

# **CENTRAL AREA POLICE AND COMMUNITY SAFETY CONSULTATIVE FORUM**

**in**

**Committee Room B  
Civic Centre, Hartlepool**

**on**

**Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> 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 11<sup>th</sup> September 2008
  - (b) Matters arising.
3. Update from the Police
  - (a) Neighbourhood Policing
  - (b) Neighbourhood Watch
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**

Burn Valley  
Elwick  
Foggy Furze  
Grange  
Park  
Rift House  
Stranton

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

**11 September 2008**

***MINUTES OF THE MEETING***



The meeting commenced at 10.00 am at Belle Vue Community Sports and Youth Centre,  
Kendal Road, Hartlepool

|                 |
|-----------------|
| <b>PRESENT:</b> |
|-----------------|

Chair: Councillor Lilian Sutheran – Rift House Ward

Vice Chair: Resident Representative Evelyn Leck

|                            |                    |
|----------------------------|--------------------|
| Councillor Gerard Hall     | - Burn Valley Ward |
| Councillor Pauline Laffey  | - Park Ward        |
| Councillor Carl Richardson | - Grange Ward      |
| Councillor Chris Simmons   | - Grange Ward      |
| Councillor Gladys Worthy   | - Rift House Ward  |

Residents: Terry Clark, Mrs Roni Farrow, George Harrison, Margaret and Barry Houghey,  
Mr and Mrs G Johnson, Gordon Larkin, Sarah Maness, Ruth Simpson,  
Mrs Thorburn, Andrew Thorn, Hilda Wales and Mary Wilkinson

Resident Representatives: Elizabeth Carroll, Bob Farrow, Ted Jackson and Alan Lloyd

Officers: Clare Clark, Neighbourhood Manager (Central)  
Irene Cross, Neighbourhood Development Officer (Central)  
Sally Forth, Anti-Social Behaviour Co-ordinator  
Jean Shenava, Anti-Social Behaviour Officer  
Jo Wilson, Democratic Services Officer

Housing Hartlepool Representative: Libby Griffiths

Police Representatives: Chief Inspector Mick Williams, Inspector Tony Green, PC Steve Davis, PC Harrington and PCSO Quantock

Fire Brigade Representative: Stuart Simpson

|

### 26. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors Akers-Belcher, Brash, Coward, Dr Morris, Payne and Tumilty and Resident Representative Brenda Loynes.

### 27. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2008 were confirmed as an accurate record.

### 28. MATTERS ARISING

There were no issues raised.

### 29. UPDATE FROM THE POLICE

Chief Inspector Williams gave a brief update on recorded crime figures for Hartlepool district and the Central area over June, July and August 2008. These showed a reduction in violence and criminal damage when compared with the same period in 2007. Domestic violence was currently high on the crime prevention agenda and the Chief Inspector asked that any incidents of this be reported.

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.

Inspector Tony Green advised that the Neighbourhood Policing Teams had changed their shift patterns so that there would be sufficient officers on duty at key times. 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. Adults suspected of buying alcohol for children would also be targeted.

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

PC Davies then gave advice on crime prevention to those present. Using the 'onion skin principle' PC Davies showed how householders could protect their perimeter, out buildings, grounds, building line (shell), house and contents from unwanted intrusion.

The following issues were then raised:

**Park Road** – Resident Ray Waller commented that crime had not decreased in his area but because of apathy crimes were not being reported. Recently 23 wing mirrors had been ripped off parked cars but no action had been taken. Chief Inspector Williams advised that he believed people were reporting criminal damage of this kind. If they were not then resources could not be distributed to best effect. All reported incidents were attended by police officers.

**Planning law** – Resident Ray Waller referred to the recommendation by PC Davies that householders utilise fencing and palisades to protect their property. In some cases residents were not allowed to install fencing because their property was in a conservation area. Had police discussed the current planning regulations with the planning department? Were there any plans to change the current planning policy? PC Davies indicated that police were in regular contact with the planning department. Fences were only recommended for the rear of properties as they could provide cover for a burglar at the front. Inspector Green further commented that planning

## 2 (a)

legislation was set by the Government and the police had no influence on it at all. Mr Waller reported that current planning law was not primary legislation but part of planning conditions laid down by the local authority. Resident Representative Ted Jackson further advised that current planning law was primary legislation but the planning committee could give permission for fencing to be erected.

