

SOUTH AREA POLICE AND COMMUNITY SAFETY CONSULTATIVE FORUM

At

**Greatham Community Centre,
Front Street, Greatham**

on

**Friday 12th 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 30 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

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:

Diversions 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