

**CENTRAL AREA POLICE AND
COMMUNITY SAFETY
CONSULTATIVE FORUM**
in
the Conference Room,
Belle Vue Community Sports and Youth Centre,
Kendal Road, Hartlepool
on
Thursday, 29 July 2010
commencing at 2.00 pm

A G E N D A

1. Apologies for absence
2. MINUTES
 - (a) To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 22 April 2010
 - (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
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***

22 April 2010

MINUTES OF THE MEETING



The meeting commenced at 10.00 a.m. in the Civic Centre, Hartlepool

PRESENT:

Chair: Councillor Kevin Cranney - Foggy Furze Ward

Vice-Chair: Resident Representative - Evelyn Leck

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|--------------------------------|--------------------|
| Councillor Jonathan Brash | - Burn Valley Ward |
| Councillor Gerald Hall | - Burn Valley Ward |
| Councillor Pauline Laffey | - Park Ward |
| Councillor Frances London | - Foggy Furze Ward |
| Councillor Carl Richardson | - Grange Ward |
| Councillor Jane Shaw | - Stranton Ward |
| Councillor Christopher Simmons | - Grange Ward |

Resident Representatives: Bob Farrow, Ted Jackson, Brenda Loynes, Brian McBean, Julie Rudge.

Residents: Gordon Johnson, Stella Johnson,

Council Officers:

- Clare Clark, Neighbourhood Manager
- Jon Wright, Neighbourhood Co-ordinating Manager
- Irene Cross, Neighbourhood Development Officer
- Andrew Hughes, Community Safety Project Officer
- Keith Roberts, Community Safety Research Officer
- Julie Hetherington, Community Safety Assistant
- Sarah Bird, Democratic Services Officer

Police Representatives: Inspector Tony Green. Inspector Dave Halliday, PCSO Cath Jones, Zoe McCarthy, Carl Gatenby

Fire Brigade Representative: Peter Bradley

Housing Hartlepool Representative: Libby Griffiths

31. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Coward, Hargreaves, Jackson, Morris, Payne, Simmons and Worthy, as well as Resident Representative Liz Carroll.

32. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 28 JANUARY 2010

These were confirmed as an accurate account.

33. MATTERS ARISING

Issues Raised by Councillors and Resident Representatives – It was noted that the restoration of the Hart Lane Garden had been carried out by future jobs personnel from the Owton Fens Community Association.

34. UPDATE FROM THE POLICE

Acting Inspector Dave Halliday from the York Road office appraised the forum of forcewide crime figures for March 2010. All categories were showing a reduction resulting in crime which equated to a 15.5% reduction overall i.e. 751 fewer victims. Drugs activities continued to increase. He also gave details of Hartlepool performance for the same period which indicated that House Burglaries and Violent Crime had increased by 5% and 37.5% respectively. However Inspector Tony Green was currently taking steps to counteract this in relation to the night time economy.

Figures were given for arrests, detections, incidents, street encounters, intelligence submissions and AS13 forms issued. He highlighted sterling work by Police Community Support Officers

(PCSOs) who visited shops where thefts had occurred and viewed CCTV in order to identify the perpetrators.

He also outlined outcomes in relation to incidents at Serpentine Road, Burn Valley, Catcote Road Shops and drugs activities in Burbank which had caused concern for residents.

Good work done by the Central PCSOs was outlined and details of a new Officer being assigned to the Burn Valley Ward. He asked the Forum for nominations for Neighbourhood Policing Awards.

The Chair thanked Acting Inspector Halliday for his presentation and praised neighbourhood policing and partners involved with it.

Councillor Brash commented that it was gratifying to hear that a 5% rise equated to only 2 burglaries which was a huge improvement to previous years. He suggested that statistics were presented as numbers of crimes rather than percentages. He was pleased that a new PC had been assigned to Burn Valley ward and praised the work of PCSOs in the team as they inspired confidence in the community. He commented that Cleveland had a far higher number of PCs and PCSOs per head of population than its neighbours.

Councillor Richardson expressed confidence in the work of PCSOs. He asked that his thanks be placed on record to PC Donna Rodham in Grange Ward.

Councillor Thompson thanked the work of PCSO Cath Jones and PC Keith Robinson for their work in Elwick ward.

Councillor Laffey added her thanks to work of the Police and expressed concern about violent crime. Inspector Green confirmed that this was usually linked to

2 (a)

the night time economy but measures were being put in place to combat this.

Councillor Richardson commented that it may be prudent to revert closing time for licensed premises to 2.00 am. Inspector Green informed him that Hartlepool was standalone in having later closing time for licensed premises even compared to other districts in Cleveland.

Resident Representative Brian McBean asked whether the Police had identified those who were purporting to be from utility companies and gaining access into vulnerable persons' homes. Inspector Halliday said that this investigation was still ongoing. Resident Representative Evelyn Leck suggested that utility companies be approached to see whether they could identify an appointment time so that householders were expecting them. It was clarified that some companies already did this. Inspector Halliday advised the Forum to scrutinize identity badges and suggested that vulnerable people have a point of contact, i.e. a neighbour or relative who could attend their home before letting strangers in.

Councillor London praised the work of PCSOs in Foggy Furze and Belle Vue. She said that she would like to see more activities on offer for young people in the area.

