NORTH AREA POLICE AND COMMUNITY SAFETY CONSULTATIVE FORUM
At
West View Community Centre,
Miers Avenue, Hartlepool
on
Wednesday 10th November 2010
commencing at 10.00 am

AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence

2. MINUTES
   2.1 To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 28 July 2010
   2.2 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
The meeting commenced at 2.00 pm in Throston Grange Community Centre, Glamorgan Grove, Hartlepool

PRESENT:

Chair: Councillor Mary Fleet – Dyke House Ward
Vice Chair: Resident Representative Bob Steel

Councillor Reuben Atkinson - Dyke House Ward
Councillor Allan Barclay - Throston Ward
Councillor Caroline Barker - Hart Ward
Councillor Rob Cook - Hart Ward
Councillor Sheila Griffin - Brus Ward
Councillor John W Marshall - St Hilda Ward

Resident Representatives: John Maxwell, Joan Steel and Robert Steel

Public: Liam Gouldburn, Liz Torley, Alan Vale

Officers: Dave Stubbs, Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods
Garry Jones, Neighbourhood Services Officer
Nicholas Stone, Senior Anti-Social Behaviour Officer
Sarah Bird, Democratic Services Officer

Police: Chief Inspector Lynn Beeston
Inspector Mick Brown
Sergeant Mark Lennard

Safer Hartlepool Partnership: Shelley Watson, Community Safety Officer

Housing Hartlepool: Natalie Ianson

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed those present.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Jackson and Wright,
Resident Representative Linda Shields, and Officers, Denise Ogden, Karen Oliver and Brian Neale.

3. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 21 APRIL 2010

These were confirmed as an accurate account.

4. MATTERS ARISING

No items.

5. UPDATE FROM THE POLICE

Chief Inspector Lynn Beeston was introduced to those present.

Inspector Brown gave details of arrests and outcomes for the North area of Hartlepool as well as Forcewide and Hartlepool District’s performance for June 2010. It was noted that violent crime was up by just over 30% in Hartlepool although this was attributed to areas in the town centre. Measures had been put into place to combat this particularly in relation to licensing and policing of the night time economy.

Details were given of Police Community Support Officers (PCSO) involvement in relation to arrests and community events as well as work with partners by Officers. The Hart Neighbourhood Police Team had been nominated for the Neighbourhood Police Team of the year. Details of the ‘Neighbourhoodies’ youth engagement scheme were outlined.

Feed back from issues raised which had been raised at the previous meeting were given to those involved.

Inspector Brown stated that although there were likely to be cutbacks in funding, he was confident that the Police could deliver the same level of service with help from Partners.

A Resident Representative raised concerns that the site currently being decommissioned in relation to St Hild’s School was suffering from theft and he had reported this. He was advised to ring the local policing team if further instances took place. The Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods agreed to liaise with the developer to advise that security would be advisable.

A Member asked how the Policing services would respond to cuts in budget and was informed that back office functions currently covered by Police Officers would be done by Police Staff to enable Officers to carry out front line policing.

Concerns were raised about violence in the town centre and discussion took place about the possibility of licensing hours being amended. Concerns were also brought up about the possibility of the loss of some PCSO posts in Hartlepool. Members expressed appreciation of the work PCSOs carry out.

Chief Inspector Beeston stated that although the Coalition Government had dispensed with the Policing Pledge, Cleveland Police were still committed to upholding its merits.

Officers were thanked for their presentation.

6. UPDATE FROM THE FIRE BRIGADE

No one was in attendance from the fire brigade to update the meeting.
7. UPDATE FROM THE ANTIMSOCIAL BEHAVIOUR UNIT

The Senior Anti-Social Behaviour Officer distributed a questionnaire to those present at the meeting and urged them to complete these as consultation was currently taking place on updating the priorities for the Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) Strategy for the town.

Also distributed were details of the ASB 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.

A Resident Representative highlighted a point on the questionnaire regarding training to encourage residents to challenge unacceptable behaviour and said that he would not feel confident doing so. He was advised that this was in relation to extremely low level occurrences and to contact the Authorities for assistance with anything which would result in confrontation.

8. UPDATE FROM THE CRIME AND DISORDER UNIT

Shelley Watson updated the meeting on her role which involved supporting community initiatives, NAP initiatives and crime prevention measures. She referred to a Community Engagement event which had taken place at Belle Vue Community Sports and Youth Centre recently.

9. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Parking during Tall Ships Event - A resident raised concerns for public safety on the Central Estate during the Tall Ships event as parking restrictions had been placed on major routes but not on the estate and it was feared that the estate would be congested leaving routes impassable by those caring for vulnerable groups. The Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods said that he would look into the possibility of imposing parking restrictions on the estate similar to those introduced on the headland. He did stress that enforcement action would be taken against those vehicles who parked in areas subject to parking restrictions. Disabled parking of three hours would not be allowed. Publicity had been distributed in relation to parking restriction for the Tall Ships Event via the Hartlepool Mail and Hartbeat. The Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods stated that if any permanent parking restrictions were to be put in place, these would be advertised in the appropriate manner.

A resident expressed concerns that the imposition of yellow lines would encourage drivers to park on pavements. Inspector Brown said that appropriate action would be taken against perpetrators if this caused a problem to residents. The Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods added that in certain areas of the town the Authority encouraged parking on the pavement by the removal of verges as road design were inappropriate for current usage.

A Member asked about areas of the Coast Road where residents parked on the grass. The Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods said that it may be appropriate for a dropped crossing to be installed.

King Oswy public house – A resident informed the Police that this was to be boarded up the following Monday and suggested that attention be given to this to prevent any possible arson.

The meeting concluded at 3.10 pm.