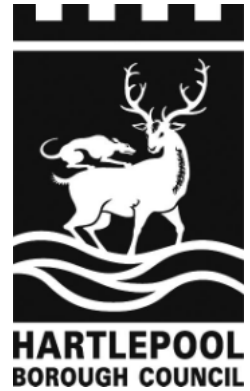


SOUTH NEIGHBOURHOOD CONSULTATIVE FORUM AGENDA



Friday, 20 August 2010

at 6.00 pm

**at Owton Rossmere Resource Centre (ORCEL),
Wynyard Road, Hartlepool**

MEMBERS: SOUTH NEIGHBOURHOOD CONSULTATIVE FORUM:

Councillors C Akers-Belcher, Flintoff, Gibbon, Hargreaves, Hill, James, Lawton, A E Lilley, G Lilley, A Marshall, Preece, Turner and P Thompson

Resident Representatives: Mary Green, Rosemarie Kennedy, Iris Ryder and Angela Wilcox

- 1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**
- 2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**
- 3. TO RECEIVE ANY DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS**
- 4. MINUTES**
 - 4.1 To confirm the minutes of the South Neighbourhood Consultative Forum meeting held on 2 July 2010
 - 4.2 Matters arising
 - 4.3 To receive the minutes of the South Police and Community Safety Consultative Forum meeting held on 29 July 2010

5. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

6. ITEMS FOR CONSULTATION

No items

7. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION and/or INFORMATION

- 7.1 Housing Hartlepool's proposal to form a group with Tristar Homes –
Representative from Housing Hartlepool

8. ITEMS FOR DECISION

No items

9. WARD ISSUES

10. DATE, TIME AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the South Neighbourhood Consultative Forum will take place on Friday, 22 October at Owton Manor Community Centre, Wynyard Road, commencing at 2.00 pm.

The next meeting of the South Police and Community Safety Consultative Forum will take place on Friday, 12 November 2010 at Greatham Community Centre, Front Street, Greatham commencing at 10.00 am.

WARDS

Fens
Greatham
Owton
Rossmere
Seaton

SOUTH NEIGHBOURHOOD CONSULTATIVE FORUM

2 July 2010

MINUTES OF THE MEETING



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

PRESENT:

Chair:	Councillor Ann Marshall	-	Rossmere Ward
Vice Chair:	Angie Wilcox (Resident Representative)		
	Councillor Christopher Akers-Belcher	-	Rossmere Ward
	Councillor Bob Flintoff	-	Owton Ward
	Councillor Steve Gibbon	-	Fens Ward
	Councillor Pamela Hargreaves	-	Owton Ward
	Councillor Cath Hill	-	Seaton Ward
	Councillor Marjorie James	-	Owton Ward
	Councillor Trisha Lawton	-	Rossmere Ward
	Councillor Arthur Preece	-	Fens Ward
	Councillor Paul Thompson	-	Seaton Ward

Resident Representatives:
Mary Green, Rosemarie Kennedy and Iris Ryder

Public: Sheila Kell, Joan Unwin and Michael Ward

Officers:
David Frame, Neighbourhood Manager (South)
David Mitchell, Neighbourhood Co-ordinator
Sue McBride, Neighbourhood Development Officer (South)
Peter Nixon, Senior Traffic Technician
Jo Wilson, Democratic Services Officer

Police Representatives:
Sgt Ali Sah and PCSO Barron

Housing Hartlepool Representative:
Lynn McPartlin

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Alison and Geoff Lilley.

2. WELCOME BY THE CHAIR

The Chair welcomed the new Councillors and introduced the new Vice-Chair, Angie Wilcox, thanking the previous incumbent, Iris Ryder, for her dedication to the role. She also urged anyone interested in becoming a resident representative to contact the Neighbourhood Manager. Councillor Marjorie James requested that elections for the available posts take place at the next meeting of the Forum. Should these be unsuccessful nominations could be accepted from the floor. The Neighbourhood Manager confirmed that there were 3 vacancies and interest had been expressed. Officers would continue to be proactive.

3. TO RECEIVE ANY DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS

None.

