

NORTH NEIGHBOURHOOD CONSULTATIVE FORUM AGENDA



Wednesday, 4th February 2009

at 10.00 am

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

NORTH NEIGHBOURHOOD CONSULTATIVE FORUM:

Councillors Allison, Atkinson, Barker, R W Cook, Fenwick, Fleet, Fleming, Griffin, Jackson, McKenna, J Marshall, Plant, Rogan, Wallace and Wright.

Resident Representatives: Christine Blakey, John Cambridge, John Lynch, Mary Power, Linda Shields, Bob Steel, Joan Steel and Maureen Waller.

- 1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**
- 2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**
- 3. TO RECEIVE ANY DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS**
- 4. MINUTES**
 - 4.1 To confirm the minutes of the North Neighbourhood Consultative Forum held on 3rd December 2008
 - 4.2 Matters arising
 - 4.3 To receive the minutes of the Police and Community Safety Consultative Forum meeting held on 14th January 2009
- 5. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

6. ITEMS FOR CONSULTATION

No items

7. RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVE ISSUES

8. WARD MEMBERS AND WARD ISSUES

9. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION/INFORMATION

- 9.1 Neighbourhood Consultative Forum Review – *Neighbourhood Manager*
- 9.2 Minor Works Schemes Update – *Neighbourhood Manager*
- 9.3 Resident Representative Vacancy – *Neighbourhood Manager*

10. ITEMS FOR DECISION

No items

11. ITEMS OF ANY OTHER BUSINESS AGREED BY THE CHAIR

12. DATE, TIME AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the North Area Police and Community Safety Consultative Forum will take place on Wednesday 11th March 2009 at 10.00am at West View Community Centre, Miers Avenue, Hartlepool

The next meeting of the North Neighbourhood Consultative Forum will take place on Wednesday 1st April 2009 at 2.00pm at Throston Grange Community Centre, Glamorgan Grove, Hartlepool

NORTH NEIGHBOURHOOD CONSULTATIVE FORUM

WARDS

Brus
Dyke House
Hart
St Hilda
Throston

3 December 2008

MINUTES OF THE MEETING



The meeting commenced at 10.00 a.m. in West View Community Centre, Miers Avenue, Hartlepool

PRESENT:

Chair:	Councillor Mary Fleet	- Dyke House Ward
Vice Chair:	Linda Shields (Resident Representative)	
	Councillor Steve Allison	- St Hilda Ward
	Councillor Reuben Atkinson	- Dyke House Ward
	Councillor Caroline Barker	- Hart Ward
	Councillor Rob Cook	Hart Ward
	Councillor Tim Fleming	St. Hilda Ward
	Councillor Michelle Plant	Brus Ward
	Councillor Edna Wright	- Hart Ward

Resident Representatives:

Christine Blakey, John Cambridge, John Lynch, Mary Power, Joan Steel, Robert Steel and Maureen Waller

Public: M J Shaw, C Torley, L Torley, A Vale, G D Wilson,

Officers: Karen Oliver, Neighbourhood Manager (North)
Garry Jones, Neighbourhood Services Officer
Peter Nixon, Senior Traffic Technician
Ann Callaghan, Neighbourhood Development Officer
Sarah Bird, Democratic Services Officer

Housing Hartlepool: Janis Ledger

37. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Sheila Griffin.

38. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS

None.

39. MINUTES OF THE NORTH NEIGHBOURHOOD CONSULTATIVE FORUM

The Minutes of the North Neighbourhood Consultative Forum held on 15 October 2008 were accepted as an accurate record.

40. MATTERS ARISING

Resolutions to issues raised at the last meeting were contained in the Action Sheet circulated with the minutes.

Brus Tunnel and Surrounding Area - A resident asked what was being done about the rubble and holes in the area of the Brus Tunnel. He was informed that the Countryside Access Officer was scheduled to tidy up the footpath in the New Year. The Neighbourhood Manager agreed to meet with Network Rail to discuss the possibility of reduced access for quad bikes.

Wells Street Garage – The Neighbourhood Manager confirmed that the owner had been asked to demolish the offending garage.

Dropped Kerbs on Promenade – A resident representative asked if there were any plans to provide more dropped kerbs on the promenade between the Fish Sands and the Lighthouse. The Neighbourhood Services Officer stated that a full survey of the area had been carried out. No suitable locations were identified.

