

**SOUTH AREA POLICE AND  
COMMUNITY SAFETY  
CONSULTATIVE FORUM**  
in  
**Owton Rossmere Resource Centre (ORCEL),  
Wynyard Road, Hartlepool**  
on  
**Friday 30 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 23 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**

Fens  
Greatham  
Owton  
Rossmere  
Seaton

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

**23<sup>rd</sup> April 2010**

***MINUTES OF THE MEETING***



The meeting commenced at 10.00 am at  
Owton Rossmere Resource Centre (ORCEL), Wynyard Road, Hartlepool

<b>PRESENT:</b>
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Chair: Councillor Ann Marshall – Rossmere Ward

Vice Chair: Resident Representative Iris Ryder

Councillor Bob Flintoff	- Owton Ward
Councillor Steve Gibbon	- Fens Ward
Councillor Cath Hill	- Seaton Ward
Councillor Alison Lilley	- Fens Ward
Councillor Geoff Lilley	- Greatham Ward
Councillor Mike Turner	- Seaton Ward

Resident Representative: Rosemarie Kennedy and Michael Ward

Resident: J Smith

Officers:

- Dave Frame, Neighbourhood Manager (South)
- Sally Forth, Social Behaviour and Housing Manager
- Dave Mitchell, Neighbourhood Co-ordinator
- Sue Grey, Anti Social Behaviour Officer
- Sue McBride, Neighbourhood Development Officer (South)
- Keith Roberts, Community Safety Research Officer
- Julie Hetherington, Community Safety Assistant
- Jo Wilson, Democratic Services Officer

Cleveland Police: Inspector Dave Toor

Cleveland Fire Brigade: Peter Bradley and Dave Charnley

Housing Hartlepool: Libby Griffiths

## 21. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Christopher Akers-Belcher and Arthur Preece and Resident Representative Sally Vokes

## 22. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 13 NOVEMBER 2009

The minutes were confirmed as a true record.

## 23. MATTERS ARISING

Councillor Geoff Lilley referred to his previous request that alternative venues be considered, citing in particular the low rental charges for Greatham Community Centre. The Chair advised that she would give further consideration to this issue should she be re-elected to the post of Chair for the 2010/11 municipal year.

## 24. UPDATE FROM THE POLICE

Inspector Dave Toor provided an overview of crime in the Cleveland Force and also the South area of Hartlepool. Force-wide figures were down for House Burglaries, Violent Crime, Criminal Damage, Vehicle Crime and other theft while Drugs activity had risen. This positive trend had continued in Hartlepool, with the exception of violent crime which had risen by 27.5% and house burglary which was up by 5%. The numbers of arrests, cautions, charges, warrants, AS13s and Street encounters in the South area of the town were also given.

Inspector Toor also highlighted a number of items of interest including the Policing Pledge and Police and Communities Together (PACT). Members were informed that police were now equipped with handheld computers as part of

Project Cupid, allowing them access to vital information on patrol and reducing the need for them to return to the station.

The following issues were then raised:

**Drink / drug tests** – Resident Representative Mary Green queried whether any action had been taken regarding her previous suggestion that people stopped for driving offences be routinely tested for alcohol and drug use. Inspector Toor pledged to give consideration to this, feeding his findings back to Mrs Green.

**Fens** – Councillor Steve Gibbon thanked police for their efforts in combating anti-social behaviour in the Fens area.

**Councillor feedback** – Councillor Alison Lilley asked that police call centre staff automatically give feedback and updates to councillors reporting crimes and other issues. Resident Representative Mary Green asked that this be extended to resident representatives. Inspector Toor confirmed that call centre staff would be instructed to provide feedback, the Neighbourhood Manager clarified that this would only apply to the person who had logged the comment or complaint.

**Anti-social behaviour** – Councillor Alison Lilley referred to a recurrence of anti-social behaviour by a named individual. She had previously reported this to a PCSO for the ward. Inspector Toor asked that she e-mail him the details and he would take care of it.

