

NORTH AREA POLICE AND COMMUNITY SAFETY CONSULTATIVE FORUM

At

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

on

**Wednesday 27th January, 2010
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 11 November 2009
 - 2.2 Matters arising.
3. Update from the Police
 - 3.1 Reducing Reoffending Team
4. Update from the Fire Brigade
5. Anti-Social Behaviour Unit Update
 - 5.1 Safe in Tees Valley Assertive Outreach Service
6. Crime and Disorder Co-ordination Update
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***

11th November 2009

MINUTES OF THE MEETING



The meeting commenced at 10.00 am at
West View Community Centre, Miers Avenue, Hartlepool

PRESENT:

Chair: Councillor Mary Fleet – Dyke House Ward

Vice Chair: Resident Representative Linda Shields

Councillor Stephen Allison	- St Hilda Ward
Councillor Reuben Atkinson	- Dyke House Ward
Councillor Caroline Barker	- Hart Ward
Councillor Sheila Griffin	- Brus Ward
Councillor Edna Wright	- Hart Ward

Resident Representatives:

John Cambridge, John Lynch, Mary Power and Bob and Joan Steel

Residents: D Clarke, John Maxwell, Cath and Liz Torley and Alan Vale

Officers:

- Karen Oliver, Neighbourhood Manager
- Sally Forth, Anti-Social Behaviour Co-ordinator
- Phil Hepburn, Parking Services Manager
- Garry Jones, Neighbourhood Services Officer
- Katie Sheehan, Anti-Social Behaviour Officer
- Claire Brookbanks, Community Safety Assistant
- Jo Wilson, Democratic Services Officer

Cleveland Police: Acting Chief Inspector Mick Brown and
Temporary Inspector Peter Howarth

Cleveland Fire Brigade: Peter Bradley

Housing Hartlepool: Natalie l'Anson

Cleveland Criminal Justice Board – Kate Campbell

11. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Rob Cook, Tim Fleming, Chris McKenna and Michelle Plant.

12. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 5 AUGUST 2009

The minutes were confirmed as a true record.

13. MATTERS ARISING

Sea coaling – A resident highlighted the issue of sea coalers using vehicles on the beach at the Headland and referred to the previous meeting when Sergeant Brown had indicated that although the vehicles were old they were not considered unroadworthy. He advised that he had recently witnessed a sea coaling truck's front end break apart when it hit the beach. He felt that it was not possible for vehicles which had been driven on the beach for hours at a time to be roadworthy. Acting Chief Inspector Brown advised that he had been liaising with the traffic department with a view to preventing such vehicles from gaining access but they relied on the public reporting such incidents when they occurred. Any such calls made would be acted upon. A Resident Representative felt the Council should be prohibiting sea coaling vehicle access to the beach, as they had previously done for cars and dogs.

14. UPDATE FROM THE POLICE

Acting Chief Inspector Brown provided an overview of crime in the Cleveland Force and also the North area of Hartlepool. Force-wide figures were down for House Burglaries, Violent Crime, Criminal Damage, Vehicle Crime and Drugs

activity had risen. This positive trend had continued in Hartlepool, with the exception of violent crime which had risen by 26.9%. The numbers of arrests, cautions, charges, warrants, AS13s and Street encounters in the North area of the town were also given.

Acting Chief Inspector Brown also highlighted a number of items of interest including Operations PIPSOL, Sunshine and Pledge and the Not In My Neighbourhood Week. Details were also given of a recent drugs raid and actions which had been taken in response to allotment break-ins. Members were advised that cycle patrols had been implemented as a direct result of a request at the previous meeting.

A resident requested a PCSO presence after midnight. Acting Chief Inspector Brown commented that there was a perception that crime occurred at night whereas in reality most crime took place during the day. Current police patrols were all analytically led.

A Councillor referred to a recent influx of cars being left for sale on roads rather than at the seller's place of residence. This was occurring in a number of places including Powlett Road and West View Road opposite the Saxon Public House. Acting Chief Inspector Brown advised that this was a trading standards issue but he would take this up with them on behalf of the Forum. The Neighbourhood Manager commented that the people responsible might not be aware that they were acting illegally and suggested that they be contacted and advised of this.