**Church Street Police office** – Resident Roni Farrow indicated that residents calling the Church Street Police office had been told they could not leave anonymous reports and must supply their name and number. Many were reluctant to do so and this was leading to a number of incidents going unreported for fear of recrimination. This seemed to be a problem unique to Church Street as residents advised that officers at the York Road office were happy to accept anonymous reports. The Neighbourhood Manager advised that the police shifts in the Central area were shared between the Church Street and York Road offices. Any differences in responding to residents would hopefully be resolved when the Church Street team moved to York Road. Currently should the lines be engaged callers were automatically transferred to an automated service. This may have led to the misapprehension that the office was not manned when in fact all the lines were busy. If people wished to remain anonymous when reporting a crime and were having problems doing this through the police switchboard they could contact their neighbourhood police officer directly.

Resident Representative Evelyn Leck referred to a report she had made to the police regarding a cold caller who had come to her property on a previous Sunday afternoon. No action had been taken and she questioned if there was any point in bringing these things to

police attention. Inspection Green advised that there were 200 staff in the control room so it would be impossible to ascertain which had failed to take action. Councillor Chris Simmons went on to request that officers answering telephones be given better training in how to deal with residents who may be frightened and/or worried. They should be as helpful as possible, passing callers on to the correct person themselves rather than just passing on a phone number. He also suggested that the automated message begin by advising that the caller was in a queue. Chief Inspector Williams advised that training was ongoing and acknowledged that more expertise was needed.

**Call response times** – Councillor Carl Richardson reported on a recent failure to respond to a call within the specified time. On this occasion Councillor Victor Tumilty, a member of the Police Authority, had waited 100 minutes for a response. Chief Inspector Williams felt sure that this was being investigated but advised that the force had a 94.5% success rate in this area.

**Under-age drinking** – Resident Representative Evelyn Leck commented that some adults may not be aware that buying alcohol for under-age children was illegal. Inspector Green disputed this, saying most people knew it was illegal and asked if residents could make police aware if they knew this was happening.

**Burbank** – Resident Andrew Thorn advised that there had been an increase in crime in the Burbank area recently. He felt this was a direct result of a previously dedicated community officer being moved from Burbank to the Stranton area in general. He asked that this officer be moved back into the Burbank area as soon as possible. Inspector Green advised that the community officer for Burbank was currently on sick leave

## 2 (a)

pending redeployment. Until then the post could not be filled by another officer as he was designated the nominated officer for the Burbank area. Other staffing problems in the Central area had also had a knock-on effect and these things could not be put right in an instant.

Mr Thorn also advised that the CCTV on the Burbank estate was unusable as the office where the equipment was controlled was locked and residents did not have a key. Inspector Green queried why it had not been linked up to the town-wide network. Mr Thorn commented that it had been intended that the police would have several keys for the office in question but this had not happened because of cost issues. Inspector Green felt it was unlikely that anyone would have raised objections to the cost of three keys.

**Window cleaners** – Resident Representative Alan Lloyd raised concerns about window cleaners operating in the Central area without identification.

**Sneak thieves** – Councillor Gladys Worthy asked that more publicity be given on this issue, having recently been a victim herself. PC Davis advised that an awareness campaign was ongoing but such incidents were quite rare.

**Ward Jackson Party in the Park** – Resident Representative Elizabeth Carroll advised that alcohol had been freely available at a recent charity event at Ward Jackson Park despite it being billed as an alcohol-free event. Chief Inspector Williams indicated that this was the responsibility of the event organisers rather than police officers. The organisers had hired a private security firm who were responsible for challenging those with alcohol and removing it if necessary. Police would check that correct procedures had been followed

prior to the event but could do no more. Mrs Carroll advised that resident had informed police of this consumption of alcohol and associated anti-social behaviour.

