

**SOUTH AREA POLICE AND
COMMUNITY SAFETY
CONSULTATIVE FORUM**
in
**Jutland Road Community Centre,
Jutland Road, Hartlepool**
on
Friday 13 November 2009
commencing at 10.00 am

A G E N D A

1. Apologies for absence
2. MINUTES
 - (a) To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 7 August 2009
 - (b) 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 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

Fens
Greatham
Owton
Rossmere
Seaton

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

7th August 2009

MINUTES OF THE MEETING



The meeting commenced at 2.00 pm in the Owton Rossmere Resource Centre, Hartlepool

PRESENT:

Chair:	Councillor Ann Marshall	- Rossmere Ward
Vice-Chair	Iris Ryder (Resident Representative)	
	Councillor Christopher Akers-Belcher	
		- Rossmere Ward
	Councillor Steve Gibbon	- Fens Ward
	Councillor Marjorie James	- Owton Ward
	Councillor Alison Lilley	- Fens Ward
	Councillor Geoff Lilley	- Greatham Ward
	Councillor David Young	- Seaton Ward

Resident Representative: Mike Ward

Residents: Donna Hotham, Sybil Hotham, H Oxley and J Smith

Council Officers:

David Frame, Neighbourhood Manager (South)
Sally Forth, Anti-Social Behaviour Co-ordinator
Sue Grey, Anti Social Behaviour Officer
Sue McBride, Neighbourhood Development Officer (South)
Julie Hetherington, Community Safety Assistant
Jo Wilson, Democratic Services Officer

Police Representatives: Acting Chief Inspector Mick Brown, PCSO Marston

Fire Brigade Representatives: Peter Bradley and Tony Goodings

Housing Hartlepool Representative: Andy Elvidge

North East Ambulance Service Representatives: Colin Cessford and Sahdia Hassen

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors Bob Flintoff, Cath Hill, Arthur Preece and Mike Turner.

2. TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 13th MARCH 2009

The minutes were agreed as a true record.

3. MATTERS ARISING

The Chair requested an update on the possible closure of Jutland Road Police Station. Acting Chief Inspector Brown confirmed that the police station would not be closing, with plans afoot to expand into the building next door currently occupied by the Anti-Social Behaviour Unit. The Chair indicated she was pleased to hear the station would not be closing.

4. UPDATE FROM THE POLICE

Acting Chief Inspector Mick Brown updated the Forum with regard to crime and performance figures for the District for June 2009. All categories of crime had shown a decrease. The only exception was drugs which had increased by 92.9%. However he clarified this by explaining that this meant the number of drug arrests had increased, a positive occurrence. He went to give information on the number of arrests, cautions and street encounters in the South area over the last 3 months. Details were also given of operations which had been carried out in the Central area including Operations Tornado and Sunshine, the relaunching of ward surgeries and the increase in cycle patrols. Feedback was also given on issues raised at previous Forum meetings. The Acting Chief

Inspector urged those present to contact him with any issues via his email address (Michael.brown@cleveland.pnn.police.uk) He also highlighted the police website where details of crimes in specific areas were available.

The following issues were then raised:

Sharwood site – Councillor Geoff Lilley paid tribute to the work carried out by all the agencies on this site however he was concerned that the school holidays would lead to more anti-social behaviour. Acting Chief Inspector Brown advised that he was in charge of the response team and would ensure such issues were being dealt with. He referred to other anti-social hot spots currently being targeted by police including Seaton Coach Park and Greatham.

Visual audits – Councillor Marjorie James requested a change in the times for visual audits as current times did not allow those with jobs to attend. Acting Chief Inspector Brown indicated that anyone unable to attend a visual audit could walk the route with an officer who would then feedback their comments. However Councillor James felt this was entirely different from a visual audit and she was being denied the opportunity to properly represent her constituents. The Community Safety Assistant indicated that visual audits were always held on an afternoon and she would be happy to liaise with Councillor James to find a time more suitable for her when preparing next year's work schedule.

Ward surgeries – Councillors raised concerns that the police ward surgeries could be confused with Councillor Ward surgeries. Acting Chief Inspector Brown suggested that the police could change the name if this was a problem however Councillor Alison Lilley advised that she would prefer it to retain the name ward

surgery as the Fens Ward Councillors regularly shared their surgeries with the police and vice versa. Nevertheless Councillor Marjorie James felt that ward surgery implied an electoral relationship and the police should consider changing it as the name was unimportant. She was in full support of the concept.