Speeding on Hart Lane – A resident representative queried whether there had been a speed survey undertaken after speeding issues had been pointed out at the last meeting. The Senior Traffic Technician agreed to contact the Speed Camera Partnership to see whether a survey had been undertaken recently and

if not would ensure that one was implemented quickly.

Lights in Town Square – A Ward Member asked whether anything had been done regarding some of these lights not working. She was informed that a problem with the cabling had been resolved and all lights were in full working order.

Speeding on Merlin Way – A Ward Member queried whether a speed survey had been carried since the last meeting of the Forum. The Senior Traffic Technician stated that he did not have this information to hand but would ensure that it was conveyed to Ward Members. A Resident Representative stated that this was a hot topic with local residents. Traffic calming measures had been put in place by developers where the road had not been adopted but these were quite severe with no warning markers. She had written to the developer advising them of residents' concerns. Highways to look at carrying out speed survey on the adopted part of Merlin Way.

Issues for consideration at the Forum

– A resident representative suggested that the Forum should not be bogged down with trivial matters which could be sorted out via other channels.

Lighting on Merlin Way – A resident representative expressed thanks to the Public Lighting Manager for responding to the issue of street lighting on Merlin Way.

York Place – A resident representative queried whether the dropped kerb had been installed and was informed that it had.

41. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Walkway/Linear Park on Central Estate – A resident complained that the footpath was in a dangerous condition and had not

yet been adopted by the Council. She stated that residents had worked hard to improve the walkway but felt let down by the Council by not adopting it. A resident representative stated that he had heard that there were alternative plans for the area. The neighbourhood Manager to pursue further funding for further improvements in that area.

Old Cemetery Road – A resident highlighted that there were a number of potholes from the top of Heortness Road to the cemetery gates. The Neighbourhood Services Officer stated that roads were inspected twice yearly but would visit the area to check.

42. RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVES ISSUES

Tactile Edges - A resident representative asked whether these could be provided in Chatham Road and outside the Borough Hall and the Senior Traffic Technician agreed to see whether this would be possible.

Miers Avenue/Arkley Crescent – A resident representative highlighted cracked paving stones in this area and the Neighbourhood Services Officer agreed to look at these.

St Mark's Church Hall – A resident representative thanked the Authority, Councillor Rob Cook and the police for their help as the final two CCTV cameras were now in situ which should help alleviate Anti-Social Behaviour in the area.

First Forum – Resident Representative Christine Blakey was welcomed to her first Forum and she stated if any residents had any issues, they should contact her.

43. WARD MEMBERS AND WARD ISSUES

Middlegate Bus Shelter – A ward member queried whether the bus shelter had been completed as residents had complained that it did not provide protection against the elements. The Neighbourhood Manager stated that it was complete and that there was no front panel on the chosen design.

Buses in Middlegate – A ward member stated that buses parking in Middlegate were causing problems with traffic flow. The Neighbourhood Manager agreed to look into this.

High Street – A ward member highlighted problems with cars parking opposite the fish and chip shop. The Senior Traffic Technician stated that this could be incorporated into a general traffic survey which was being undertaken on the Headland. The Neighbourhood Manager said that she would contact the Highways Department to see if there were any short term solutions.

King Oswy Drive – A ward member stated that the anti-skid surface was very weak and that she had highlighted this problem when it was first installed. The Neighbourhood Co-ordinator said that he would liaise with the Highway Services Manager but did not think that there was currently the budget to replace this. The Neighbourhood Manager said that she would elicit when this problem had first been raised.

Coast Road – A Councillor highlighted that some street lights were not working on the Coast Road. The Neighbourhood Manager agreed to bring this to the attention of the Public Lighting Manager.

Brus Roundabout – A councillor stated that the edging work had been completed on the roundabout but the cones had not

been removed. The Neighbourhood Services Officer agreed to pursue this matter.

King Oswy Drive – A Councillor highlighted problems with the flow of traffic at the south end and asked whether there could be a cut out section for resident car parking. The Senior Traffic Technician said that he would look into this possibility although a Councillor stated that this had not been considered a viable option when investigated the previous year.

Coast Road – A Ward Member stated that due to grass cuttings not being removed when the verges were cut, the grassed area was now higher than the pavement and the cobbles were obscured. This made the pavement slippery when wet. The Neighbourhood Services Officer agreed to find out whether the Community Payback Team could assist in clearing this.