The Chair thanked all the officers present for attending the meeting and answering questions.

### 30. UPDATE FROM THE FIRE BRIGADE

Cleveland Fire and Rescue representative Stuart Simpson outlined the figures for fires in the District and specifically for the Central area for June – August 2008 compared to the previous year. These showed a decrease in all types of fire across the district and Central area. The decrease in deliberate F3 fires in the district was not as marked as in the other categories but this was as a result of the large number of fire at the Steetley site and in Smyth Place, both in the North area. The Cleveland Fire and Rescue Representative further stated that like the Police, Fire fighters were working later shifts to accommodate demand particularly around bonfire night.

**Arson** – Councillor Gladys Worthy requested details on the estimated costs. The Cleveland Fire and Rescue Representative advised it was £5 per hour or part thereof. Fire fighters were carrying out school visits to advise children of the monetary and emotional consequences of deliberate fires.

**Seaton Meadows Landfill Site** – Resident Representative Evelyn Leck asked for an update. The Cleveland Fire and Rescue Representative advised that only one call had been made to the site since January 2008 and no fires were currently burning there.

**Community liason** – Councillor Gerard Hall asked that there be more liason

between the fire service, police service and local authority. The Cleveland Fire and Rescue Representative indicated that a Community Liaison Officer was currently working with the police on behalf of Cleveland Fire. During home fire safety checks fire officers would routinely offer a crime prevention check by police officers.

**Brenda Road tip** – Resident Representative Alan Lloyd advised that this was currently higher than government recommendations but no action was being taken. The Cleveland Fire and Rescue Representative advised that this was a Council matter. Councillor Carl Richardson asked that a report on this issue be brought back to the Forum

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

### 31. 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.

**Smoking ban** - Resident Ray Waller referred to people illegally smoking in the underground car park and asked how many had been fined. The Anti-Social Behaviour Co-ordinator advised that she did not have this information to hand. However she characterised this as a

nuisance rather than anti-social behaviour. Resident Representative Evelyn Leck referred to pedestrians walking past public houses having to pass the smokers on the pavement. The officer requested more specific information on where this was causing a problem.

**Bus shelter** – A resident requested that a shelter be provided near Aldi. The Neighbourhood Manager advised that this had been considered months ago and was not felt to be feasible by Stagecoach, however officers could investigate this again. Signage regarding skateboarding in the Aldi car park would also be looked at.

**Saddleston Close** – A Resident requested signage banning ball games be placed at the top of Saddleston Close

**Early intervention** – Councillor Gerard Hall asked if callers to the anti-social behaviour unit could give evidence and remain anonymous. He also suggested that ward councillors could convey information to the unit on behalf of residents.

**Ward Jackson Party in the Park** – Councillor Pauline Laffey referred to recent police comments that security at this event had been the responsibility of the event organisers. She felt that as the law was being broken the police should have some jurisdiction and if a crime was reported the appropriate action ought to be taken. Councillor Laffey went on to ask why police officers had not stayed for the duration of the meeting and asked that her comments be passed on to them.

Resident Representative Elizabeth Carroll asked if Anti-Social Behaviour Officers could be in place for events of this kind but their co-ordinator advised that they had no powers to do so. However the organisers were required to do a risk

assessment prior to the event. Councillor Carl Richardson advised that the council and police had no authority over the event in question as no restrictions had been placed upon it. In future this would not be allowed to happen. The Chair asked that all comments regarding what had happened be taken back to the event organisers.

**32. CRIME AND DISORDER  
CO-ORDINATION UPDATE**

There were no issues raised.

**33. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

There were no issues raised.

**34. ANY ISSUES TO BE RAISED BY  
COUNCILLORS AND RESIDENT  
REPRESENTATIVES**

There were no issues raised

**35. ANY OTHER BUSINESS AGREED  
BY THE CHAIR**

There were no issues raised.

The meeting concluded at 12 noon

*Chair*