

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

at

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

on

**Friday 7<sup>th</sup> August, 2009  
commencing at 2.00 pm**

## **A G E N D A**

1. Apologies for absence
2. MINUTES
  - (a) To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> March 2009
  - (b) Matters arising.
3. Update from the Police
4. Update from the Fire Brigade
  - 4.1 'Whatever It Takes' Initiative
5. Anti-Social Behaviour Unit Update
6. Crime and Disorder Co-ordination Update
7. Foundation Status Consultation – presentation by the North East Ambulance Trust
8. Public Question Time
9. Any issues to be raised by Councillors and Resident Representatives
10. Any Other Business Agreed by the Chair

**WARDS**

Fens  
Greatham  
Owton  
Rossmere  
Seaton

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

**13<sup>th</sup> March 2009**

***MINUTES OF THE MEETING***



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

**PRESENT:**

Chair: Iris Ryder (Resident Representative)

Councillor Bob Flintoff	- Owton 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, H Oxley and J Smith

Officers: David Frame, Neighbourhood Manager  
David Mitchell, Neighbourhood Co-ordinator  
Sally Forth, Anti-Social Behaviour Co-ordinator  
Julie Hetherington, Community Safety Assistant  
Jo Wilson, Democratic Services Officer

Cleveland Police Representatives: Inspector Brown, Inspector Green, Sergeant Dawber, Sergeant Howarth, Sergeant Mansell, PC Longstaff and PC Myers

Housing Hartlepool Representative: Libby Griffiths

Prior to the commencement of the main business, Councillor Jonathan Brash referred in terms of regret to the recent death of Councillor Michael Johnson, formerly Chair of the South Neighbourhood Consultative Forum. Councillor Brash paid tribute to his qualities as a Councillor and as a friend and those present stood in silence as a mark of respect.

## 19. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Shaun Cook, Steve Gibbon, Cath Hill, Marjorie James and David Young and Resident Representative Ray Harriman.

## 20. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 16 January 2009 were agreed as an accurate record.

## 21. MATTERS ARISING

**Jutland Road** – Councillor Ann Marshall requested an update on the possible closure of the Jutland Road Police Station. Inspector Brown advised that the decision had yet to be made however there would be a public consultation on the matter before any decision was made. Councillor Ann Marshall reiterated her previous comments that the office should not close while Councillor Geoff Lilley asked that a message be sent back to those evaluating the possible closure that members wished to make a more formal representation. Inspector Brown to feed the views of the Forum back.

**Alcohol abuse** – Resident Representative Mary Green advised that her reference to more random roadside breath tests on drivers at the previous meeting had stemmed from concern at the number of people drinking all day and then driving vehicles. She had witnessed cars being driven in an erratic manner during daylight hours, presumably as a result of alcohol or cannabis usage and asked that police bring the timing of their breathalyser tests up to date in line with this. Inspector Brown referred to ongoing initiatives in this area.

**Anti-Social Behaviour** – Councillor Alison Lilley clarified that she had

previously stated that both St Patrick's shops and the Fens shops would be affected. She thanked the police for their efforts.

## 22. NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING UPDATE

The North and South Neighbourhood Inspector, Mick Brown, provided an overview of crime in the South area of Hartlepool. Most categories of crime were on a downward trend apart from vehicle crime and robbery. There had been 1096 arrests with 906 having a positive outcome. He also referred to recent success stories involving drugs, mounted branch and Operation Smash whereby areas known to have regular occurrence of criminal damage were targeted by police. Other initiatives were highlighted including the provision of a palm pilot to all officers and plans to install a police desk in every Hartlepool school.

The following issues were then raised:

**Police in schools** – Councillor Ann Marshall praised the police but queried whether plans to have a police presence in every school would impact their ability to police the streets. Inspector Brown advised that they intended to provide a proportionate presence in schools rather than permanent. However he expected their presence to help alleviate problems which would otherwise have been dealt with by officers on the beat,

**Mowbray Road** – Councillor Alison Lilley thanked the police for the recent police car presence in Mowbray Road as drivers were now slowing down automatically.

**Stamford Walk** – Councillor Alison Lilley thanked the police for removing alcohol from young people the previous week.

**Fens Shops** – Councillor Alison Lilley praised officers for a recent public relations exercise involving mounted police at the shopping parade. Inspector Brown thanked her for her kind comments saying that constant criticism tended to demoralise officers.

**Manor Residents Association** – Resident Representative Mary Green referred to a forthcoming project involving young people, the details of which she would bring to a future meeting.

**CCTV** – Councillor Geoff Lilley reported ongoing problems with gangs of young people coming into Greatham Village and asked if small CCTV cameras could be installed at key points in the village. Inspector Brown acknowledged these concerns but felt that public reassurance was better served by foot patrols. Officers attended Greatham woods every day but response had to be proportionate.

**Maxwell Court** – Councillor Bob Flintoff requested an update on demolition plans. The Neighbourhood Manager advised it would commence the first week in April. Resident Donna Hotham asked for assurances that the adjoining wall would be demolished also.

**Anti-social behaviour in Greatham** – Resident Dorothy Clark reported a number of incidents in Greatham including the setting off of fire extinguishers, the vandalism of windows at the Greatham Estate Office and stolen bins being taken to the woods and set on fire. Sergeant Mansell indicated that he was unaware that there had been any thefts of bins but assured Mrs Clark that officers patrolled Greatham woods every day at varying times. Inspector Brown asked that Mrs Clark give any information she had to officers after the meeting. The Neighbourhood Manager reminded residents of the need to report incidents of this kind to the police rather than

waiting for Neighbourhood Forum meetings. He asked that information relating to bin thefts be forwarded to the Neighbourhood Services Department so they could be replaced as soon as possible.

