

CENTRAL AREA POLICE AND COMMUNITY SAFETY CONSULTATIVE FORUM

in

**Council Chamber,
Civic Centre, Hartlepool**

on

**Thursday 12 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 6 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
 - 6.2 Probation 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***

6th August 2009

MINUTES OF THE MEETING



The meeting commenced at 2.00 pm in the Civic Centre, Hartlepool

PRESENT:

Chair:	Councillor Kevin Cranney	- Foggy Furze Ward
	Councillor Stephen Akers-Belcher	- Rift House Ward
	Councillor Jonathan Brash	- Burn Valley Ward
	Councillor John Coward	- Park Ward
	Councillor Gerard Hall	- Burn Valley Ward
	Councillor Frances London	- Foggy Furze Ward
	Councillor Dr George Morris	- Park Ward
	Councillor Carl Richardson	- Grange Ward
	Councillor Jane Shaw	- Stranton Ward
	Councillor Victor Tumilty	- Grange Ward
	Councillor Gladys Worthy	- Rift House Ward

Resident Representatives:

Bob Farrow, Jean Kennedy and Brenda Loynes.

Residents: G and S Johnson and Ray Waller

Council Officers:

Clare Clark, Neighbourhood Manager (Central)
Sally Forth, Anti-Social Behaviour Co-ordinator
Adrian Hurst, Principal Environmental Health Officer
Irene Cross, Neighbourhood Development Officer (Central)
Julie Hetherington, Community Safety Assistant
Jo Wilson, Democratic Services Officer

Police Representatives: PC McArdle and Inspector Peter Knights

Fire Brigade Representative: Peter Bradley

Housing Hartlepool Representative: Natalie Gooding

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors Martyn Aiken, Pamela Hargreaves, Pauline Laffey, Robbie Payne and Chris Simmons and Resident Representative Liz Carroll.

2. TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 12th MARCH 2009

The minutes were agreed as a true record.

3. MATTERS ARISING

None

4. UPDATE FROM THE POLICE

Inspector Peter Knights 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 Inspector Knights 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 Central area over the last 3 months. Details were also given of operations which had been carried out in the Central area including Operation Tornado, action against drug dealing, the cutting back of licensing hours at the 24 hour shop on Raby Road and various youth-based initiatives.

The following issues were then raised:

Number of arrests – Councillor Carl Richardson commented on the relatively low number of arrests for the three-month period, asking if the statistics for the previous three-month period were

available. Inspector Knights advised that they were not, however he did recall a lot of activity in Church Street at that time. Councillor Frances London praised officers for the work they were doing, querying the actual definition of street encounters. Inspector Knights thanked her for her comments, indicating that street encounters covered any degree of contact with the public such as taking witness statements or speaking to loitering youths.

Plain clothes – Councillor Gladys Worthy queried whether plain clothes officers were still deployed. Inspector Knights reported that while Neighbourhood Policing was designed to be a more visible presence plain clothes officers were still used successfully when appropriate.

Park Road – Resident Ray Waller complemented officers for their regular presence there, which had led to a noticeable decrease in the amount of criminal damage. Inspector Knights to relay these comments back to the neighbourhood policing team. However he referred to the forthcoming alterations to bus services in the area, saying residents had concerns about walking back to their homes late at night. The Chair acknowledged this and other concerns, advising that officers were hoping to have a representative of Stagecoach at the next Neighbourhood Consultative Forum meeting.

Waldon Street – Resident Representative Jean Kennedy highlighted ongoing problems with CCTV provision in this area. Despite a camera being in place it permanently faced Lister Street so that any night-time activity in Waldon Street and Morpeth Street was not being recorded and therefore not properly addressed. Inspector Knights indicated that the physical operation of cameras was the responsibility of the Council. He

would feedback Mrs Kennedy's comments to the appropriate department.

Neighbourhood Policing – Councillor Victor Tumilty asked what impact the advent of Neighbourhood Policing had had on the downturn in crime figures. Inspector Knights felt this was hard to judge however crime rates had consistently reduced each month since neighbourhood policing was introduced. The teams were becoming more embedded and part of the community, attending public meetings etc.

Baden Street – Councillor Jonathan Brash highlighted ongoing problems in this area, raising concerns that officers' time was being unduly spent there, to the detriment of other areas. He asked that the neighbourhood policing teams be given more support, Inspector Knights confirmed that this was already happening.

Elwick Road Licensing application – Councillor Jonathan Brash referred to a recent application for an increase in licensing hours at a shop in Elwick Road. Councillor Brash had objected on behalf of the residents and had received informal representation from neighbourhood police of their concerns. However no formal police representation had been made at the meeting and as a result, on legal advice, the application had been allowed by the sub-committee. Inspector Knights was familiar with the application but was unsure as to why no official representations had been received. He would investigate this.

Youth initiatives – Councillor Stephen Akers-Belcher reported a Rift House project taking place on Friday nights whereby young people were able to drop in. There had been no police officers present for the last three weeks, however he hoped that they would be available for future meetings. Inspector Knights

described such initiatives as massively beneficial with the backing of Superintendent Andy Summerbell. PC McCardle reported that his colleagues fully supported the initiative and would be there anytime they could be.