4. CONNECTED CARE UPDATE

The Vice-Chair gave a brief verbal update on the work of the Connected Care project. This was developed following a community led audit in the Owton Ward which highlighted the fragmented nature of services and the problems this caused for people trying to access them. It aimed to deliver joined up services, working in partnership with a range of agencies and organisations to ensure provision at a local level. Services being delivered include benefits & welfare advice, future jobs fund and Supported housing. During the past 18 months the project had worked with over 1500 people, raised an additional £246,000 of income to develop

locally based services and raised over £112,000 in additional benefits. Their handy man service had also completed 250 jobs and over 60 young people had been supported through the Future Jobs fund. Anyone wanting further information was asked to contact the Manor Residents Association.

Councillor Christopher Akers-Belcher asked if Connected Care were able to help with appeals against benefit decisions. The Vice-Chair advised that at the moment there was nobody qualified to advice on any legal aspects during hearings however moral support could be given before and during a hearing. The need to train someone to fulfil this role had been acknowledged particularly in the current economic climate and funding was being sought for this. Councillor Marjorie James commented if a care worker were to give incorrect legal advice during a hearing they could be sued. She had been under the impression that the Citizens Advice Bureau had qualified staff and urged those running Connected Care to look seriously at taking up this gap in provision as not everyone could afford a solicitor

Councillor Steve Gibbon queried whether Connected Care staff cooked the food delivered as part of the Meals Delivery Service themselves. The Vice-Chair confirmed they did.

The Chair thanked the Vice-Chair for her presentation and for answering Members' questions.

5. TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE SOUTH NEIGHBOURHOOD CONSULTATIVE FORUM HELD ON 9th APRIL 2010

Confirmed

Potholes – Councillor Marjorie James referred to the request that a meeting of all members be arranged to discuss the state of roads and pavements in the town and the costs associated with repairs. She acknowledged that an attempt had been made to hold a meeting for all members in the South however her intent had been for all members across the 3 forum areas to meet not just those in the South area. Councillor James therefore formally moved that a meeting of all HBC councillors be arranged to discuss the state of roads and pavements in the town and the costs associated with repairs. This was approved by members, the Neighbourhood Manager to take the appropriate action.

6. MATTERS ARISING

Rossmere Way – Councillor Christopher Akers-Belcher requested an update on the proposed traffic survey. The Neighbourhood Manager advised that results had shown that speeding traffic was not a problem. However the police were being more proactive by installing mobile speed cameras at differing times of the day and issuing speeding fines. He would send the survey results to Councillor Akers-Belcher

Councillor Akers-Belcher also queried what was being done to improve the grass verge outside the shops. The Neighbourhood Co-ordinator indicated that this would be considered when the priorities for the South area were being reviewed.

Driving alcohol and drug tests – Resident Representative Mary Green referred to a previous suggestion she had made that automatic drug tests be carried out on anyone stopped for driving misdemeanour. Sergeant Ali Sah advised that officers were able to breathalyse anyone they pulled over and

if drug use was suspected they could automatically arrest them and carry out further tests.

Connected Care – Resident Mike Ward asked who was eligible for the Handy Man scheme. Resident Representative Mary Green reported that it was available to the disabled and over 60s. The Chair advised Mr Ward to contact Manor Residents Associated as the Vice-Chair had left the meeting.

7. TO RECEIVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE SOUTH AREA POLICE AND COMMUNITY SAFETY CONSULTATIVE FORUM HELD ON 23rd APRIL 2010.

Received.

Resident Representative Mary Green congratulated police on their apprehension of 2 off road vehicles the previous evening. Sergeant Ali Sah confirmed that 2 vehicles had been taken and 1 youth arrested. 2 further vehicles and another youth were currently being sought. PCSO Barron advised that a further vehicle had been taken from Glamis Walk.

8. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Chief Constable - Sergeant Ali Sah read a brief statement from Chief Constable Sean Price regarding the proposed Government cutbacks. He reassured members that Cleveland Police were committed to maintaining front line staff and not making compulsory redundancies. Any reports to the contrary were media scaremongering. Police, partners and communities would continue to work together. Resident Mike Ward referred to successful partnership work in the South area. However he was concerned that residents at a recent Greatham Parish Council meeting had been unaware of PACT meetings.