**PACT and ward audits** – Resident Representative Michael Ward highlighted the unnecessary duplication of work caused for officers when a PACT meeting and a ward audit were scheduled within days of each other and suggestion that future ward audits be included in PACT meetings. The Neighbourhood Manager

acknowledged these concerns but indicated that ward audit were arranged months in advance while PACT meetings were more casual. PACT meetings were an opportunity for residents to meet police in a single venue whereas ward audits necessarily travelled around the area. The more options there were for the public to meet with the police the better. Councillor Geoff Lilley acknowledged this but felt that there should be more time between meetings.

**Ward surgeries** – The Chair queried whether police officers would still be attending councillor ward surgeries. This was confirmed.

**Rossmere Way** – Resident Representative Rosemary Kennedy referred to recent speed checks, saying they had been carried out during the school holidays when there was less traffic. She also asked whether the bottom of Rossmere Way was still being used to test defective vehicles as she had not seen this happen in recent months.

**Macrae Road** – Resident Representative Mary Green raised problems with forest land nearby being used for under-age drinking.

**Unmarked police car** – Councillor Alison Lilley queried whether the presence of unmarked police cars in the area should be publicised as it might have a positive impact on speeding figures.

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

## 25. UPDATE FROM THE FIRE BRIGADE

The Fire Brigade representative, Peter Bradley provided numbers of fires which had occurred in the South Area of the town in the previous 3 months. The

South had the lowest statistics of the 3 forum areas and numbers continued to fall from the previous year with the exception of house fires which had increased by 1 and commercial vehicle fires which had remained static at 1. Home fire safety checks continued to be carried out.

The only blip in an otherwise positive set of figures had been caused by incidents of arson on the Seaton dunes. Regular arson audits were carried out and 5 sites of fly tipping had been identified however this area was very difficult to police. Mr Bradley also referred to the Whatever It Takes Initiative in the Owton ward saying this had resulted in a steep drop in all types of fire. A number of diversionary activities were being provided on Friday and Saturday nights for young people at Brierton Sports Centre.

The following issues were then raised:

**Sharwoods** – Councillor Geoff Lilley raised concerns about small fires on this site, querying how often officers were able to police the site. Mr Bradley advised that he visited at least once a week however it was not possible to completely secure the site. Councillor Alison Lilley asked whether the owner of the site could be charged by agencies for their efforts in securing the site, however Mr Bradley felt there were no grounds to do this.

**Usworth Road** – Councillor Geoff Lilley asked at what point a controlled fire would be acted upon saying a removals business occasionally used fires to dispose of waste. Mr Bradley reported that Environmental Enforcement would check if waste was being burned and report back. The Waste and Environmental Services Manager also received a list of all calls to the fire brigade, any of which could be investigated. Mr Bradley would raise this

during discussions with owners of businesses at industrial sites. Councillor Cath Hill referred to a business owner who had been unaware of the rules governing the burning of waste in the open air until he was informed by the Environment Agency.

**Rossmere Park** – The Chair asked if fire officers could be present at the forthcoming carnival. Mr Bradley would ensure a fire appliance was sent.

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

## 26. ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR UNIT UPDATE

The Social Behaviour and Housing Manager provided statistics giving numbers of Anti-Social Behaviour Unit (ASBU) and Housing Hartlepool referrals for January – March 2010. The ASBU unit cases were mostly rowdy and nuisance behaviour whilst the largest number of Housing Hartlepool referrals were in relation to intimidation or harassment. Customer satisfaction was 100% in relation to ASBU and 94% for the Housing Hartlepool Customer Satisfaction Standard.

Details of case outcomes and actions and Good Tenant Scheme applications were also provided. Work with schools and young people was being extended and more consideration being given to the victim vulnerability. She stressed that the South area had the lowest number of incidents of the 3 forum areas.

