

SOUTH AREA POLICE AND COMMUNITY SAFETY CONSULTATIVE FORUM

at

**Owton Rossmere Resource Centre,
Wynyard Road, Hartlepool**

on

**Friday 13th March, 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 16th January 2009
 - (b) Matters arising.
3. Update from the Police
 - 3.1 Neighbourhood Policing Update
4. Update from the Fire Brigade
5. Anti-Social Behaviour Unit Update
6. Crime and Disorder Co-ordination Update
 - 6,1 Designated Public Places Order
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

16 January 2009

MINUTES OF THE MEETING



The meeting commenced at 10.00 a.m. in Owton Rossmere Resource Centre, Hartlepool

PRESENT:

Councillor Steve Gibbon	- Fens Ward
Councillor Cath Hill	- Seaton Ward
Councillor Alison Lilley	- Fens Ward
Councillor Geoff Lilley	- Greatham Ward
Councillor Ann Marshall	- Rossmere Ward
Councillor Michael Turner	- Seaton Ward

Resident Representatives: Mary Green, Rosemarie Kennedy and Michael Ward

Residents: Dorothy Clark, Donna Hotham, S Kell and H Oxley

Officers: David Frame, Neighbourhood Manager
Sally Forth, Anti-Social Behaviour Co-ordinator
Peter Gouldsbro, Community Safety Officer
Sue McBride, Neighbourhood Development Officer (South)
Sue Grey, Anti-Social Behaviour Officer
Jo Wilson, Democratic Services Officer

Cleveland Police Representatives: Chief Inspector Veitch, Inspector Green, Sergeant Dawber, Sergeant Howarth, PCSO Adair, PCSO Barron, PCSO Dobson and PCSO Widdowfield.

Cleveland Fire and Rescue Representative: Stuart Simpson

Housing Hartlepool Representative: Andy Elvidge

9. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR

In the absence of the Chair and Vice-Chair Councillor Geoff Lilley was appointed to chair the meeting.

10. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Johnson, Wistow and Young and Resident Representative Iris Ryder.

11. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 12 September 2008 were agreed as an accurate record.

12. MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising

13. UPDATE FROM THE POLICE

Inspector Green gave a brief update on recorded crime figures for Hartlepool district and the South area September – December 2008. These showed a decrease in the number of total incidents in the South and Hartlepool district as a whole when compared with the same period in 2007. In terms of individual offences in the South there had been a drop in violence, burglary, criminal damage and anti-social behaviour in the South area 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 formulation 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 ongoing action to curb anti-social behaviour at St Patrick's

Shops, the issuing of a drugs warrant in Seaton Carew, 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:

Call Centre concerns – Resident Donna Hotham commended the officers based at Jutland Road. However she asked that those answering the call centre telephones show more compassion and understanding toward callers who sometimes found it difficult to ring in. The Inspector thanked her for her comments. The control room was always busy but current practices could be reassessed.

Jutland Road – Councillor Ann Marshall queried whether the rumours she had heard regarding the possible closure of the Jutland Road office were correct. Chief Inspector Veitch advised that plans to introduce a Neighbourhood 'hub' into the South area were being considered. This had been piloted in the Central area and had led to the closure of the Church Street office as all the services had been concentrated in York Road. This had been shown to improve the level of service given to the public and would therefore be replicated in the North and South. Closure of Jutland Road was one of the options being considered but no definite decisions would be made until the public had been fully consulted. The Chair stressed the need for all the options to be considered prior to any decision, suggesting this be brought back to the Forum for their comments. The Neighbourhood Manager advised that this would be done at the appropriate time.

Councillor Steve Gibbon went on to praise the Jutland Road officers for their work with the Council and Housing Hartlepool in combating problems in the

Spalding area of the Fens. Chief Inspector Veitch commented that such good news stories reinforced the positive aspects of a central hub in the South area.