Sergeant Sah indicated that PACT meetings were advertised in the Hartlepool Mail and by individual officers. Posters were also put up, specifically in the post office at Greatham.

Tall Ships disabled parking - Resident Joan Unwin queried who she needed to contact with regards to disabled parking during the Tall Ships as she had been told there was no disabled parking available in the town centre and she was unable to use buses because of insurance issues. The Senior Traffic Technician would contact her regarding this however Sergeant Ali Sah advised that there would be parking zones across the town centre during the event.

Owton Ward policing – Sergeant Ali Sah reported that a second Police Constable had been assigned to the Owton Ward from 15th July 2010.

9. 20 MPH ZONES IN HARTLEPOOL

The Senior Traffic Technician gave a brief update on the implementation of 20mph zones in Hartlepool. In 2005 Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Forum had recommended that 20mph zones and associated traffic calming by implemented outside schools in Hartlepool. Consequently in the South area Rift House and Owton Manor Primary had been made 20 mph zones while alternative calming measures had been taken at English Martyrs and Manor College as 20 mph was not possible. In 2010/11 work would be undertaken outside Brierton and Holy Trinity.

Regarding the 20's plenty campaign to make the whole of Hartlepool a 20mph zone the Senior Traffic Technician advised that following implementation in Portsmouth research had shown a 30% reduction in accidents. It had been decided therefore to implement experimental 20mph zones in the 3 forum

areas using signage. This had been actioned in the North and Centre however there had been a written objection to Seaton Front being made a 20mph zone and this would need to be considered prior to implementation. It was felt that introducing a blanket 20mph zone across the whole of Hartlepool might be impractical however it might be a good idea in residential and highly pedestrianised areas. The Tees Valley councils had agreed to consider in principle the drawing up of a policy on this matter across the region. The Road Safety Team Leader would bring a report on this matter to the September Neighbourhood Forums.

Councillor Marjorie James expressed her support for the 20s plenty campaign and asked if it would be possible to install signage at the entrances to the town that the speed limit was 20mph unless signage inside the town indicated otherwise. She felt that apart from the dual carriageway running into Hartlepool all roads gave access to residential areas and children needed to be protected. The Senior Traffic Technician indicated that it would not be possible to install general signage at the town's entrances. The 20mph trials would give a clear indication of how successful this might be in other areas.

Resident Representative Mary Green asked if traffic calming action could be taken on the one-way street running along the side of Morrison's. The Senior Traffic Technician to pass these comments on to the appropriate officer.

Councillor Christopher Akers-Belcher queried how the 20mph trials would link in to a potential investigation by Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Forum. The Senior Traffic Technician was unaware of the details. Councillor Marjorie James felt a presentation in September might be too soon and

suggested officers wait until any scrutiny investigation was completed. The Neighbourhood Manager would forward these concerns on. Councillor James highlighted that scrutiny meetings were open to the general public should they wish to attend.

The Chair thanked the Senior Traffic Technician for attending the meeting and answering questions.

10. MINOR WORKS BUDGET 2010/2011

The Neighbourhood Manager reported details of the Minor Works Budget allocation for 2010/11 and the Forum's role with regard to the proposal and approval of schemes.

The Minor Works Budget for the South Neighbourhood Consultative Forum was allocated for 2010/11 as follows: -

- ❖ £52,000 from the Council for Forum schemes
- ❖ £20,000 from Highways (£10,000 from Local Transport Plan and £10,000 from Highways Maintenance) to address minor highway works identified by the Forum
- ❖ £15,000 to address the conversion of grass verges to hard standing identified by the Forum.

Councillor Marjorie James reminded members that £5,000 of this funding had already been committed to Pride in Hartlepool.

Councillor Pamela Hargreaves referred to the budget cuts being implemented on local authorities across the country and urged the forum to be cautious in managing people's expectations. The Neighbourhood Manager acknowledged

this but felt the Forum needed to concentrate on the here and now.