44. MINOR WORKS PROPOSALS

Details of the Minor Works Budget for 2008/09 were given to the Forum. There was currently a balance of £2,571 and the Forum was asked to agree to recommend the following minor works schemes to the Portfolio Holder for approval:-

Throston Ward – Padstow Close Horticultural Scheme. Thinning out of undergrowth at the rear of properties - £450

St Hilda's Ward – Bakers Mead. Replacement of wooden perimeter fencing - £500

Hart Ward – Westwood Way. Tarmacing of grassed area to allow pedestrian access to post box - £400

St Hilda's Ward – Bakers Mead. Replacement of iron fencing on boundary wall - £690

The schemes were subsequently recommended for approval by the Portfolio Holder.

A resident representative queried what was currently taking place with the Key Routes and was informed that there were a number of trees scheduled to be planted in the next 2 weeks.

45. DATE, TIME AND VENUES OF NEXT MEETINGS

The next meeting of the North Area Police and Community Safety Consultative Forum will take place on Wednesday, 14 January 2009 at 10.00 am at West View Community Centre, Miers Avenue, Hartlepool

The next meeting of the North Neighbourhood Consultative Forum will take place on Wednesday, 4 February 2009 at 10.00 am at West View Community Centre, Miers Avenue, Hartlepool

The meeting concluded at 11.10 am

MARY FLEET
Chair

North Neighbourhood Consultative Forum

Wednesday 15 October 2008

Issues Raised/Action Sheet

ISSUE DETAILS	ACTION TAKEN	OFFICER
<p>Public Question Time Brus Tunnel issues relating to general state of area and public footpath</p> <p>A179/Hart Lane Speeding Traffic</p> <p>Merlin Way Speeding Traffic</p> <p>Central Estate Walkway</p> <p>Chatham Road Tactile edging</p> <p>Town Square, Headland</p>	<p>Chris Scaife, Countryside Access Officer to attend Forum to provide update.</p> <p>Peter Nixon has written to those residents and Ward members relating to actions – Feedback at Forum.</p> <p>Peter Nixon has written to those residents and Ward members relating to actions – Feedback at Forum.</p> <p>Officers to complete a full assessment of repair works necessary to bring the footpath up to any adoptable standard. This will then need to be reported to the appropriate portfolio with regard to “Adoption” and “Way Forward”.</p> <p>Tactile paving is to be installed on the kerb edge, on the shop side of Chatham Road. There’s a clear distinction between the footway (flags) and raised junction (tarmac) on the opposite side of the road, therefore there’s no need to provide a tactile edge on this side.</p> <p>The Consultancy section has been issued instructions to carry out the works at their earliest convenience.</p> <p>Peter Nixon has written to resident rep requesting site</p>	<p>C Scaife</p> <p>P Nixon</p> <p>P Nixon</p> <p>G Jones</p> <p>P Nixon</p> <p>P Nixon</p>

WARDS

Brus
Dyke House
Hart
St Hilda
Throston

NORTH POLICE & COMMUNITY SAFETY CONSULTATIVE FORUM

14th January 2009

MINUTES OF THE MEETING



The meeting commenced at 10.00 am at West View Community Centre,
Miers Avenue, Hartlepool

PRESENT:

Chair: Councillor Mary Fleet – Dyke House Ward

Vice Chair: Resident Representative Linda Shields

Councillor Steve Allison	- St Hilda Ward
Councillor Reuben Atkinson	- Dyke House Ward
Councillor Caroline Barker	- Hart Ward
Councillor Rob Cook	- Hart Ward
Councillor Tim Fleming	- St Hilda Ward
Councillor Sheila Griffin	- Brus Ward
Councillor Chris McKenna	- Throston Ward
Councillor Michelle Plant	- Brus Ward
Councillor Edna Wright	- Hart Ward

Resident Representatives: Christine Blakey, John Cambridge, John Lynch, Mary Power,
Bob Steel and Joan Steel

Residents: John Maxwell, M Shaw, Cath Torley and Alan Vale

Officers: Karen Oliver, Neighbourhood Manager
Garry Jones, Neighbourhood Services Officer
Ann Callaghan, Neighbourhood Development Officer (North)
Peter Gouldsbro, Community Safety Officer
Sally Forth, Anti-Social Behaviour Co-ordinator
Katie Sheehan, Anti-Social Behaviour Officer
Claire Brookbanks, Community Safety Assistant
Jo Wilson, Democratic Services Officer

Housing Hartlepool Representative: Natalie Gooding

Police Representatives: Chief Inspector Phil Veitch, Inspector Tony Green, Sergeant Chris Dawber and Sergeant Stuart Porritt,

Fire Brigade Representative: Stuart Simpson

16. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillor Fenwick.

17. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 10th September 2008 were confirmed.

18. MATTERS ARISING

“Document sent to Councillors indicating that Councils may soon be given powers to enact new byelaws to deal with neighbourhood nuisances” – The Neighbourhood Manager advised that she had no new information on these proposals. In respect of the problems at the Steetley site officers were doing all in their power to alleviate the situation.

19. UPDATE FROM THE POLICE

Chief Inspector Veitch gave a brief update on recorded crime figures for Hartlepool district and the North area September – December 2008. These showed a reduction in the number of total incidents in the North area and Hartlepool as a whole when compared with the same period in 2007. In terms of individual offences in the North there had been decreases in burglary, robbery, vehicle crime, theft, criminal damage and anti-social behaviour between November and December 2008. Police had formulated action plans to ensure that this trend did not change as a result of the current economic climate.

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. New initiatives included returning young people suspected of having consumed alcohol to their homes and breathalysing them in front of their parents, the formation of a Neighbourhood Task Group and the pooling of Neighbourhood Policing resources into neighbourhood 'hubs' based on the current York Road experience

The Forum were advised of further items of interest including a recent cannabis seizure made as part of a routine visit by Neighbourhood PCSOs, plans to put a police desk in all schools and the provision of crime mapping on the Cleveland Police website whereby users could access information on crime and anti-social behaviour levels in their ward.

The following issues were then raised:

A Resident Representative expressed concerns at the number of fires on the lower half of the West View estate and the lack of police support to the fire brigade. The Chief Inspector advised that police and Fire and Rescue representatives met regularly to discuss these issues and that just because there was no police presence did not mean the police were not taking any action. The Fire and Rescue representative concurred with this saying those responsible for the fires had been identified and actions were being taken against them.

A Resident Representative queried what actions were being taken to combat the threat of hard drugs. The Inspector advised that reference to the cannabis seizure had been made as an example of positive Neighbourhood Policing. However cannabis was no longer regarded as a soft drug and could lead to long-term mental health problems. A lot

of work was also being carried out in relation to class a drugs.

A Resident asked why the West View Police Station telephone was never available. Police advised this could be for a number of reasons, including another call trying to get through, officer leave or officers being at an incident. The Chief Inspector advised there was a single point of contact number (01429 235811) for all Neighbourhood Policing matters. Any calls to this number would be forwarded direct to the relevant PCSO for action. The Police were congratulated for keeping all their contact numbers at a local rate.

A Resident Representative referred to rumours he had heard that Neighbourhood Policing was being run down. The Chief Inspector disputed this saying the emphasis on Neighbourhood Policing had never been greater. It had been running for three years so some of the initial excitement was worn off and it was now seen as a normal part of policing.

A Councillor asked what would happen if parents were not in when inebriated youngsters were taken home. The Inspector indicated that the possibility of providing a central area where youngsters could be looked after was under consideration.

Sergeant Chris Dawber and Resident Margaret Shaw then gave a brief presentation on Neighbourhood Watch. Details were given of the benefits of Neighbourhood Watch and the Ringmaster system, with those present urged to encourage their friends and neighbours to sign up. Recruitment forms were available. A Resident Representative queried a recent Ringmaster message looking for HVDA volunteers. The Sergeant advised that Ringmaster was made available to other

organisations if this was felt to be appropriate.

The Chair thanked Chief Inspector Veitch, Inspector Green, Sergeant Dawber and Mrs Shaw for attending the meeting and answering questions.

20. 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 October-December 2008 compared to the previous year. There had been increases in F1 fires, deliberate F1 fires and deliberate F3 fires in the North although accidental dwelling fires and fires involving road traffic had dropped. There had also been a decrease in the number of refuse fires and bonfires.

A Resident Representative asked how incidents at the Steetley site were affecting these figures and was advised that they were having a significant adverse impact. However if the Council took any action to address the problems they would become liable. Suggestions were made that the site be completely levelled thereby making it difficult to set fires. However the Chair of Planning Committee advised that there were three companies involved in the development of the site and they were not prepared to spend the £7 million minimum it would cost to clear the area.

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

21. ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR UNIT UPDATE

The Anti-Social Behaviour Co-ordinator updated the meeting on current anti-social behaviour statistics relating to

Hartlepool. October-December referrals were broken down ward by ward and into types of anti-social behaviour. Most of the incidents dealt with related to noise, intimidation/harassment, nuisance behaviour and vandalism/damage to property. A number of measures were used to deal with these with the vast majority resolved through a general warning letter. 43 full anti-social behaviour orders had been granted with a further 8 interim orders.

