

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

**at**

**Owton Rossmere Resource Centre (ORCEL),  
Wynyard Road, Hartlepool**

**on**

**Friday 16 January, 2009  
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 12 September 2008
  - (b) Matters arising.
3. Update from the Police
  - (a) Neighbourhood Watch
4. Update from the Fire Brigade
5. Anti-Social Behaviour Perspective
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**

Fens  
Greatham  
Owton  
Rossmere  
Seaton

# ***SOUTH POLICE & COMMUNITY SAFETY CONSULTATIVE FORUM***

**12 September 2008**

## ***MINUTES OF THE MEETING***



The meeting commenced at 10.00 a.m. in Owton Manor Community Centre, Hartlepool

<b>PRESENT:</b>
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Chair: Resident Representative Mary Green

Councillor Marjorie James	- Owton Ward
Councillor Alison Lilley	- Fens Ward
Councillor Geoff Lilley	- Greatham Ward
Councillor Ann Marshall	- Rossmere Ward
Councillor Michael Turner	- Seaton Ward

Resident Representatives: Rosemarie Kennedy, Iris Ryder, Michael Ward

Residents: Tina Donnelly, H Oxley

Officers: David Frame, Neighbourhood Manager  
Sally Forth, Anti-Social Behaviour Co-ordinator  
David Mitchell, Neighbourhood Co-ordinator  
Sue McBride, Neighbourhood Development Officer  
Sarah Bird, Democratic Services Officer

Cleveland Police: Inspector Glen Ward, Sergeant Ricky Mansell, Sergeant Peter Howarth, PC Steve Cranston, PC Dave Myers

Cleveland Fire and Rescue: Stuart Simpson

Housing Hartlepool: Andy Elvidge, Libby Griffiths, Lynn McPartlin

<b>1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION</b>
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The Chair Resident Representative Mary Green welcomed residents, Councillors and Officers

<b>2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</b>
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Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Flintoff, Gibbon and Wistow, Resident Representative Sally Vokes, Residents Mike Arnold and Joan Smith. Also from the Crime and Disorder Co-ordinator.

### 3. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 11 April 2008 were confirmed as an accurate record.

### 4. MATTERS ARISING

**Cerebos Site** – Councillor A Marshall queried whether this site had been cleaned up and was informed that enforcement action regarding this was currently ongoing. The Cleveland Fire and Rescue representative, Stuart Simpson confirmed that the site had been cleared.

**Gravel Drives** – Discussion took place about the pros and cons of having gravel drives.

**Fens Shops** – Councillor Alison Lilley highlighted recent problems at the rear of Mary Lambert's shop where pipe-work had been removed. The Neighbourhood Manager said that he was aware of the problem and would monitor the situation.

**Police Contact Details** – Councillor Ann Marshall queried whether contact details for local police officers were now available and was informed that these had recently been publicised in Hartbeat. The Safer Hartlepool Partnership were currently looking at having business cards printed showing useful telephone numbers.

**Financial Inclusion Partnership** – Councillor James highlighted a recent leaflet drop to local residents offering brokerage services for loans for a fee of £50. She stated that there was no need to pay such a fee as the Hartlepool Credit Union offered the same service free of charge. She said that residents who were suffering difficulties with debt could also use the Citizens Advice Bureau or the West View Advice Centre.

**Off Road Bikes** – Councillor G Lilley stated that he had met with the Mayor and Councillor Hill the previous week and the Mayor was interested in exploring the possibility of having some motorcycle based youth projects and asked that anyone who was able to assist with time or experience should get in touch with him. The Neighbourhood Manager agreed to pass this information on to youth forums

### 5. UPDATE FROM THE POLICE

Inspector Glen Ward gave a presentation on the Hartlepool District's recorded crime figures for the period June – August 2008 compared to the same period in the previous year as well as figures specifically relating to the south area of the town. It was noted that violent crime had reduced but there had been a rise town-wide in the number of dwelling house burglaries. He explained that this had been caused by a visitor to the town from Nottingham and another male but both were currently in prison. He stated that there had been a lot of lead and copper thefts in the town but key people had been arrested and the police were working closely with scrap metal dealers to try and eradicate the problem.

Inspector Ward also gave details 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. He stated that 95.4% of calls had been responded to within the required time.

Inspector Ward informed the Forum that the Neighbourhood Policing Teams had changed their shift patterns so that at key times there would be sufficient officers on duty. 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 and to breathalyse them if required.

Details of the Crime Stompers initiative were given and detail of a recent drugs arrest from Operation Relentless was outlined.

Crime Prevention Officer PC Steve Cranston then gave details of how residents could protect their home and its contents using the 'onion skin principle'. PC Cranston showed how householders could protect their perimeter, out buildings, grounds, building line, house and contents from unwanted intrusion. Advice was given on planting and the erection of trelliswork to discourage intruders. Residents were also encouraged to join the Ringmaster scheme.

The following issues were then raised:-

**Councillor Ann Marshall – The allotments at Brierton were surrounded by high fencing which would shield sight of any intruders. Would it not be more feasible to have low fencing and good lighting so that any intruders would be visible?** The Crime Prevention Officer said that other allotment groups in the town were trying to erect new fencing although this was costly and it was suggested that the current fencing could have anti-vandal grease on it.

**Councillor Ann Marshall – The Jutland Road area would benefit from having the Crime Stompers initiative –** Inspector Ward stated that it was hoped that this would eventually be rolled out to every Ward.