Police response – The Vice-Chair queried what action one officer could take when called to attend a multi-person fight. Acting Chief Inspector Brown indicated that lone officers could usually ascertain if they needed back-up and in any case more officers would generally be on their own. There was also increased use of head cams and access to the police helicopter.

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

5. UPDATE FROM THE FIRE BRIGADE

Cleveland Fire and Rescue representative Peter Bradley gave a brief update on recent fires in the South Forum. There had been 66 fires, a favourable comparison with the other areas of the town. A large number had been the result of chip pan fires, therefore the ongoing campaign to persuade people to swap their chip pans for deep fat fryers was being increased. Police patrols would be increasing at Owton Manor M Block, Seaton Carew and Parkview Industrial Estate, all noted hot spots.

Seaton Meadows – The Vice-Chair advised that she had been contacted regarding a pall of black smoke over the site the previous evening. As the site was not supposed to be operational at night she questioned what had been happening. The Fire Brigade representative reported no calls of this nature the previous evening. In terms of

the nature of what was being tipped this was a matter for the Environment Agency. The Neighbourhood Manager would pass this information onto Public Protection. Acting Chief Inspector Brown also to note.

The Chair thanked the Fire Brigade representative for attending the meeting and answering questions.

6. 'WHATEVER IT TAKES' INITIATIVE

Cleveland Fire and Rescue Representative Tony Goodings advised those present of the forthcoming 'Whatever it takes' initiative, set to target Owton Ward. Four years previously a similar initiative had been undertaken in Merseyside. Over six weeks police had worked in partnership with agencies including the Anti-Social behaviour unit and Environment Agency on a housing estate with known anti-social problems. Cleveland Police had noted the success of this initiative and were keen to improve upon it. A pilot had taken place in Middlesbrough previously but owing to the size of the area it had taken over two years for the objectives to be achieved. By targeting Owton Ward only it was hoped this would be avoided.

Among the work to be undertaken by the fire brigade would be home safety and deep fat fryer initiatives and use of advocates for the elderly, young and disabled. There would also be an arson task force focusing on the area and youth engagement would be given priority. Officer details would be passed on to Forum members.

The Chair thanked the Fire and Rescue representative for attending the meeting.

7. ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR UNIT UPDATE

The Antisocial Behaviour Unit Co-ordinator gave details of recent activity in the unit including Partnership working, Assertive Outreach and Prevention schemes. Figures for 2007/8 showed a 20.9% perception that Hartlepool was an anti-social area to live in, compared with 22.5 % in Stockton and 26.9% in Middlesbrough. The perception that the majority of anti-social behaviour was carried out by young people was also demonstrated to be false as 76% of anti-social behaviour orders given in 2008/9 were for adults. Nevertheless various prevention measures were being taken to decrease the amount of juvenile anti-social behaviour including the placing of an officer from the Youth Offending Team in every school in Hartlepool for part of the week. This person would serve as a link to the Anti-Social Behaviour Unit. Details were also given of take-up of the Good Tenant Scheme and future challenges facing the Unit.

The following issues were then raised:

Tenancy – Councillor Geoff Lilley made reference to tenants in Greatham village who were causing problems with alcohol and loud music, querying what could be done about this. The Anti-Social Behaviour Co-ordinator advised that the first step would be to contact the landlord on this matter. Councillor Lilley felt the landlord had no interest beyond securing tenants for his property.

Hartlepool Mail – Resident Donna Hotham urged reporters to publicise the positive things about the area instead of constantly focusing on the negatives. The Neighbourhood Manager advised that this was a problem they were trying to address however crime and anti-social behaviour tended to be more newsworthy. Also if the public were not

prepared to talk to the press then good news stories would never be widely circulated.

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

8. CRIME AND DISORDER CO-ORDINATION UPDATE

There were no items raised.

9. FOUNDATION CONSULTATION STATUS

Colin Cessford, Director of Strategy and Clinical Standards at the North East Ambulance Service gave a brief presentation on the proposal to give the North East Ambulance Service foundation trust status later in the year. A 12-week consultation period was underway and was due to end on 28th August 2009. Details were given of the proposed governance arrangements, including the number of representatives per area that would be eligible to sit on the Council of Governors. Consultation feedback forms and Membership expression of interest application forms were provided for those present.

