

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

**in**

**Committee Room B,  
Civic Centre, York Road,  
Hartlepool**

**on**

**Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> 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 15<sup>th</sup> 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**

Burn Valley  
Elwick  
Foggy Furze  
Grange  
Park  
Rift House  
Stranton

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

**15 January 2009**

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING**



The meeting commenced at 10.00 a.m. in the Civic Centre, Hartlepool

**PRESENT:**

Chair: Resident Representative Evelyn Leck

Councillor Jonathan Brash	- Burn Valley Ward
Councillor Pauline Laffey	- Park Ward
Councillor Dr George Morris	- Park Ward
Councillor Carl Richardson	- Grange Ward
Councillor Christopher Simmons	- Grange Ward

**Resident Representatives:**

Liz Carroll, Bob Farrow, Ted Jackson, Alan Lloyd, Brenda Loynes and Brian McBean.

**Residents:**

Clive Hall, G Harrison, Gordon Johnson, Sarah Maness, Julie Rudge, M Thuburn, Ray Waller

**Council Officers:**

Sally Forth, Anti-Social Behaviour Co-ordinator  
Peter Gouldsbro, Community Safety Officer  
Clare Clark, Neighbourhood Manager (Central)  
Irene Cross, Neighbourhood Development Officer (Central)  
Jean Shenava, Anti-Social Behaviour Officer  
Alison Carberry, Anti-Social Behaviour Officer/Environmental Warden  
Sarah Bird, Democratic Services Officer

Police Representatives: Chief Inspector Phil Veitch, Inspector Tony Green, Sergeant Chris Dawber, Sergeant Dave Halliday

Fire Brigade Representative: Stuart Simpson

Housing Hartlepool Representative: Libby Griffiths

**36. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION**

The Chair, Resident Representative Evelyn Leck welcomed residents, Councillors and Officers.

**37. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Aiken, Akers Belcher, Hall, Kaiser, London, Shaw, Sutheran

and Tumilty as well as Resident Representatives Christopher Akers Belcher, Bob Farrow and Jean Kennedy.

### 38. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 11 September 2008 were confirmed as an accurate record.

### 39. MATTERS ARISING

**Call Response Times** – Councillor Carl Richardson referred to a 100 minute response time for a call another Member had placed and said that no explanation had been given to the Member for this. Inspector Green apologised for the delay in response time.

**Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) on Burbank Estate** – Resident Clive Hall stated that there was now a key available for the office which controlled the CCTV equipment.

**Police Officer in Stranton/Burbank Area** – Resident Clive Hall asked whether the vacant post was likely to be filled. Inspector Green stated that the Officer was on long term sickness and the post could not be filled but a Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) had been placed in the area to alleviate the situation.

**Ward Jackson Party in the Park** – Resident Representative Elizabeth Carroll stated that she had had no response as to whether the correct procedures had been followed by organisers prior to the event and was aware that a number of residents had informed police that there was underage drinking at this event. Inspector Green said that he would liaise with Chief Inspector Williams and respond to Mrs Carroll.

### 40. UPDATE FROM POLICE

Inspector Green updated the Forum with regard to crime and performance figures for the District for the period September to December 2008 and compared these to the corresponding period in 2007. He informed the meeting that the overall trend for crime in the District was down by 2.13%. He stated that Officers were working hard to continue this downward trend and although there was a current surge in criminal damage, strategies had been put into place to combat this and violent crime was down. Figures for the Central area had shown an increase in crime of 5.36% for the period September to December 2008 as opposed to the previous year. He stated that the Police were working closely with the Anti-Social Behaviour Unit (ASBU), the Neighbourhood Manager and Councillors to reverse that trend.

Inspector Green highlighted the change in shift patterns which ensured that all officers were on duty at key times e.g. Friday nights. He informed the Forum of an initiative where PCSOs travelled on school buses on key dates in an attempt to stem any ASB. He reminded the Forum of the current policy where underage youths suspected of drinking alcohol were returned to parents and were breathalysed if necessary. He spoke of an initiative in another Force which provided a place of safety for youths whose parents were unavailable and said that it was hoped to provide such a venue eventually in Hartlepool. He stated that the current policy was such that if AS13 forms for ASB were issued to youths, then an officer would make a follow up visit within a couple of days. He reminded the Forum that the Church Street Office was now closed with the Central Area Office being located in York Road. He stated that the three Neighbourhood Policing vacancies had now been filled but those officers had not

yet been released from their current duties. A new initiative was Crime Mapping whereby residents could visit the Cleveland Police website and find out current trends in their locality. He also alluded to the Crimestompers initiative and stated that there was now a police desk in St John Vianney's School, a scheme it was hoped to introduce in all schools in the town.

The following issues were then raised:-

**Cycling on footpaths** - Councillor Chris Simmons highlighted this issue. Inspector Green said that this would be followed up by Sgt Halliday and he would liaise with the Hartlepool Mail to try to obtain some publicity regarding this.

**Londis Shop, Raby Road** - Resident Ray Waller thanked the residents of Cameron Road, Fumess Street and Belk for their zeal in relation to the campaign to limit the alcohol licence for this shop which had been assisted by the Police. The Neighbourhood Manager agreed to send a letter of thanks to the residents association on behalf of the Forum.