Councillor Christopher Akers-Belcher felt that any future minor works proposals should be considered in conjunction with SCRAPT funding. The Neighbourhood Manager advised that the SCRAPT fund would be subject to the same budget review as the minor works.

Resident Representative Iris Ryder asked if Seaton Cricket Club could be included in the rolling programme of parking provision.

Decision

- I. That the submission of recommendations regarding Minor Works proposals to the Portfolio Holder for Transport and Neighbourhoods for final decision be noted
- II. That the availability of £52,000 for general Minor Works schemes be noted
- III. That the availability of £20,000 for highway related schemes be approved
- IV. That the allocation of £15,000 to specifically address the issues concerning grass verge re-instatement be noted

11. MINOR WORKS PROPOSALS

The Forum were asked to agree to recommend £3,500 be allocated to dropped crossing implementation across the South Area

Councillor Marjorie James referred to the appendix to the report which gave details of the total minor works spend for 2009/10. She queried why Housing Hartlepool had only contributed £4,000

given the large number of their properties in the Owton area. Lynn McPartlin from Housing Hartlepool commented that their minor works budget covered the whole of Hartlepool so there was not a lot of ready money available. Councillor James questioned damage caused to Greenock Road footpaths during the new build construction in the area. The Neighbourhood Manager stated that usually a three year defect liability was in place if damage was caused to surrounding areas following the construction work. This would be pursued by the Neighbourhood Coordinator. Councillor James highlighted the importance of this given that the sale of the land had benefitted Housing Hartlepool. Further clarification would be sort as to the ownership and developers of this site and the appropriate action taken.

Decision

That the scheme be submitted to the Portfolio Holder for approval.

12. WARD ISSUES

Tactile crossings – Resident Representative Mary Green indicated that tactile crossings in a number of areas were in a bad state of repair. The Neighbourhood Co-ordinator would contact the Highways Department.

Seaton smells – Resident Representative Iris Ryder raised the issue of continuing smells emanating from Niromax, Seaton Meadows and a factory on Brenda Road. Councillor Cath Hill advised that this was the responsibility of the Environment Agency. The Neighbourhood Manager to inform the Principal Environmental Health Officer as their liaison.

Seaton Library – Resident Representative Iris Ryder requested

signage be placed at Seaton Library as taxi drivers were under the impression that it was a nursery

Proposed sea front licence – Resident Representative Iris Ryder referred to a proposed licence for late night activities near the sea front, querying what it was for. The Neighbourhood Manager to investigate, Councillor Paul Thompson suggested it might be a formality for the beacon lighting ceremony.

Broken pavements – Resident Representative Iris Ryder asked about the legal position of people parked on pavements. Councillor Marjorie James advised that it was against the law but the Neighbourhood Manager clarified that this was only if the vehicle was causing an obstruction. This was a police matter however they were unlikely to issue tickets unless access was being prevented. The Senior Traffic Technician advised that parking on pavements was encouraged in certain areas to enable emergency vehicle access. Councillor James commented that she would support residents living in narrow streets in this until the road surfaces were widened. The Chair indicated that a report on this issue was pending from Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Forum.

Meeting times – Councillor Christopher Akers-Belcher queried why the next meeting of the Forum would be held at 6pm on a Friday. The Neighbourhood Manager advised that South Forum meetings were always held on a Friday and meeting times were regularly amended to allow as many people as possible to attend. The following were suggested by members as possible solutions:

- Hold the meeting on Thursday (the Central Neighbourhood Forum meeting was traditionally held on a Thursday)

- Hold the 3 Forum meetings on the same day at staggered times (the Neighbourhood Forum meetings each had their designate day and members had previously been unhappy if this was changed)
- Combine the 3 Forums in one big meeting. Joint presentations could be given then individual areas separate for any individual problems
- Hold the meeting at 4pm

Resident Michael Ward highlighted the importance of evening meetings for working people. Following a lengthy discussion the Chair decided that the meeting would go ahead on the time and date previously indicated.