The Chair thanked Inspector Knights and PC McCardle 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 Central Forum. There had been 108 fires, 24 accidental and 84 deliberate. A large number of the accidental fires 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. In terms of deliberate fires police patrols would be increasing at Summerhill, Kipling Road, Browning Grove and Tunstall Court, all noted hotspots.

The following issues were then raised:

Seaton Meadows – Resident Representative Jean Kennedy referred to alleged malpractice being carried out by Seaton Meadows management and employees. The Chair advised that this area was covered by the South Forum and asked Mrs Kennedy to raise her concerns with the appropriate officers in that area.

Masefield Road – Councillor Stephen Akers-Belcher thanked fire officers for their hard work during the Rift House clean up. He requested more resources in Masefield Road.

McDonalds – Resident Representative Bob Farrow indicated he had witnessed a large amount of black smoke coming out

of the chimney behind the fire station near McDonalds. The Fire representative was sure this would have been actioned at the time.

Recycling – Resident Ray Waller referred to the recycling instructions whereby wheelie bins had to be put in place between 10.30pm and 7.30am. He felt that this could lead to an increase in deliberate fires.

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

6. 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 a member of the Youth Offending Team in every school in Hartlepool. Details were also given of take-up of the Good Tenant Scheme and future challenges facing the Unit.

The following issues were then raised:

Selective Licensing – Councillor Jonathan Brash queried why tenant referencing had not been made mandatory. The Anti-Social Behaviour Unit advised that referencing was mandatory but being a member of the

Good Tenant scheme was not as this could be legally challenged. However it had been agreed informally that where there were specific issues with tenants they would be required to become members of the scheme.

Football – Councillor Victor Tumilty referred to recent complaints from residents regarding small children playing football. He felt this lack of leeway was appalling and thanked the Neighbourhood Development Officer for providing a sponge ball for the children.

Probation – Resident Ray Waller requested information on the probation service specifically the rates of reoffending. The Chair suggested a representative from the Probation Service be invited to the next meeting.

Designated Public Places Order – Councillor Gerard Hall referred to a recent meeting of the Licensing Committee during which the idea of a town-wide DPPO had been voted upon. He had been in favour of this however the majority of Committee members had voted against it. He hoped that this was something which could be considered again in the future. Councillor Stephen Aker-Belcher commented that any ban had to be based on evidence in order to make it enforceable.

Belle Vue Community Sports and Youth Centre – Resident Representative Bob Farrow referred to some of the good work being done here. The Anti-Social Behaviour Co-ordinator indicated that she was aware of this.

Witness awards – Resident Representative Jean Kennedy referred to a future initiative whereby witnesses would be given a community award. She urged officers to err on the side of caution and take into account a witnesses request for anonymity. The Anti-Social

Behaviour Co-ordinator advised that any potential recipients would be contacted in advance to ensure they were happy to receive an award and attend a public ceremony.

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

7. CRIME AND DISORDER CO-ORDINATION UPDATE

There were no items raised.

8. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no items raised.

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

Crime reduction – Councillor Gerard Hall urged the public to contact the police or Anti-Social Behaviour Unit with any problems as this was the only way crime and anti-social behaviour could be stamped out effectively. Anonymity could be protected if necessary.

Hart Lane – Councillor Victor Tumilty highlighted ongoing problems at the Duke Street junction due to vehicles driving through red lights.

Nudist beach – Councillor Victor Tumilty referred to a recent request he had received for the provision of a nudist beach in Hartlepool.

Bikes in Rift House – Councillor Stephen Akers-Belcher confirmed that this continued to be a problem. He had recently passed on specific details to the police but when he had requested an update he had found that the information had been lost. At the time of reporting he had been told he did not need to as it had

already been reported. Inspector Knights advised that this was incorrect advice and apologised for the lack of feedback. Councillor Victor Tumilty referred to future changes in police procedures whereby all incident reports would be logged on CD or DVD and feedback automatically provided.

CCTV in Rift House – Councillor Stephen Akers-Belcher expressed his disappointment at the installation of CCTV. This had been meant to cover a wider area however during the planning process objections had been raised and therefore the plans had been reduced. He hoped the camera could be reinstalled as it was not currently serving its intended purpose

Dog attack – Resident Representative Jean Kennedy referred to the previous meeting when she had reported an attack on her dog. Since that meeting the police had been in touch and advised her that the situation was being dealt with. She thanked them for their prompt action.

Ward Jackson Park – Resident Representative Brenda Loynes reported a recent issue with youths drinking in the Park after hours. She had reported this to the police but was told it was low priority because of activity within the town centre and that officers did not have a key to the Park. She queried if there was any point in reporting incidents of this kind when no action was taken. Inspector Knights acknowledged that action should have been taken. He would feedback these concerns to the control room.

Oxford Road – Councillor Frances London reiterated a previous request for a pedestrian crossing. The Neighbourhood Manager advised that this was still being considered.

K CRANNEY
CHAIR