The following comments and suggestions were then raised by members, all would be fed back into the consultation by Mr Cessford:

Membership age limit – Councillor Marjorie James felt the proposed lower age limit of 12 was too young as being in a meeting with older people would intimidate a child of that age. She suggested that an under 18s group be set up which would have a couple of members on the main Board. Members of the Forum supported this suggestion saying that although they commended the

efforts at inclusion a separate young persons group would be more productive.

Unsuitable Members – Councillor Marjorie James sought assurances that people who had previously raised legitimate reasonable grievances would not be blacklisted.

Trust membership – Councillor Christopher Akers-Belcher queried how the number of 4,200 trust members had been arrived at. He was advised that the regulatory body had proposed this number.

Loss of services – Councillor Marjorie James sought assurances that the ambulance service based in Hartlepool would remain. Mr Cessford indicated that there were no plans to cut any services in the North-East. Staff numbers had been steadily increasing for the last seven years. Councillor Christopher Akers-Belcher highlighted concerns regarding the quality of the service versus financial considerations. Mr Cessford acknowledged these concerns, advising that the Board were working hard to ensure there were no gaps by learning from previous mistakes by other Trusts in the UK.

Wages – Resident Representative Mike Ward queried whether staff at a senior level wanted these changes as a way of earning more money for themselves. Meanwhile money would be taken away from the grass roots workers such as drivers and paramedics. Mr Cessford denied this was the case, saying there would be increased investment in front line staff.

Monitoring – The Vice-Chair queried who would keep a check on the monitoring process.

Board meetings – Councillor Marjorie James recommended these be rotated

around the region rather than be held in Newcastle. Not everyone in Hartlepool had access to a car and public transport would not be accessible for late meetings.

Staff and trade unions – Councillor Marjorie James asked whether the Trade Unions had been fully consulted. Mr Cessford advised that they had. Councillor Christopher Akers-Belcher commented that by automatically including all staff, unless they chose to opt out, the balance would be unfairly weighted in favour of the staff. Mr Cessford advised that staff would have representatives on the Board and this would be fairly balanced. Members proposed that separate presentations be given at Board meetings for staff recommendations and public recommendations. It was also suggested that as the proposed ratio would be 3/1 in favour of the public that the number of staff members increase in line with the public.

Area – The Vice-Chair highlighted the vastness of the area to be covered, commenting that she would have expected to see it split into North and South.

Scrutiny conflict of interest – Councillor Marjorie James, in her role as Chair of Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee, disputed this claim saying that scrutinising health was only one part of scrutiny in Hartlepool. She felt that by disallowing these members the rights of members of public were being denied, some of whom has experience in this field. However Mr Cessford still had concerns that they could be later asked to investigate decisions which they had previously been involved. Resident Representative Mike Ward felt that in those cases members should take no part in the decision.

District nursing – A Resident brought up a recent situation when she had requested a district nurse come out at night to her husband only to be told that nightly visits had been stopped. She asked if this was common knowledge and what actions had been taken to remedy the situation. Mr Cessford advised that this resource should still be available, even if it was not their regular nurse in attendance.

The Chair thanked Mr Cessford for attending the meeting and answering questions.

10. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Owton housing – A Resident referred to rumours regarding plans to rehouse ‘undesirables’ on Maxwell Road corner, despite being told these properties were to be demolished. Andy Elvidge from Housing Hartlepool to investigate.

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

Lighting on Seaton Carew seafront – The Vice-Chair advised that the lights along the seafront (by the Chicane) were still not working despite having raised it at previous meetings. The Neighbourhood Manager to chase that up.

Brierton Lane – The Chair reported the smashing of coping stones at the top of Brierton Lane. The Neighbourhood Manager to liaise with Neighbourhood Police.

Youth Centre on Rossmere Way – Councillor Marjorie James referred to the recent success of their bid to provide new services for young people. As Rossmere Primary School had been scheduled for refurbishment in the first tranche of the Primary Capital Programme she urged the two to come together prior to any

construction to ensure that the plans would complement each other. This would also mean funding could be utilised to produce the best possible outcome for young people in the area. The Neighbourhood Manager confirmed this partnership was already underway. Councillor James further asked that Owton Ward Councillors be invited to meetings to discuss changes to the Youth Centre. The Neighbourhood Manager suggested all South area Councillors be invited. Details were given of the next meeting which all were welcome to attend.

The meeting concluded at 4:05 pm

CHAIR