A member of the Forum queried whether undetected crime had dropped. Acting Chief Inspector Brown reported that Cleveland Police had a 46% detection rate, better than any other PCU in the UK.

This was the result of positive partnership working (including the relocation of the Anti-Social Behaviour Unit to within the police station) and the hard work and positive attitude of police officers. The fact that criminals did not tend to travel to the area to commit crime was also a factor.

A Councillor reported a car parked in the middle of York Road pavement, directly outside the Box clothing store. The Parking Services Manager indicated that council officers were aware of this issue and had previously ticketed the vehicle in question. The problem was that some York Road frontage was under private ownership which could lead to confusion on the part of business owners.

A Resident Representative asked what action was being taken against private landlords letting to unsuitable or anti-social tenants. The Neighbourhood Manager advised that new regulations had been implemented recently giving local authorities more powers in this area. Selective licensing schemes had been introduced and the Anti-Social Behaviour Unit and Public Protection had been working together. However public co-operation was essential to ensure problems were brought to attention. The Resident Representative suggested that this be included as an item on the next agenda.

The Chair queried reports that people receiving free methadone as part of the drug rehabilitation programme were selling it for harder drugs. Temporary Inspector Howarth advised that methadone users were regularly monitored at the drug reassessment clinic to confirm which substances were present in their body.

The Chair thanked Acting Chief Inspector Brown and Temporary Inspector Howarth

for attending the meeting and answering questions.

15. UPDATE FROM THE FIRE BRIGADE

The Fire Brigade representative, Peter Bradley, gave details of the number of incidents in the North Area of the town between August and October 2009. There had been a reduction in deliberate F3 fires however deliberate F1 fires and accidental fires had increased. Mr Bradley qualified this by explaining that Steetley was a blot on the landscape as far as figures were concerned and once that was dealt with the figures would go down. A Resident Representative asked if there could be an initiative to stop F3 fires at this site.

The Fire Brigade representative also reported that the number of deliberate car fires was down on the previous year. Bonfire night had seen no F1 fires at all and a reduction on all other categories on 2008. A Resident thanked the fire brigade for their support on the financial enclosure.

The Chair thanked the Fire Brigade representative for attending the meeting.

16. 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. She referred to successful partnership working, successes with the good tenant scheme and an increase in the take up of parenting courses. The Staysafe programme had been run on the last 3 consecutive Fridays and had proven very successful with 4 young people picked up by officers.

The Neighbourhood Manager noted the work of all NAP residents in providing diversionary activities for young people in their neighbourhoods.

A Resident Representative praised the success of the Staysafe initiative but queried whether this was leading youngsters to engage in this behaviour in more seduced areas. Reference was made to recent incident in Clavering Park which resulted in a child being hospitalised. The Anti-Social Behaviour Co-ordinator advised that the Staysafe initiative had only been run on Friday nights so far therefore the incident in question must have occurred another night. If there was evidence to support it then Staysafe could be run on other nights. As part of this police helicopters could be deployed and would detect youths congregating in shaded places.

A Resident Representative referred to ongoing problems with anti-social behaviour near Atkinson Court. There had been regular disturbances near the bungalows and recycling containers were being set alight on the field nearby. Whenever the police attended the scene they used their lights, giving advance warning to those involved. The Anti-Social Behaviour Co-ordinator would speak to Home Housing on this matter. Specific details were passed on to the Police.

A Resident Representative commented upon the relatively low performance of Housing Hartlepool properties in the North area, asking whether their size had been taken into account. The Anti-Social Behaviour Co-ordinator was of the opinion that Housing Hartlepool's figures were not at all bad, praising their positive work in this field particularly in terms of their involvement in the Hartlepool Partnership.

A Resident Representative asked about the Dordrecht Scheme and was told that this was currently being developed. The Chair requested an update at the next meeting.

A Resident referred to the Good Tenant Scheme, querying how many applications had come out of the Keys To Success Scheme. The Anti-Social Behaviour Co-ordinator did not have these figures. She noted that the funding for this scheme was due to expire shortly and doubted Council funding would be available following the forthcoming restructure.

