

# **CENTRAL AREA POLICE AND COMMUNITY SAFETY CONSULTATIVE FORUM**

**At**

**Belle Vue Community Sports and Youth Centre,  
Kendal Road, Hartlepool**

**on**

**Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> November 2010  
commencing at 10.00 am**

## **A G E N D A**

1. Apologies for absence
2. MINUTES
  - 2.1 To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 29 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

**WARDS**

Burn Valley  
Elwick  
Foggy Furze  
Grange  
Park  
Rift House  
Stranton

***CENTRAL POLICE &  
COMMUNITY SAFETY  
CONSULTATIVE FORUM***

**29 July 2010**

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING**



The meeting commenced at 2.00 pm at Belle Vue Community Sports and Youth Centre,  
Kendal Road, Hartlepool

**PRESENT:**

Chair: Councillor Kevin Cranney - Foggy Furze Ward

Vice-Chair: Resident Representative - Evelyn Leck

Councillor Gerard Hall	- Burn Valley Ward
Councillor Frances London	- Foggy Furze Ward
Councillor George Morris	- Park Ward
Councillor Carl Richardson	- Grange Ward
Councillor Jane Shaw	- Stranton Ward
Councillor Chris Simmons	- Grange Ward
Councillor Ray Wells	- Park Ward

Resident Representatives: Bob Farrow, Peter Goodier, Brenda Loynes, Brian McBean, Julie Rudge and Hilda Wales

Residents: J Ince, Gordon Johnson, Stella Johnson, Jean Kennedy and Ray Waller

Council Officers:

- Clare Clark, Neighbourhood Manager (Central)
- Julie Bower, Selective Licensing Co-ordinator
- Nicholas Stone, Senior Anti-Social Behaviour Officer
- Laura Gallagher, Anti-Social Behaviour Officer
- Andrew Hughes, Community Safety Project Officer
- Irene Cross, Neighbourhood Development Officer (Central)
- Jo Wilson, Democratic Services Officer

Police Representatives: Inspector Dave Halliday

Fire Brigade Representative: Abby Burton

Housing Hartlepool Representative: Libby Griffiths

New Deal for Communities Representative: Mary Diver

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were submitted from Councillors Pauline Laffey, Sarah Maness and Hilary Thompson and Resident Representative Liz Carroll

**2. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 22 April 2010**

These were approved as a true record

**3. MATTERS ARISING**

Councillor Carl Richardson noted that Councillor Chris Simmons had been marked as present and as having submitted apologies at the previous meeting. The Chair suggested this may have been due to erroneous apologies being given coupled with a late arrival.

**4. UPDATE FROM THE POLICE**

Inspector Dave Halliday provided an overview 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%. In Hartlepool increases in violent crime and other theft had led to a general increase in all crime of over 13%. The number of arrests, cautions, charges, warrants, AS13s and Street encounters in the Central area of the town were given.

A number of items of interest were also highlighted including work to combat anti-social behaviour. Inspector Halliday expressed his disappointment that the efforts of the Central Officers had not been rewarded at the recent Neighbourhood Policing Awards. Members requested that their support

and thanks be passed on to the central officers.

The following issues were then raised by members.

**Neighbourhood Policing** - Councillor Carl Richardson referred to recent press reports suggesting a possible reduction in the number of neighbourhood police officers. Inspector Halliday confirmed that there were concerns across the country with Durham Constabulary issuing a 90 day notice to all its civilian staff and PCSOs. However no such action had been taken by Cleveland Police and it was thought that all their staff were safe, particularly as there was a recruitment freeze in place. He acknowledged that if PCSO numbers were cut then Neighbourhood Policing would be destroyed. The Chair queried whether some of Hartlepool's cohort might be redeployed to other Tees Valley areas. Members expressed their support for Neighbourhood Policing, and asked that these comments be passed on to the Government. Councillor Gerard Hall urged police to promote the positive aspects of neighbourhood policing to show the detrimental impact that cuts would have. This might also have an effect on future Neighbourhood Policing Award results.

**Anti-Social Behaviour Orders** - Councillor Chris Simmons referred to recent press reports that ASBOs were being scrapped. The Senior Anti-Social Behaviour Officer advised that staff were as informed as the general public in this matter at the moment. In terms of claims that ASBOs were ineffectual he indicated that in Hartlepool they had led to an 86% reduction in anti-social behaviour. While ASBO recipients might publically claim them as a badge of honour in private it was a different story. Should ASBOs be scrapped he was unable to say what

would happen to current ASBOs or what would ultimately replace them. However there were other powers which could be used to curb anti-social behaviour. Resident Ray Waller commented upon the recommendation that volunteer staff be used to manage Anti-Social behaviour Unit work in the future. He queried who would volunteer for such a task unpaid.

**Eldon Grove/Park Road** – Resident Ray Pocklington requested additional patrols in this area following an increase in rowdiness during the early hours of the morning. Inspector Halliday to discuss specific needs with Mr Pocklington after the meeting

**Waldon Street** – Resident Jean Kennedy raised concerns about children climbing over the fence into the One Life Centre. Inspector Halliday to check the security provisions of the centre and the suitability of the fence before updating Mrs Kennedy.