Details were also given of the Youth Crime Action Plan and the Good Tenant Scheme. The Forum were further advised of developments around selective licensing, intergenerational tolerance and the forthcoming victim and witness awards scheme. Partnership working was highlighted and the Forum were advised that the Straightline project had been nationally recognised with one of the workers given an award.

A Councillor referred to plans for anti-social behaviour officers to travel on buses at perceived peak times of anti-social behaviour. The Anti-Social Behaviour Co-ordinator advised that no complaints had actually been received from the public but the problem had been highlighted by the transport companies. The Councillor indicated that she had not had any problems travelling with young people on buses and some had given up their seat for her.

A Councillor referred to the Neighbourhood Action Team meetings and asked if minutes could be made available. The Neighbourhood Manager advised that these were public meetings so anyone could attend. Minutes were sent out to the relevant areas but those areas not involved were not included. However work was also carried out through residents associations.

A Councillor asked how many Outreach youth workers would be working alongside Neighbourhood Police Teams on Friday and Saturday nights as stated in the presentation. The Anti-Social Behaviour Co-ordinator stated that one person would be on call.

A Resident Representative asked why the residents associations were not more involved in the multi-agency work. He acknowledged the confidential nature of some of these meetings but argued that all Resident Representatives had been CRB checked as part of their Council role. The Anti-Social Behaviour Co-ordinator responded that the nature of the meeting determined who was invited. There were a wide range of types of meeting and residents representatives were involved in some.

The Chair thanked the Anti-Social Behaviour Co-ordinator for attending the meeting and answering questions

22. HBC COMMUNITY CCTV OPERATION

The Community Safety Officer gave a presentation on Hartlepool Borough Council's Community CCTV System. He dispelled some of the myths surrounding CCTV before looking at the types of camera and their reliability. There were cameras in approximately 80 locations across Hartlepool and any images captured on them were kept for 28 days unless required for a criminal or civil investigation. Images were never released to the press and images could only be released to the person featured on them through the Freedom of Information Act.

The Forum were advised that the Community Monitoring Centre operates 24 hours a day, 365 days a year with a back up generator and business continuity measures in place. Staff were

highly trained and licensed and there was an open link with Cleveland Police via the Ladgate Lane Communications Room. Cameras were installed to assist in the detection and prevention of crime and anti-social behaviour and to assist in reducing the public's fear of crime. However they should not be regarded as a panacea for resolving issues of Crime and Disorder.

A Resident Representative asked if the camera recently moved from Cemetery Road could be relocated to Barnshaw Bending. The Community Safety Officer advised that this was currently under consideration but he would chase it up.

A Councillor asked if the public would be allowed access to CCTV images if they felt a crime had been committed but police had taken no action. The Community Safety Officer indicated that they would need to apply through the Civil Courts. Any images would be released to the court which would then have responsibility for those images.

The Chair thanked the Community Safety Officer for attending the meeting and answering questions.

23. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Motorbikes and quad bikes – A resident referred to ongoing problems with vehicles being driven on the beach. Action had been promised 3 years ago but so far nothing had happened. In November 2008 there had been activity involving the police helicopter and lifeboats but no charges had been brought. A police representative confirmed that an operation had been carried out prior to Christmas. However off-road vehicles were difficult to catch on foot and regular police vehicles could not be driven onto the beach. Specialist vehicles were available but in limited numbers. People were urged to contact

the police if they had any knowledge of the perpetrators. While no action could be taken without a statement if addresses were supplied it meant officers could attend those addresses and possibly confiscate illegal vehicles. The Neighbourhood Manager further indicated she would be happy to forward any information from residents to the police and urged people to contact her on 01429 523680.

Cemetery Road – A Resident asked if the lights could be fixed. The Neighbourhood Manager to speak to the Council's Public Lighting Manager regarding this.

24. ANY ISSUES TO BE RAISED BY COUNCILLORS AND RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVES

Middle Warren Estate – A Resident Representative highlighted road problems with the junction at the bottom of Silverbirch Road, saying there had been a number of near misses because drivers were unaware it was a junction. There were also problems with road humps. Bellway had agreed to take responsibility for all roads not owned by the Council and she asked that the police contact them regarding these matters.

15. ANY OTHER BUSINESS AGREED BY THE CHAIR

There were no issues raised

The meeting concluded at 12.30 pm

Chair