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

17. OPERATION OBSTRUCTION AWARENESS

The Parking Services Manager gave a brief report on the problems associated with inconsiderate parking and footpath obstruction. Following a number of complaints, officers from the police and local authority had been working on a joint initiative to raise awareness and tackle this issue. A series of publicity campaigns had been carried out which culminated in a joint enforcement day involving Police and HBC officers. The Headland has been chosen as a trial area for the initiative although the latest joint enforcement actually included all of the North Forum area.

The results of the joint enforcement are still being evaluated however it is difficult to assess the effectiveness from one visit alone. Further enforcement will continue but in future this is likely to also include some weekend and evening coverage. Leaflets have already been distributed to several properties within the North Forum area and the intention is for HBC officers to issue warning notices to offenders and formally report drivers to the Police for

prosecution. The ultimate intention is to advise motorists but any fixed penalty notices would need to be issued by the Police who have jurisdiction for footpath obstruction. The Parking Services Manager also recognised that in some areas a limited amount of parking on footpath may have to be permitted.

The Parking Services Manager also referred to recent changes to law regarding enforcement of dropped crossings and double parking contraventions. Changes to the Traffic Management Act now allowed HBC to enforce any vehicle parked across pedestrian access ways and crossing points. The legislation does not require the carriageway to be marked or signed and the changes have been well received by mobility and access groups. The Parking Services Manager had hoped that the changes to the law would have also included the separate offence of footpath parking as is the case in London; however central government opted not to decriminalize this contravention at this stage.

A resident queried whether the laws applicable to dropped crossing also included raised walkways. The Parking Services Manager advised that the legal definition refers to dropped crossings, but the raised walkway may be able to be considered under the Police / HBC joint enforcement initiative.

A resident representative queried whether a blanket footpath parking ban could be implemented. The Parking Services Manager felt that this would be difficult to justify and enforce as there were areas where some pavement parking may have to be permitted however, this was not a question of being lenient. The representative was assured that plans were already being developed for parking during the Tall Ships event.

A resident representative highlighted a number of instances of dangerous parking on Northgate opposite Henrietta Street and The High Street. The Parking Services Manager noted this concern and agreed to include this in future patrols.

A resident queried how many tickets had been issued to cars parked in bus stops. The Parking Services Manager estimated this to be between 70-80 PCN's.

A Councillor raised concern as to the level of parking contraventions outside schools on King Oswy Drive and requested action and additional enforcement visits in relation to this. A Councillor also asked for clarification in relation to caravans parked on the public highway. The Parking Services Manager explained that a caravan is not covered by parking legislation however the Police can take action if it is deemed to be an obstruction of the highway.

A Resident referred to vehicles being unable to park in the post office sorting office car park in Clark Street. The Parking Services Manager acknowledged that problems had been caused when the Post Office had restricted access to their car park, however a limited stay parking facility would be provided at the nearby Aldi Store when this is built.

The Chair thanked the Parking Services Manager for attending the meeting and answering questions.

18. CLEVELAND CRIMINAL JUSTICE BOARD

A representative of the Cleveland Criminal Justice Board, Kate Campbell, provided a brief update of their work. An executive decision-making body comprising representatives from the Police, Probation Service, Crown Prosecution Service, Courts and Youth Offending, they would meet on a monthly

basis and had the authority to commit resources to achieve targets. Among their recent achievements had been the implementation of the Community Cashback Scheme whereby received criminal assets were redistributed to community projects. Further information was available via the website <http://lcjb.cjsonline.gov.uk/Cleveland/home.html>

Chair

The Chair thanked the representative of the Cleveland Criminal Justice Board for attending the meeting.

19. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

No issues.

20. ISSUES RAISED BY COUNCILLORS AND RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVES

Arson – A Resident Representative highlighted an increase in fires in the Atkinson Court area and requested action from the police and fire brigade. Acting Chief Inspector Brown promised action would be taken but officers could not be present all the time.

Wrong property – A Resident advised that she lived next door to a private landlord property and police were regularly knocking on her door in error. Acting Chief Inspector Brown to take action.

Operation Obstruction Awareness – A Resident Representative requested that the pilot scheme in the Headland referred to earlier be expanded to include the whole of the North area. The Neighbourhood Services Manager reported that this was already the intention, as well as a dedicated leaflet drop. Any other suggestions would be taken on board.

The meeting concluded at 12 noon.