**Sappers Corner** – Councillor Alison Lilley asked if any progress had been made on requests for CCTV at Sappers Corner. The Neighbourhood Manager advised that an update was expected from the Community Safety Officer imminently.

**Seaton Carew** – The Chair asked for an increased police presence as the area was becoming a magnet for youths. Inspector Brown highlighted the police's limited resources but advised that they did try to address public concerns. PCSOs regularly attended the area and would bring youths engaging in anti-social behaviour away on buses. Inspector Brown would provide a fuller update on police activity in Seaton Carew at the next meeting.

The Chair thanked Inspector Brown for attending the meeting and answering questions.

### 23. UPDATE FROM THE FIRE BRIGADE

The Neighbourhood Manager advised that nobody from the fire brigade was in attendance. However details of figures for fires in the District and specifically for the South area for January-February 2009 compared to the previous year were available for those present. If anyone had any queries for Fire Brigade representatives they should contact the Neighbourhood Manager who would pass them on to the appropriate person.

## 24. ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR UNIT UPDATE

The Antisocial Behaviour Co-ordinator gave details of recent activity in the unit and a breakdown of where cases were occurring, what category of complains were dealt with, broken down into wards and outcomes of referrals. Owton Ward had had the most AS13 forms. She referred to successes with the good tenant scheme, work with partners on Operation Staysafe and the development of links with the Assertive Outreach team, Middleton Grange security and the hospital.

The following issues were then raised:

**Fens Estate** – Councillor Geoff Lilley asked if Outreach Youth Workers were still operating in this area. The Community Safety Assistant advised that they were still attending one or two nights a week, the Neighbourhood Manager to feedback the results to the Forum at a later date.

**Operation Staysafe** – Councillor Ann Marshall queried whether alcohol was the only trigger for young people to be removed to the place of safety or whether drugs may not also be involved. The ASB Co-ordinator responded that the trigger was whether the police officer considered the young person to be at risk of significant harm. An assessment of the needs of the child was made once they reached the place of safety and referrals to relevant services be they alcohol or drug related would be made.

**AS13 school notification** – Resident Donna Hotham praised Anti-Social Behaviour Officers for their good work but felt advising schools of AS13 forms distributed was a waste of time as anti-social youngsters would often not attend. The Anti-Social Behaviour Co-ordinator

indicated that this was only one of many avenues they would explore.

**Youth Service** – Councillor Mike Turner highlighted the large number of youth referrals and asked if a representative from the Youth Service could be invited to a future meeting to outline their work in the South area.

**Car crime** – The Chair highlighted a recent spate of car break-ins in Seaton Carew. A Police representative expanded on this saying 10-year-old Vauxhall Corsas and Astras were being targeted. Residents had been advised of this.

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

## 25. DESIGNATED PUBLIC PLACES ORDER

Sergeant Chris Dawber gave a presentation outlining the designated public places orders which were due to come into force shortly. These would assist officers in intervening with anyone suspected of having drunk alcohol and about to commit any antisocial behaviour. Hartlepool was the only district in Cleveland to utilise these orders and maps of the affected areas were displayed at the meeting. Sergeant Dawber urged residents to let officers know about any problem areas so these could be included in future orders.

The Chair thanked Sergeant Dawber for attending the meeting.

## 26. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no public questions

<p><b>27. ANY ISSUES TO BE RAISED BY COUNCILLORS AND RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVES</b></p>
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**Litter at Fens Shops** – Councillor Geoff Lilley asked if the Council's litter enforcement team could look at this area given the significant problems with litter. If fines were issued people would be less likely to offend. The Neighbourhood Manager acknowledged the problems but there were limited resources. Inspector Brown advised that positive action would be taken and publicised to maximise the impact. Resident Dorothy Clark referred to her previous suggestion that signage indicating the number of fines for dog fouling and letter be erected and asked if this had been progressed. The Environmental Action Manager was investigating this. Resident Donna Hotham suggested people dropping litter should be not fined but rather made to take part in organised litter-picks. Sergeant Dawber advised that the Youth Offending Team had similar initiatives involving juveniles.

**Dog fouling** – Councillor Geoff Lilley commented that this was particularly bad on the road leading to Greatham School. The Neighbourhood Manager said officers tried to address the problem but the issue was dog owners. The Council and Police would work together to resolve these problems. The Chair requested a dog fouling bin be situated near the Middleton Grange Shopping Centre. The Neighbourhood Manager and Chair to discuss specific locations.

**Rossmere Way** – Resident Representative Rosemarie Kennedy highlighted a problem with speeding cars and a lack of police presence. The Neighbourhood Manager confirmed this area had been identified as a problem however the speed survey had brought back borderline results. The Head of

Community Safety and Prevention was looking at actioning enforcement.

**Pony and traps** – Councillor Mike Turner indicated damage was being caused to the grass and pedestrian areas at Seaton Carew front and queried who was responsible for enforcement. Inspector Brown was unsure but felt as it was a public safety issue it was probably a police responsibility. However there was no appropriate legislation in place. Councillor Turner suggest riding clubs be approached for assistance. Councillor Alison Lilley commented on the danger of horses being ridden at high speed along the beach. Inspector Brown reported that there was a byelaw relating to this issue but it was physically difficult to enforce.

**Jutland Road Police Station** – Councillor Mike Turner was pleased to note that workers based in the Jutland Road station would be consulted on future plans. He hoped their comments would be given substantial weight when any decisions were being made.

The meeting concluded at 11.40 am