The meeting concluded at 11.15 am

WARDS

Fens
Greatham
Owton
Rossmere
Seaton

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

30 July 2010

MINUTES OF THE MEETING



The meeting commenced at 2.00 pm at Owton Rossmere Resource Centre (ORCEL),
Wynyard Road, Hartlepool

PRESENT:

Chair:	Councillor Ann Marshall	- Rossmere Ward
	Councillor Christopher Akers-Belcher	
	Councillor Steve Gibbon	- Rossmere Ward
	Councillor Trisha Lawton	- Fens Ward
	Councillor Alison Lilley	- Rossmere Ward
	Councillor Geoff Lilley	- Fens Ward
	Councillor Arthur Preece	- Greatham Ward
	Councillor Paul Thompson	- Fens Ward
	Councillor Mike Turner	- Seaton Ward
		- Seaton Ward

Residents: Donna and Sybil Hotham

Council Officers:

- Clare Clark, Neighbourhood Manager (Central)
- Sally Forth, Social Behaviour and Housing Manager
- Brian Neale, Crime and Disorder Co-ordinator
- David Mitchell, Neighbourhood Co-ordinator
- Susan McBride, Neighbourhood Development Officer (South)
- Julie Hetherington, Community Safety Assistant
- Jo Wilson, Democratic Services Officer

Police Representatives: Chief Inspector Lynn Beeston, Inspector Dave Toor and PCSO Moore

Fire Brigade Representative: Abby Burton

Housing Hartlepool Representative: Andy Elvidge

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were submitted from Councillors Bob Flintoff and Marjorie James and Resident Representatives Mary Green, Iris Ryder and Angie Wilcox.

2. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 23 April 2010

These were approved as a true record

3. MATTERS ARISING

Councillor Geoff Lilley referred to his previous request that alternative venues be considered, particularly Greatham Community Centre. The Chair highlighted potential transport problems associated with this site however officers were asked to look at booking a future meeting there.

4. UPDATE FROM THE POLICE

Chief Inspector Beeston highlighted a recent message from the Chief Constable for Cleveland Police regarding recent press speculation around cuts and outsourcing of frontline services. These were just rumours and speculation, in reality only the back office functions were being outsourced. Durham Constabulary had advised their staff that they were all being considered for compulsory redundancy, however the Chief Constable was determined not to take similar action with the Cleveland force. The number of community officers would also be protected.

Chief Inspector Beeston also highlighted the decision of Cleveland Police to continue delivery of the Policing Pledge on a local level despite the recent Government decision to scrap it nationally. She reiterated that it was

business as usual for Cleveland Police and reinforced their commitment to neighbourhood policing.

An overview was provided of crime forcewide and in Hartlepool during June 2010. Force-wide figures were down for House Burglaries, Criminal Damage, Vehicle Crime and other theft while Drugs activity had risen. However violent crime had increased by over 10%. Members were advised that this rise was predominantly associated with the night-time economy. In Hartlepool increases in violent crime and other theft had led to a general increase in all crime of over 13%. Councillor Geoff Lilley commented upon the steady decline in crime rates over the last few years, saying that while these would eventually plateau it was important to remember how far things had come. The number of arrests, cautions, charges, warrants, AS13s and Street encounters in the South area of the town were given.

A number of items of interest were also highlighted including off-road bike operations, the execution of drug warrants and work around anti-social behaviour. Inspector Dave Toor had recently taken part in a live web chat to enable those people who were unable to attend public meetings to have their questions answered. He also highlighted the recent successes of South area officers at the Policing Awards, specifically PC Wade and PCSO Dobson. Members offered their congratulations to "the best team in Hartlepool".

The following issues were then raised by members.

Anti-Social Behaviour Orders - Councillor Steve Gibbon referred to recent press reports that ASBOs were being scrapped. Chief Inspector Beeston advised that police and Anti-Social Behaviour Officers were still waiting to be

told the exact details of the possible new legislation. She refuted the assertion that ASBOs were ineffectual. The Social Behaviour and Housing Manager believed that ASBOs would be rebranded and reviewed rather than removed completely.

Obstruction – Resident Sybil Hotham indicated that a vehicle had been repeatedly parking over her driveway leaving her unable to move her own car. Chief Inspector Beeston confirmed that this type of obstruction was an offence. Inspector Toor to liaise with Mrs Hotham after the meeting.