**Dent Street** - Resident Julie Rudge thanked Officers and PCSOs on behalf of the residents of Dent Street for their work in improving the lives of residents and also those residents who had provided information to the police to resolve problems in the street.

**Policing Pledge** - Resident Representative Brian McBean said that he was pleased that Cleveland Police had signed up to the National Pledge but asked how this would be implemented. Chief Inspector Veitch stated that the Assistant Chief Constable was currently assessing Cleveland Police's procedures in order to meet the requirements of the Pledge.

**Park Ward Officer** - Councillor George Morris asked what had happened to the designated Officer for Park Ward, PC Jim Blackwell and was informed that he had been moved and that a different Officer was now assigned to that Ward. Resident Representative Liz Carroll informed the meeting that PCSO Cathy Jones had contacted her to enable the new Officer to be introduced at the next residents' meeting.

**Meadowgate Drive** - Councillor Pauline Laffey highlighted a problem with gangs of young people indulging in ASB in this area. She was asked to liaise with Sgt Halliday regarding this. The ASB Officer stated that the office was already aware of problems in this area.

**Murray Street** - Councillor Chris Simmons referred to a problem in Murray Street which he said had been dealt with by Officers.

**Communication with Residents** - Councillor Jonathan Brash expressed the importance of police officers communicating with the public and said he believed that this was taking place and that officers were popular with residents.

#### 41. NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Resident Representative Evelyn Leck outlined the benefits of residents joining their local Neighbourhood Watch Scheme. She suggested that signage be re-placed in streets in an attempt to deter crime and that security devices could be sold to members of the scheme at a subsidised cost. A further suggestion was that a message be sent out on the Ringmaster Scheme, informing residents who their local Officers were.

Sgt Dawber re-inforced the benefits of the Scheme and said that recent research in a London Borough had stated that

membership of the scheme had shown a 76% in fear of crime.

**Voice Messaging** - Resident Ray Waller informed Sgt Dawber that a number of elderly females had stated that the voice used to send messages, sounded threatening and Sgt Dawber said that he would look into this.

#### **42. UPDATE FROM CLEVELAND FIRE BRIGADE**

Cleveland Fire and Rescue representative Stuart Simpson outlined the figures for fires in the October to December 2008 period in comparison with the same period the previous year, both town wide and specifically for the Central area.

He stated that the Brigade was working closely with Housing Hartlepool and local colleges giving fire safety advice. He stated that during the period around Bonfire night the Brigade had worked closely with the police and Local Authority. He stated that items had been collected promptly by the Authority so that there was less rubbish to burn. He stated that there had been a significant reduction in the number of bonfire and refuse fires over that period and thanked partners for their involvement.

He informed the Forum that there was to be a new build programme for the Headland, Stranton and Headquarters and it was suggested by the Chair that this could be the subject of a future presentation.

The following issue was then raised:-

**Regional Fire Control Centre** – Resident Ray Waller queried why this had been empty on 1 January 2009 and was not operational at that time. Stuart Simpson stated that the build was behind schedule but there were a number of

people working there. He agreed to provide a more in depth answer for Mr Waller.

#### **43. UPDATE FROM ASBU**

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, into types of anti-social behaviour and where referrals were from as well as actions taken on referrals. She outlined the introduction of a victim and witness award scheme and the introduction of Straightline, an award winning alcohol intervention programme aimed at young people. She stated that the introduction of Personal Digital Assistants (PDAs), should enable faster and more detailed information to be available. She also highlighted details of the youth crime action plan such as the Stay Safe, Ride and Hide schemes to deal with low level ASB. She stated that the Family Interventions Project (FIP) was linked to the primary school teams and access gained to secondary school pupils via the Connexions team.

The following points were then raised:-

**Good Tenants Scheme** - Resident Julie Rudge asked how many landlords had signed up to the scheme and was informed that the way the system was set up, the approach was made by potential tenants rather than landlords so it would be difficult to glean this information but attempts would be made to do so.

**Schools Initiative** – Councillor George Morris stated that he welcomed the initiatives taking place with schools.

#### 44. HARTLEPOOL BOROUGH COUNCIL COMMUNITY CCTV OPERATION

The Community Safety Officer gave a presentation dispelling some of the myths about CCTV and looked at the types of camera and their reliability. There were 80 cameras in Hartlepool and any images captured on them were kept for 28 days unless required for a criminal or civil investigation.

The Forum was advised that the Community Monitoring Centre operates on a continuous basis 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.

He explained that there had recently been a Council Scrutiny investigation into CCTV which in turn had led to a review of the locations of CCTV sites in the town and the adoption of a CCTV strategy.

#### 45. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

**Drug Dealing** – Resident Clive Hall expressed concern about a resident who was dealing drugs. He was advised to give details to the Neighbourhood Manager and Sgt Halliday.

#### 46. ISSUES RAISED BY COUNCILLORS AND RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVES

**Elwick Road** - Resident Representative Liz Carroll highlighted safety issues with regard to part of the path in Elwick Road.

The Neighbourhood Manager agreed to look into this.

**Crime Statistics** – Councillor Richardson asked whether crime figures could be made available on a Ward basis. Chief Inspector Veitch highlighted the Crime Mapping system on the Cleveland Police website which could be accessed by pressing the Neighbourhood Policing icon and then putting in details of the relevant Ward.

The Chair thanked all those who had attended the meeting for their input.

The meeting concluded at 12.05 pm.

CHAIR