**Councillor Alison Lilley – When an offender was given bail by a Magistrate, was the bailee tagged?**

Inspector Ward said that this depended on the conditions imposed by the Magistrate but some were tagged and this was monitored by Group 4 security.

**Councillor Alison Lilley – Thanked Officers for the tip about erecting trellis on top of fences but consideration should be given to wildlife and urged residents not to strip out too much shrubbery in their gardens.** Officers stated that residents should strive for a balance between privacy and crime prevention.

**Resident Representative Iris Ryder – Had purchased some anti-vandal grease for her fence but had been told not to use it below 12' in height.** Officers stated that it was alright to use this above 6' and advised that a sign should be displayed stating that it was in place.

**Resident R Oxley – It would be costly to implement all the crime prevention advice that had been given.** PC Cranston stated that the advice offered general points to consider.

**Councillor Marjorie James – 'Flash Garden' had not been utilised for crime prevention gardening advice recently. She suggested that Rosa Rugosa was a cheap prickly attractive plant would could be used to deter burglars.** Officers agreed with this.

**Councillor Marjorie James – Public confidence in the Police was a must if crime prevention advice was to be taken. She alluded to a recent incident at which it was alleged that officers had taken 1 hour 20 minutes to respond.** PC Cranston said that Officers were aware of this and it was being looked into. Councillor James stated that she would like a written response to this allegation.

**Resident Representative Iris Ryder – A recent incident regarding a complaint that a mini-motorcycle was causing a nuisance to residents had had a response time of 2 hours.** Inspector Ward stated that calls were graded in order of priority ensuring that emergencies were responded to immediately.

The Chair thanked the Police for their attendance at the meeting.

## **6. UPDATE FROM THE FIRE BRIGADE**

Cleveland Fire and Rescue representative Stuart Simpson outlined the figures for fires in the District and specifically for the South area for June – August 2008 compared to the previous year. There had been a marked decrease in all fires. He stated that the fire brigade had worked closely with Housing Hartlepool to promote the home safety checks and said that these had helped reduce the number of accidental dwelling fires across the town. He stated that Housing Hartlepool also had a policy of getting empty premises boarded up which had aided the reduction in numbers of deliberate fires.

He stated that like the Police, Fire fighters were working later shifts to accommodate demand. Work was ongoing in schools and colleges to warn against drinking driving. Staff were also working with schools to lead young people in football, volleyball and cricket games to engage them to keep them off the street as a preventative measure.

The Forum was informed that Hartlepool was the best performing District in Cleveland which was attributed to partnership working.

The following issue was then raised:-

**Councillor Marjorie James – Bonfire night activity seems to be spread over a 2 – 3 week period. She suggested that at public events for example organised bonfires, could the police utilise drug detection dogs?** Inspector Ward said that this had been considered but for each dog used, 12 Officers would be involved. He stated that this method was more likely to be utilised in policing the night time economy.

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

The Anti-Social Behaviour Co-ordinator informed the meeting of current anti-social behaviour statistics relating to Hartlepool for the period April to August 2008. July and August referrals were broken down ward by ward and into types of anti-social behaviour (ASB). Most of the incidents dealt with related to housing management, rowdy behaviour, nuisance and intimidation. A number of measures had been taken 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.

The following points were raised:-

**Councillor Alison Lilley – If there is no response from a tenant relating to the Good Tenant Scheme, this may be because the tenant has difficulty in reading or writing.** She suggested that a follow up visit by a member of the ASB team may be helpful.

## **8. NEIGHBOURHOOD ISSUES AND PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

**Councillor Ann Marshall – There is a problem with ASB at the Jutland Road Community Centre involving young**

**people harassing the caretaker.** It was agreed that an update of action taken on this would be provided at the next meeting.

**Councillor Ann Marshall – Brierton Lane street lighting is in need of updating.** The Neighbourhood Manager said that he would liaise with the Public Lighting Manager to see what was necessary.

**Resident Representative Mike Ward – People were shooting wood pigeons near the beck at the rear of the Fens estate from the field but there were dead birds on the house side of the beck.** Inspector Ward said that PC Myers would investigate this.

**Resident Representative Iris Ryder – Can something be done to prevent cars driving/parking on the soft ground and churning it up at Seaton Carew at the bonfire display.** The Neighbourhood Manager stated that measures such as Park and Ride would be undertaken to encourage fewer vehicles to park in Seaton Carew but protective matting was not an option as it was expensive.

**Councillor Marjorie James – Can the Police inform residents, Councillors and Resident Representatives what is happening in their area?** Inspector Ward reminded those present that representatives from the Neighbourhood Policing Team were available after the meeting to speak to members of the Forum. He said that there needed to be good communication to build up public trust.

**Councillor Geoff Lilley – At the Fens Residents Annual General Meeting concerns had been raised about the speed of traffic on Mowbray Road.** Discussion took place regarding a speed survey which had been undertaken in

February 2008. It was felt that a survey covering a 24 hour period would have been more beneficial to monitor the speed of the traffic in the area of the bend in the road next to the bus stop. Inspector Ward said that he would ensure that Officers kept an eye on the speed of cars in that area. It was suggested that a presentation be brought to a future meeting with regard to the speed monitoring processes employed by Hartlepool Borough Council.

**Councillor Ann Marshall – She stated that she was pleased that youth services in Jutland Road have been re-instated and are taking place on Monday and Wednesday between 6.00 pm and 9.00 pm.**

Councillor Marjorie James congratulated Resident Representative Mary Green on her churning skills.

The meeting concluded at 11.45 am