

NORTH AREA POLICE AND COMMUNITY SAFETY CONSULTATIVE FORUM

At

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

on

**Wednesday 11 November, 2009
commencing at 10.00 am**

A G E N D A

1. Apologies for absence
2. MINUTES
 - 2.1 To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 5 August 2009
 - 2.2 Matters arising.
3. Update from the Police
4. Update from the Fire Brigade
5. Anti-Social Behaviour Unit Update
6. Crime and Disorder Co-ordination Update
 - 6.1 Operation Obstruction Awareness - *Parking Services Manager*
 - 6.2 Cleveland Criminal Justice Board
7. Public Question Time
8. Any issues to be raised by Councillors and Resident Representatives
9. Any Other Business Agreed by the Chair

WARDS

Brus
Dyke House
Hart
St Hilda
Throston

***NORTH POLICE &
COMMUNITY SAFETY
CONSULTATIVE FORUM***

5 August 2009

MINUTES OF THE MEETING



The meeting commenced at 2.00 pm in Throston Grange Community Centre,
Glamorgan Grove, Hartlepool

PRESENT:

Chair: Councillor Mary Fleet – Dyke House Ward

Vice Chair: Resident Representative Linda Shields

Councillor Reuben Atkinson	- Dyke House Ward
Councillor Caroline Barker	- Hart Ward
Councillor Rob Cook	Hart Ward
Councillor Sheila Griffin	- Brus Ward
Councillor John Marshall	- St Hilda Ward
Councillor Edna Wright	- Hart Ward

Resident Representatives:

John Cambridge, John Lynch and Mary Power

Residents: Liam Gouldbum, M Shaw, Elizabeth Torley, Alan Vale, Maureen Waller and Dennis Wilson

Officers: Brian Neale, Crime and Disorder Co-ordinator
Nicholas Stone, Senior Anti-Social Behaviour Officer
Katie Sheehan, Anti-Social Behaviour Officer
Sarah Bird, Democratic Services Officer

Cleveland Police : Acting Chief Inspector Mick Brown, Sergeant Tim Brown,
Police Constable Andy Plant, Police Constable Ian Walker and
Police Community Support Officer Alan Wildsmith

Cleveland Fire Brigade : Peter Bradley

Housing Hartlepool : Natalie Gooding

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

The Chair Councillor Mary Fleet welcomed residents, Councillors and Officers.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Michelle Plant.

3. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 11 MARCH 2009

The minutes were accepted as an accurate record with the addition of apologies to be recorded from Councillors Barker and Wright and resident representatives John Lynch and Mary Power.

4. MATTERS ARISING

Grey Street – A resident asked what action was ongoing in that area and was informed that measures were currently taking place to try and alleviate the drugs activity there including closure of crack house, the use of Officers on pedal cycles to follow suspects, and plain clothes operations.

Spion Cop – A resident asked about CCTV coverage on Old Cemetery Road but was informed that there was currently no update on this.

Leighton Terrace – A Member highlighted continual problems in this area and pointed out conflicting evidence regarding the number of incidents in the area. She repeated that the play area should be covered by CCTV. Acting Chief Inspector Brown agreed that there was a problem with Anti-Social Behaviour and Criminal Damage in the area and the

FAST team had ongoing diversionary activities planned.

Sea Coaling – A resident highlighted the issue of sea coalers using vehicles on the beach at the Headland and referred to a report in the Hartlepool Mail. Sergeant Brown informed the meeting that enquiries revealed that although the vehicles were old, they were not considered unroadworthy. A joint operation was planned with Trading Standards. A resident also highlighted a further issue whereby sea coaling vehicles had tipped rubbish onto the beach in the vicinity of Thorpe Street. Officers agreed to look into this.

King Oswy Shops – A Resident Representative highlighted problems with youths in this area and was informed that there was a multi-agency approach to this. Acting Chief Inspector Brown informed the meeting that there was now an extra member of Police Staff in the CCTV control centre to assist.

5. UPDATE FROM THE POLICE

Acting Chief Inspector Brown provided an overview of crime in the Cleveland Force and also North area of Hartlepool. Force-wide figures were down for House Burglaries, Violent Crime, Criminal Damage, Vehicle Crime and Drugs activity had risen. The numbers of arrests, cautions, charges, warrants, AS13s and Street encounters in the North area of the town were also given. Members asked that instead of percentage figures, actual figures be brought in future. A Member commented that because of the downward trend in crime she no longer feared going out at night.

Members were reminded of a recent invitation by Superintendent Summerbell

for them to visit the newly refurbished Police Office.

A resident representative asked about figures for arson and was told that he could be updated after the meeting. A resident asked whether residents could be informed when prolific criminals had been remanded in order to allay their fears. Acting Chief Inspector Brown said that this was not possible, but reassured her that if a criminal was released on licence, a visit to their address would be made by Officers.

A Member queried the rise in drug crime and was informed of the measures being taken to educate school children about the dangers. An holistic multi-agency approach was being taken.