Spalding Green – Councillor Geoff Lilley referred to the home of an elderly lady which was covered in graffiti and queried whether anti-vandalism paint might help. Inspector Toor to action this through Crime Prevention.

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

5. UPDATE FROM THE FIRE BRIGADE

Abby Burton from Cleveland Fire Brigade gave an update on the number of fires which had occurred in the South area between April and June 2010. Comparison figures with the same quarter 2009/10 had shown an increase in accidental fires of lower value. All other types of fire had remained static or decreased. Officers were working closely with Crime Prevention on domestic violence, carrying out home fire safety visits and fitting letterbox and domestic violence locks.

The following issues were then raised:

Diversionary activities – Councillor Geoff Lilley highlighted the work in relation to young people's football. Ms Burton advised that this could be under

threat due to budget cuts so alternative funding and methods of delivery were being sought. She urged the public to tell the Fire Brigade what was important to them in order to enable them to prioritise as everything was under consideration. Councillor Steve Gibbon expressed his support for the football coaching at the Fens.

Sharwoods Factory – Councillor Geoff Lilley highlighted concerns at young people gaining access to this site, particularly during the school holidays

Spalding Green – With reference to the previous query about the elderly lady and the anti-graffiti paint Ms Burton indicated she would ask their Older Person Advocate to speak to the lady in question regarding extra assistance she might need in the event of a fire at her property.

Multi-Use Games Area – Chief Inspector Lynn Beeston queried whether this had been received by the Brigade. Ms Burton confirmed that it had and had been used at community events around the Tees Valley. Chief Inspector Beeston had understood that it was for exclusive use in Hartlepool and would liaise with the appropriate person.

The Chair thanked Ms Burton for attending the meeting and answering questions.

6. ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR UNIT UPDATE

The Social Behaviour and Housing Manager updated members on the current work being undertaken by the Unit. The Social Behaviour Strategy needed updating as there was no current over-arching strategy all partners were signed up to.

The timetable was to have the strategy completed by October but this will slip

due to uncertainties regarding funding, pending the budget announcement in October and anticipated changes to the law.

Despite the lack detailed information officers had decided to commence work on the review strategy Members were given a questionnaire listing possible priorities for the Anti-Social Behaviour strategy and were urged to complete this and return it to the Unit.

Details were also given of the Unit's activity for the period April – June 2010 in comparison with the previous year as well as case outcomes for the previous 3 month period.

Rowdy behaviour – Councillor Paul Thompson asked if this increase was a result of the World Cup. The Social Behaviour and Housing Manager confirmed this while Chief Inspector Beeston commented that increases in violence and domestic incidents had eased off when England had been knocked out.

ABSOs – Resident Donna Hotham asked whether current ABSOs would remain in place following a review of the system. The Social Behaviour and Housing Manager advised that they had been given no information to the contrary.

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

7. CRIME AND DISORDER CO-ORDINATION UPDATE

The Crime and Disorder Co-ordinator gave a brief update on the work of the Crime and Disorder Unit. He advised that there had been 293 less victims of crime in the South area during the previous year and highlighted the successful partnership work carried out between the

Crime and Disorder Unit and police and fire officers amongst others. Hartlepool was acknowledged regionally and nationally for its successful work in this area, something which would stand it in good stead for the inevitable rocky times to come. He confirmed that the Safer Hartlepool Partnership vehicle would be located at a variety of Hartlepool areas during the coming months, starting at Burn Valley the following day.

Resident Donna Hotham queried whether neighbourhood policing would be affected by the Tall Ships event. Chief Inspector Beeston confirmed that this was inevitable however neighbouring forces were also being drafted in to help so while there might be a noticeable absence of beat officers during the event this did not mean that areas were not being policed.

The Chair thanked the Crime and Disorder Co-ordinator for attending the meeting and answering questions.

8. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

No items

9. ISSUES RAISED BY COUNCILLORS AND RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVES

Councillor Geoff Lilley reiterated his previous concerns about the Sharwoods Factory building. Chief Inspector Beeston confirmed that police officers were doing all they could to find a solution.

The meeting concluded at 3:10pm