**Police overtime** – Councillor George Morris queried whether police overtime had been banned. Chief Inspector Halliday advised that while there was no formal ban there had been an unofficial stoppage for a long time due to budget pressures. However it was available when needed.

**Burn Valley** – The Vice-Chair raised an issue around assault and racist abuse of an elderly resident. A resident also highlighted a recent incident at the guest house she owned involving a con man. Chief Inspector Halliday to take the relevant information at the end of the meeting

The Chair thanked Inspector Halliday 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 Central area between April and June 2010. Comparison figures with the same quarter 2009/10 had shown increases in deliberate dwelling fires and accidental rubbish fires. To combat this a series of spot check home fire safety visits would be taking place. All other types of fire had shown a decrease. A number of items of interest were also highlighted including diversionary activities with young people at the Rifty and a forthcoming 6 week programme at Burn Valley, working with police and other partners to reduce anti-social behaviour and promote fire safety.

The following issues were then raised:

**Budgets** – Resident Ray Waller raised concerns that there had been no mention of any budget protection for the fire service in any of the recent Government announcements. Ms Burton advised that the service was currently undergoing an internal review which was expected to be complete in October 2010. Until then work on the previously agreed new fire buildings at the Headland and Stranton had been suspended. Mr Waller asked if someone in authority would be able to provide an update to a future meeting. The Neighbourhood Manager advised that she was due to meet with the Fire Brigade's Director of Community Protection shortly and would ask him to attend the next meeting. Councillor Gerard Hall reiterated his previous comments regarding promoting the positive work carried out by the fire service in order to avoid future cuts. Councillor Chris Simmons thanked fire officers for their preventative work visiting homes and schools. However he requested that in the future statistics be

provided in number form rather than as percentages

**Longhill Industrial Estate** – The Vice-chair queried whether there had been any fires on this site recently. Ms Burton did not have this information but would advise the Vice-Chair at a later date.

**Baden Street** – Councillor Frances London highlighted the need for a concerted effort to put right problems in this area.

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

#### 6. ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR UNIT UPDATE

The Senior Anti-Social Behaviour Officer updated members on the current work being undertaken by the Unit. A proposed review strategy had been put on hold pending the results of the general election. Subsequently an announcement had been made that ASBOs were to be rebranded and redefined. In the absence of more 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.

The Senior Anti-Social Behaviour Officer also gave details 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.

**Marske Street** – The Vice-Chair highlighted anti-social behaviour around this area, commenting that the positive statistics presented in the report were not borne out by the reality of daily life. The Senior Anti-Social Behaviour Officer

indicated that the statistics referred to those incidents which the Unit had been made aware of. The Vice-chair indicated that complaints regarding excessive noise had been made and the lack of response was disheartening. The Senior Anti-Social Officer reported that noise was dealt with by Public Protection and a 24-hour helpline had recently been launched by them. The Chair urged the Vice-Chair to keep up the pressure on departments.

**Young people** – Councillor Gerard Hall expressed his support for the idea of prioritising the strategy but criticised the questionnaire for its implication that anti-social behaviour was primarily committed by young people. He felt that demonising young people would not encourage them to be upstanding members of the community. The Anti-Social Behaviour Officer advised that this had not been the intention as most complaints about anti-social behaviour were made by adults about adults.

**Rebranding** – Councillor Gerard Hall expressed the hope that any future rebrand of ASBOs would not introduce unnecessary targets.

The Chair thanked the Senior Anti-Social Behaviour Officer for attending the meeting and answering questions.

#### 7. CRIME AND DISORDER CO-ORDINATION UPDATE

The Community Safety Project Officer gave a brief update on the work of the Crime and Disorder Unit. He advised that work with schools, colleges and the probation service would continue despite the recent announcement of a 10% cut in mainstream funding. A large amount of planning had taken place with the Emergency Planning Unit around the forthcoming Tall Ships event and a number of crime prevention initiatives were also in place. Figures showed a

significant drop in domestic burglaries, vehicle crime and serious acquisitive crime however the number of small assaults had increased. Members queried whether this was due to the world cup.

Councillor Gerard Hall suggested that people holding ASBOs be required to engage in a form of community service as payback. However the Community Safety Project Officer indicated that while officers would love to do this the type of work would be limited. Additional supervisory staff would also be needed and recent budget cuts meant this could be problematic.

Resident Ray Waller referred to a recent Government announcement that short term prison sentences were to be axed. He asked what preparations had been made for this. The Community Safety Project Officer advised that he had no specific information on this at the moment however staff were preparing for all eventualities.

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

## **8. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

Councillor Frances London expressed her support for all the issues raised at the meeting, commenting that it was good to see people working smarter and managing resources while also looking after society.

Resident Representative Hilda Wales highlighted the large number of professional people who gave their time for free to volunteer for a wide range of community projects.

Resident Representative Brian McBean raised concerns about who had access to alleygate keys, as this undermined the

integrity of the whole system. Inspector Halliday acknowledged this was an issue and police were taking steps to combat it.

Resident Representative Bob Farrow referred to foul odours and explosions which continued to occur on the Longhill Industrial Estate. The Chair requested that officers from the Environment Department be contacted.

## **9. ISSUES RAISED BY COUNCILLORS AND RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVES**

No items

The meeting concluded at 3:40pm