Resident Dorothy Clark raised concerns as to whether the closure of Jutland Road office would affect policing in Greatham Village. Chief Inspector Veitch advised that any future possible closure of Jutland Road would have no negative impact on Greatham whatsoever and the introduction of a hub would improve the level of service.

The Chair commented that the possible closure of Jutland Road had clearly caused concern at the Forum and requested the matter be considered by the Forum at the appropriate time and well before any final decision was made.

Alcohol abuse – Resident Representative Mary Green called for the administration of more random roadside breath tests on drivers. Inspector Green advised that random tests were carried out while the Chair indicated that drivers of Stagecoach vehicles were regularly breathalysed.

Anti-Social Behaviour – Councillor Alison Lilley commended officers on their work at St Patrick's Shops and asked that anti-social behaviour orders be distributed at the Fens Shops where appropriate.

Recording of incidents – Councillor Alison Lilley raised concerns at the recording of incidents reported to the police, saying if incidents were not properly recorded then figures could be misleading. Chief Inspector Veitch reported that the Neighbourhood Policing number (235811) should not be used for the reporting of ongoing incidents as these would not be recorded. This number was purely to pass information on to Neighbourhood Officers. Members of

the public wishing to report crimes or suspected crimes in progress should telephone 999 or 01642 326326. However the Chair commented that sometimes people felt better speaking to someone they knew such as their local Neighbourhood Officer.

Police desk in schools – Chief Inspector Veitch confirmed that the initial roll-out of this initiative would cover primary schools.

The Chair thanked Chief Inspector Veitch and Inspector Green for attending the Forum and answering questions.

14. NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Sergeant Chris Dawber and Resident Dorothy Clark 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.

Resident Representative Michael Ward commented that he had thought Ringmaster had replaced Neighbourhood Watch. As this was not the case a dual promotion of the two might be of benefit. A discussion ensued on the subject of contact numbers for the police and the ways in which the public were made aware of them. It was noted that posters were on display in local shops and neighbourhood police officers had business cards which it was suggested could be made available in Hartbeat magazine. Other suggestions included a sticker which could be fixed to the telephone and a fridge magnet similar to those giving information on refuse collection dates.

The Chair thanked Sergeant Dawber and Mrs Clark for attending the meeting and answering questions.

15. 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 October-December 2008 compared to the previous year. There had been a marked decrease in all types of fire with the number of refuse fires and bonfires over the bonfire period also down on the previous year.

Councillor Mike Turner requested an update on the industrial estate. The Fire and Rescue Representative advised that the Environment Agency had become involved following threats made to the Fire Station Manager. Since their involvement there had been no fires on the estate.

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

16. ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR PERSPECTIVE

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, rowdy behaviour and drug offences. A number of measures were used to deal with these with the vast majority resolved through a general warning letter. 51 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.

The following points were then raised:-

Disparity between figures for Owton and Fens – Councillor Steve Gibbon asked whether the low number of cases in the Owton Ward was at the expense of cases in the Fens Ward. Was it possible that problems in Owton had been moved to the Fens? The Anti-Social Behaviour Officer denied that this was the case however the Anti-Social Behaviour Co-ordinator would investigate.

Seaton Carew – Councillor Cath Hill asked that it be noted that figures for Seaton Carew were so high because Hartlepool residents tended to gravitate there to drink. She was pleased to see a push toward intergenerational tolerance, commenting that a majority of anti-social behaviour orders were served on adults.

17. HBC COMMUNITY CCTV OPERATION

This item deferred to a future meeting.

17. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no public questions

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

Greatham/Fens – Councillor Alison Lilley requested an update on the request to install CCTV along the road leading from Greatham Village to the Fens Ward. The Community Safety Officer advised that a report on this issue would be finalised by

the end of January. Fens cameras were scheduled for refurbishment in the next two months.

The Chair thanked everyone for attending, commenting that by working together any problems could be addressed. He reiterated his request that the Forum be fully involved in the consultation into the future of Jutland Road Police Station.

The meeting concluded at 11.50 am