

**CENTRAL AREA POLICE AND
COMMUNITY SAFETY
CONSULTATIVE FORUM**
in
the Conference Room,
Belle Vue Community Sports and Youth Centre,
Kendal Road, Hartlepool
on
Thursday 28th January, 2010
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 12 November 2009
 - (b) 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

Burn Valley
Elwick
Foggy Furze
Grange
Park
Rift House
Stranton

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

12th November 2009

MINUTES OF THE MEETING



The meeting commenced at 10.00 am in the Council Chamber,
Civic Centre, Victoria Road Hartlepool

PRESENT:

Chair: Councillor Kevin Cranney – Foggy Furze Ward

Vice Chair: Resident Representative Evelyn Leck

Councillor Gerard Hall	- Burn Valley Ward
Councillor Frances London	- Foggy Furze Ward
Councillor Carl Richardson	- Grange Ward
Councillor Hilary Thompson	- Elwick Ward
Councillor Victor Tumilty	- Grange Ward

Resident Representatives:

Ted Jackson, Brenda Loynes and Julie Rudge

Residents: Gordon and Stella Johnson and D Kirkwood.

Officers:

- Clare Clark, Neighbourhood Manager
- Sally Forth, Anti-Social Behaviour Co-ordinator
- Jon Wright, Neighbourhood Co-ordinating Manager
- Irene Cross, Neighbourhood Development Officer (Central)
- Julie Hetherington, Community Safety Assistant
- Jo Wilson, Democratic Services Officer

Cleveland Police: Inspector Tony Green and Sergeant Glen Westmoreland

Cleveland Fire Brigade: Peter Bradley

Housing Hartlepool: Andy Elvidge

Cleveland Criminal Justice Board – Will Fletcher

Cleveland Probation Service – Julie Keay

10. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors George Morris and Jane Shaw and Resident Representatives Liz Carroll and Jean Kennedy.

11. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 6 AUGUST 2009

The minutes were confirmed as a true record.

12. MATTERS ARISING

None

13. UPDATE FROM THE POLICE

Inspector Green provided an overview of crime in the Cleveland Force and also the Central 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% over the last three months, despite a downward trend over the whole year. The numbers of arrests, cautions, charges, warrants, AS13s and Street encounters in the Central area of the town were also given.

Inspector Green also highlighted a number of items of interest including Operations PACT, Staysafe and Cleansweep and Not In My Neighbourhood Week. Details were also given of a joint initiative with the armed forces to combat disrespectful behaviour at the Cenotaph and the issuing of a number of drug warrants, the majority of which were positive.

Councillor Hilary Thompson congratulated officers on the successful

apprehension of the quay arsonist. She raised the problem of fly tipping as experienced by farmers in the Elwick Ward. Inspector Green advised that off-road bikes were available to the police but information regarding dates and times etc would be needed before these could be successfully deployed. Police helicopters could also be redirected to the area. Councillor Thompson also highlighted the problem of criminals trespassing on privately owned property to ascertain the presence of diesel.

A Resident Representative reported ongoing problems with Borrowdale Street. Several of the houses were in a dilapidated state as the landlord was in prison and there had been a number of police patrols and the resident representative asked that these be increased and the area made tidier. Inspector Green acknowledged these problems but said there were no short term fixes available. Police had met with Baden Street landlords but engaging in any dialogue of this nature was becoming increasingly difficult. Reference was also made to an increase in the activities of a notorious drug dealer on Stockton Road. Inspector Green made a public pledge that action would be taken by the end of the month.

Resident Representative Julie Rudge queried whether any street surgeries had taken place yet. Inspector Green advised that surgeries had already taken place in Cornwall Street, Sheriff Street and West Park among other places. A projector had recently been purchased to enable officers to advertise these surgeries on dark nights.

Resident Representative Rudge further queried whether street surgeries were another form of street audits. Inspector Green indicated that they were

2 (a)

completely different. Mrs Rudge advised that she had not received a reminder for the previous two audits in her area despite being the main contact for the Residents Association. This would be rectified.

Councillor Victor Tumilty felt it should be made clear that a caution was a criminal record which could affect the recipient's future. Inspector Green acknowledged this saying it meant that the person had fully admitted the offence in question and there could indeed be consequences.

Resident Representative Brenda Loynes asked if anything could be done about the ongoing litter problem near High Tunstall School. Inspector Green advised that this was not a black and white issue. Recently a person found littering at the Cenotaph had been approached and voluntarily cleaned the whole area. If the person involved was respectful and contrite no further action would be taken however if not there would be punitive measures. Mrs Loynes asked if enforcement officers could be supplied with black bags. She also suggested that prosecutions be sought with fines taken out of their family allowance. The Chair acknowledged this was an issue across Hartlepool but felt it was a question of prioritising police resources.

Councillor Chris Simmons congratulated police on the obvious success of neighbourhood policing. He asked that for future presentations numbers rather than percentages be used.

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

14. UPDATE FROM THE FIRE BRIGADE

The Fire Brigade representative, Peter Bradley, gave details of the number of

incidents in the Central Area of the town between August and October 2009. There had been a reduction in all categories of fire with only a slight increase on bonfire night. There had been no vehicle fires at all in the Central area during these months. Ward Jackson Park had seen a number of arson incidents in the last six months but these were all nuisance fires and not related to property. Leaflets had been issued to residents asking for their help and a possible suspect had recently been identified.

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

15. 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 Chair referred to the case categories rowdy behaviour and noise, querying why these were not linked. The Anti-Social Behaviour Co-ordinator advised that these categories were set by the Home Office. She clarified that an increase in these cases did not necessarily mean that it was happening more but that it was being brought to officers' attention.

Councillor Frances London praised the Anti-Social Behaviour Unit for their efforts in making Hartlepool a better place to live. Councillor Chris Simmons

suggested that future presentations be provided in a hard copy form to make it easier for those present to read them.

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

16. CLEVELAND CRIMINAL JUSTICE BOARD

A representative of the Cleveland Criminal Justice Board, Will Fletcher, 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>

The Chair advised that none of the organisations which had applied for funds from the Criminal Cashback Scheme had officially been told they were successful, although the information was available on the website. Mr Fletcher took these comments on board and would ensure this did not happen in the future.

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

17. PROBATION UPDATE

A representative of the Crown Prosecution Service, Julie Keay, gave a brief update on the work undertaken by the division. Utilising two offices in

Avenue Road and Church Street they supervised approximately 600 offenders. This had led to a reduction of 15% in re-offending rates in Teesside (11.5% reduction in Hartlepool). The Teesside National Probation Service was the best performing in the Tees Valley area and in the top five countrywide.

The Chair commended these statistics saying more publicity should be given to this work. The Representative highlighted the more risky profile of Teesside when compared to the rest of the Tees Valley which made these statistics even more impressive.

Councillor Gerard Hall queried whether these figures could be affected by a relatively small number of individuals. The Representative confirmed this but said that it depended on the type of offence.

The Chair thanked the Representative of the Crown Prosecution Services for attending the meeting and answering members' questions.

18. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

No issues.

19. ISSUES RAISED BY COUNCILLORS AND RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVES

None

The meeting concluded at 11.40am

Chair