Councillor Brash highlighted evidence which had been given to the Health Scrutiny Forum investigation into the effects of alcohol and its recommendations, one of which was limiting the opening times of off licences. Inspector Green confirmed police had a mechanism in place regarding off licenses, including an operation with partners on 27 March 2010 which involved the health bus giving advice. Resident Ray Waller suggested that the new Government should give serious

thought to changing the licensing laws to prevent 24 hour opening.

Councillor Cranney praised the community audits that were carried out in Foggy Furze and thanked the Police for their presentation.

35. UPDATE FROM FIRE BRIGADE

The Community Liaison Officer, Peter Bradley provided numbers of fires which had occurred in the Central Area. There had only been one deliberate vehicle fire and no dwelling fires this year. Home safety checks continued to be carried out. There were no hotspots in the Central Area and regular inspections were carried out on waste sites. The problem with Tunstall Court had been resolved as this had been secured.

He outlined diversionary activities for young people at St Columba's Church Hall, Rifty Youth Club, and Brierton Sports Centre.

Resident Representative Bob Farrow referred to an application for Easy Skips to raise the height of their waste site. The Fire Brigade representative was unable to comment on this because this was an ongoing application.

The Chair thanked the Officer for attending the meeting.

35. ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR UNIT UPDATE

PC Carl Gatenby provided statistics giving numbers of Anti-Social Behaviour Unit (ASBU) and Housing Hartlepool cases for January – March 2010. The ASBU unit cases were mostly rowdy and nuisance behaviour whilst the largest number of Housing Hartlepool cases were in relation to intimidation or

harassment. Customer satisfaction was 100% in relation to ASBU and 94% for the Housing Hartlepool Customer Satisfaction Standard. He also provided details of case outcomes and actions and Good Tenant Scheme applications. He explained that recent input from Young People was being taken on board. Vulnerable clients would have their needs assessed.

Resident Ray Waller referred to a victim of Anti-Social Behaviour who had been present at the last forum and said that his problems had seemed long standing. He wondered whether the expectation of residents was too high or whether the assistance given was too low. The Neighbourhood Manager confirmed that she had liaised with the victim to see what assistance could be offered and the Police had also intervened.

Councillor Richardson commented that in relation to customer satisfaction, the users were not customers as they had no alternative but to use that service.

Councillor Thompson complained that it took a long time to resolve issues referred to the unit. She referred to an ongoing situation in Elwick ward and PC Gatenby agreed to speak to her outside of the meeting.

Councillor Shaw highlighted an instance where the ASB unit had been contacted and the call taker had been unaware of a previously reported problem. She indicated that this was unprofessional and that if an ongoing problem was reported to the police it should then be referred to the ASB unit because issues such as noisy neighbours affected residents' quality of life. PC Gatenby informed her that there were multi agencies involved dealing with various issues but regular information sharing meetings were held.

The Chair thanked PC Gatenby for his update.

36. CRIME AND DISORDER CO-ORDINATION UPDATE

The Community Safety Project Officer outlined the structure of the unit based at 8 Church Street. He highlighted the new Domestic Violence magistrates court in the town. Priorities for the unit included reduction of violent crime including domestic abuse. Funding had been accessed from various sources including Community Cohesion and the small retail capital grants fund. The latter had been used for target hardening small businesses. Examples of projects the unit was involved in were cited, including Operation Cleansweep, and reassurance and advice for victims of crime. The Crime and Disorder Co-ordinator was to liaise with the Police in relation to a pilot project on Organised Crime. The Chair thanked the Community Safety Project Officer for his presentation.

The Vice Chair commented that Operation Cleansweep should have been extended to a wider area as the areas around Burn Valley and Blakelock Gardens had a lot of litter. The Community Safety Project Officer explained that Operation Cleansweep targeted specific problems areas, identified by an intelligence tool.

The Vice Chair also highlighted fly tipping on private land at the old RAFA club. The Neighbourhood Co-ordinating Manager agreed to follow this up as there were various sections of legislation which could be used to combat this problem.

The Vice Chair also highlighted an instance where a recycling box had not been emptied because someone else had placed something unrecyclable in it.

The Chair thanked the Community Safety Project Officer for attending the meeting.

37. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Resident Ray Waller thanked the PCSOs in his area who made residents feel more secure by patrolling the streets.

38. ISSUES RAISED BY COUNCILLORS AND RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVES

Councillor Brash wished the Police to be aware that plant pots on Osborne Road were being vandalised. Officers agreed to keep an eye on this area.

Councillor Thompson thanked PCSOs in her ward who were diligent in attending parish council and residents' meetings.

Resident Representative Bob Farrow referred to foul odours and explosions which had occurred on the Longhill Industrial Estate. The Fire Brigade Community Liaison Officer said that inspections had been carried out at European Metal Recycling but would ensure that a further inspection was done.

Resident Representative Brian McBean said that he was aware that his local police officer was leaving and asked that residents be made aware of her replacement via a leaflet drop. Sergeant Halliday said that it was important to get the right calibre of officer on the Neighbourhood Policing Teams and when a replacement was appointed, residents would be made aware via resident meetings and posters.

The meeting concluded at 11.41 am.