Housing Hartlepool representative, Libby Griffiths, updated members on their new 3 year strategy with its emphasis on partnership working and support of victims and witnesses

Resident Representative Mary Green queried the effectiveness of eviction

threats. Ms Griffiths advised that eviction was a last resort and never used as a threat as there were other actions which could be taken. She further clarified that action could be taken against a private landlord if they were having a detrimental effect on Housing Hartlepool tenants, something which members were unaware of.

The Chair thanked the Social Behaviour and Housing Manager and Housing Hartlepool representative for attending the meeting and answering questions.

## 27. CRIME AND DISORDER CO-ORDINATION UPDATE

The Community Safety Research Officer outlined the new structure of the unit based in Church Street. Priorities for the unit included violent crime including domestic abuse, drug dealing and supply and preventing and reducing offending, re-offending and the risk of offending. Funding had been accessed from various sources including Community Cohesion and the small retail capital grants fund. Examples of projects the unit was involved in were cited, including Operation Cleansweep, Ringmaster and prevention of Organised Crime Groups. In regard to the latter Inspector Toor reassured people that this was a home office initiative aimed at tackling small organised groups committing crimes such as drug dealing and illegal importing of cigarettes and not a reference to mafia-style groups.

The following issues were then raised:

**Promotion** – Councillor Steve Gibbon asked whether updated leaflets giving current contact details for neighbourhood officers could be distributed to residents. He suggested this information could also be put onto fridge magnets similar to those distributed by the refuse collection team. The Chair suggested a business

card format be used enabling residents to carry the information in their purse or wallet. The Neighbourhood Manager indicated that all formats would be considered, the Community Safety Research Officer advised that the information was available on [www.safehartlepool.co.uk](http://www.safehartlepool.co.uk). He would refer this request back to the Safer Hartlepool Team

**Catcote shops** – Councillor Steve Gibbon highlighted the monies being spent on privately owned shops in this area saying he would like to see more spent in the Fens Ward.

**Brenda Road** – The Vice-Chair asked whether Community Cashback or other projects funding could be used to replace the metal signage which had previously disappeared with a plastic alternative. The Neighbourhood Co-ordinator to look at this.

**Youth Offending** – Rumoured cuts to funding of the Youth Offending Team were highlighted. The Social Behaviour and Housing Manager was unaware of any budget cuts although new budgets were pending. The team would be moving to another Council department however.

The Chair thanked the Community Safety Research Officer for attending the meeting and answering questions.

## 28. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

No issues

## 29. ISSUES RAISED BY COUNCILLORS AND RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVES

**Brenda Road** – The Vice-Chair advised that there had been unpleasant smells emanating from a food premises. The Neighbourhood Manager would advise

the Principal Environmental Health Officer.

**Off-road bikes** – Resident Representative Michael Ward queried whether some action had been taken against riders of off-road bikes as there had been a perceived change in their behaviour for the better. Inspector Toor was unaware of any such action. He acknowledged that this was an important issue but the force-wide waiting list for the specialist equipment needed to deal with it was very long. Councillor Steve Gibbon indicated that officers based at Jutland Road had spoken to off-road riders in Honiton Way. Inspector Toor would ensure that feedback on this incident was provided to Councillor Gibbon. Resident Representative Mary Green added her support to the concerns raised, saying she had almost been injured on occasion and calling for the police to acquire more equipment to combat this.

**Parking on pavements** – The Vice-Chair requested feedback on the anti-social behaviour problems in Seaton Carew which she had previously raised. The Neighbourhood Manager reported that no complaints had been received on this issue by the departments for planning or public protection or by public sector housing.

**Jutland Road Police Station** – The Chair suggested that a letter be sent on behalf of the Forum to the District Commander thanking him for granting funds for the refurbishment of the Jutland Road station. This was supported by the forum. Inspector Toor thanked her for this, urging swift delivery of the funding as the station was not suitable for public use in its present condition.

The meeting concluded at 11.35am

Chair