A resident highlighted problems with vehicles parking on pavements especially in the Holdforth Road area and quoted from the Highway Code. He was informed that the Ward Officer would make contact but it was the Local Authority who issued tickets if vehicles park on double yellow lines, although Police could issue tickets if a vehicle was causing an obstruction.

The meeting was informed that further monthly updates would be provided at local community meetings. Ward surgeries were to be held monthly and these would be advertised in the local press as well as posters in venues. It was suggested that these could be advertised via the Ringmaster system. A resident referred to Neighbourhood Action Plan meetings which had been attended previously by Police and asked that Police resume attendance at these meetings as they had been very helpful.

A Member referred to fly tipping on the beach by sea coalers and said that the Environment Agency and Natural England had been informed but that Police should get involved in this too.

Sergeant Tim Brown and Police Constable Andy Plant were introduced to the meeting, having recently been appointed to the North Neighbourhood Policing Team.

6. UPDATE FROM THE FIRE BRIGADE

Peter Bradley gave details of the number of incidents in the North Area of the town. There were two hotspots, namely the Brus and the Headland. Most fires occurred between 7.00 pm and midnight. There had been an increase in deliberate F3 fires but a leaflet drop had been done to inform residents of the dangers of household rubbish.

A Member referred to recent flooding in Thorpe Street and asked whether this would prevent Emergency Services from accessing the Headland area. He was informed that emergency vehicles would be able to get through.

A Member referred to fires at the Steetley site as well as others on Tees Road and was informed that the Steetley site was more costly to resource because of the sheer number of incidents. There were 48 waste sites in Hartlepool and a multi agency approach was being taken to educate the owners of the hazards.

A Member asked whether there would be a disruption to services when the new fire station was built and was informed that it was hoped that this would be minimal.

7. ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR UNIT UPDATE

The Senior Anti-Social Behaviour Officer outlined to the meeting, where the bulk of Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) occurred in the North Area of the town. This included

incidents which were monitored by Housing Hartlepool as well as the Authority's Anti-Social Behaviour Unit. Members were given a break down of types of incidents that had occurred, the main complaints being about noise and vandalism or damage to property.

The Senior Anti-Social Behaviour Officer stated that work was being focussed on Anti-Social Behaviour Orders (ASBOs) for adults. The number of juvenile ASBO had reduced from previous years and numbers of young people ending up in court had reduced by 17%.

Details were given of Acceptable Behaviour Agreements and Parenting Contracts and Orders comparative to neighbouring Authorities as well as people's perception of the problem of ASB.

Details of Assertive Outreach efforts to divert young people from ASB were given and it was hoped to get Youth Crime Action Plan (YCAP) funding to put on further activities at weekends. Young people in possession of alcohol were diverted to the Straightline project. It was clarified that there was enough money to mount an Operation Staysafe each month.

There were 35 ASBOs currently across the town and it had been proven that when an ASBO was in place, the holder reduced ASB by 85%.

A Member stated that there had been a reduction in youth centres over the last few years. The Senior ASB officer stated that Hartlepool has a good youth services and there was lots of spending on young people across the town, particularly with the Youth Crime Action Plan.

A resident representative asked about the Dordrecht Scheme and was informed that

this could be discussed at the next meeting.

A Member asked why there were more Parenting Contracts in place in other authorities and was informed that the use of Acceptable Behaviour Agreements appeared to tackle the problem without having to resort to Parenting Contracts.

A Member asked what sort of response parents gave when their children had been stopped by Police for under-age drinking and was informed that they were very supportive of police action.

Acting Chief Inspector Brown stated that if there was an ASB incident involving a young person, then Officers would make a follow up visit to their home the next day.

8. CRIME AND DISORDER UPDATE

The Crime and Disorder Co-ordinator outlined how the Safer Hartlepool Partnership worked within the Local Authority with partners including the Police and Fire Authorities.

He outlined the team of staff working within the Safer Hartlepool Partnership team and the Ringmaster scheme.

9. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no issues raised.

10. ISSUES RAISED BY COUNCILLORS AND RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVES

Car Parking on Pavements – A Member referred again to this issue and was informed that the Highway Code is an advisory booklet and not law. The Member was informed that following the previous meeting, when problems in

Tempest Road had been highlighted, a leaflet drop had taken place to residents advising them that if vehicles were parked illegally they would be taken to court or have the vehicle towed away. Police were keen to do something about it, but sometimes the law was not clear.

Police Officers in Post – A Member queried how many officers were designated to Hart Ward as there were a number of crime hotspots in the area. She was informed that although there were only 2 members of staff, they had the support of other teams of officers should it be required. A further Officer was due to start in the North area on 10 September. PC Plant stated that although he had not been long in post he was keen to tackle crime in the area and had visited a number of residents' meetings.

Ward Surgeries – It was suggested that Ward Surgeries could be held at the same time and venue as Police ward surgeries.

The meeting concluded at 4.25 pm.

Chair