intrusion. A Resident Representative commented that following three burglaries they had purchased an intruder alarm and had had no further trouble.

The Chair thanked those officers present for attending the meeting.

10. UPDATE FROM THE FIRE BRIGADE

Cleveland Fire and Rescue representative Stuart Simpson outlined the figures for fires in the District and specifically for the North area for June – August 2008 compared to the previous year. There had been an increase in deliberate F3 fires in the North area although this was as a result of ongoing problems at the Steetley site, Smyth Place and Durham Street. Steps had been taken to address these problems but so far they had not been dealt with satisfactorily. However with regards to Smyth Place Persimmon Homes had promised to remove the flammables from the building site next door.

A Councillor asked if the Police, Fire Brigade and Council could join forces to bring enforcement action against the owners of the Steetley site. The Neighbourhood Manager advised that attempts were being made to do this through the Joint Action Group and Derelict Land meetings. However every enforcement action that could possibly be

taken had been. There were too many limits on enforcement to do more.

A Councillor referred to a recent document sent to Councillors indicating that Councils may soon be given powers to enact new byelaws to deal with neighbourhood nuisances. She suggested this could be used to deal with the Steetley problem. The Neighbourhood Manager was unaware of this document but would make further enquiries.

The Cleveland Fire and Rescue Representative stated that like the Police, Fire fighters were working later shifts to accommodate demand particularly around bonfire night. Derelict premises around Bon Bouche were being used for training purposes, thereby discouraging anti-social behaviour.

A Resident Representative asked who should be called if they spotted a bonfire being built as technically unless it was lit this was not a crime. The Cleveland Fire and Rescue Representative advised that a card would shortly be issued giving the relevant phone numbers. Areas which had historically been used for illegal bonfire were regularly monitored in the run up to bonfire night.

The Chair thanked the Cleveland Fire and Rescue Representative for attending the meeting and answering questions.

11. ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR UNIT UPDATE

The Anti-Social Behaviour Co-ordinator informed the meeting of current anti-social behaviour statistics relating to Hartlepool. July/August referrals were broken down ward by ward and into types of anti-social behaviour. Most of the incidents dealt with related to noise, rowdy behaviour, nuisance and intimidation/harassment. A number of

measures were used to deal with these with the vast majority resolved through early intervention. Details were also given of recent successes through the Family Intervention Project and information given on the Good Tenant Scheme.

Members praised the presentation and the work being carried out by the Anti-Social Behaviour Unit but requested that in the future the presentation be made easier to read and that paper copies be circulated prior to the meeting.

The Chair thanked the Anti-Social Behaviour Co-ordinator for attending the meeting.

12. CRIME AND DISORDER CO-ORDINATION UPDATE

There were no items to report.

13. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Clavering – A Councillor referred to a recent incident when two adults had been hospitalised and a house smashed up by the father of a teenager who had been reprimanded for anti-social behaviour by the householders. It was alleged that the police had advised those involved not to take any action. Inspector Glen Ward indicated that there was already a police investigation underway. Police officers would never advise victims of crime not to take action against the perpetrators. If there were concerns regarding safety arrangements could be made for alternative accommodation prior to any arrests. Victim Support could also help. The Chief Inspector also challenged the alleged police response saying he had concerns about what perception these reports would give to the public at large.

Weapons – A resident reported that air rifles were being used on West View Beach, specifically the sand dunes and

North beach, to shoot down birds. The Chief Inspector advised that this was illegal behaviour and unacceptable. Officers had seized a firearm two weeks ago but would patrol the area more frequently. The resident commented that he had been previously threatened by the perpetrators. He was advised to let police officers know rather than risk his personal safety by taking matters into his own hand.

A Resident Representative indicated that a crossbow had recently been shot out of a window on the Central Estate. However residents were afraid to make a formal complaint to police. The Chief Inspector advised that without such reports police could not take action. Anyone contacting the police could be reassured it would be dealt with in the strictest confidence.

Neighbourhood Policing – In response to queries from a Councillor Inspector Ward advised that a PCSO who had previously been injured was due back at work within the next week. A new PCSO had started the previous day while another was due to start in the near future. A fourth was currently on maternity leave.

Carnival – A Councillor reported some anti-social behaviour on the bandstand and promenade by Seaview Terrace, including broken glass. The Chief Inspector advised that his officers would look into this. A more formal debriefing would also take place following the carnival in order to highlight any improvements which could be made for the future.

CCTV – The Chair asked why cameras had been moved from Grainger Street. Inspector Ward advised that this was as part of a temporary move to Gray Street but they would be returned to their original location. Authority had been

given for the move at a residents meeting. A Councillor referred to recent recommendations made by the Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum that Ward Councillors and Resident Representatives should be informed when any cameras in their area were removed and/or relocated.

<p>14. ANY ISSUES TO BE RAISED BY COUNCILLORS AND RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVES</p>

There were no issues raised.

<p>15. ANY OTHER BUSINESS AGREED BY THE CHAIR</p>
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There were no issues raised

The meeting concluded at 11.40 am

Chair