

NORTH AREA POLICE AND COMMUNITY SAFETY CONSULTATIVE FORUM

in

West View Community Centre

on

**Wednesday, 15th March, 2006
commencing at 2 pm.**

A G E N D A

1. Apologies for absence
2. **MINUTES**
 - (a) To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 2nd November 2005.
 - (b) Matters arising.
3. Police Presentation on Neighbourhood Policing
4. Update from Cleveland Fire Brigade
5. Public Question Time.
6. Issues raised by Councillors and Resident Representatives.
7. Any other business agreed by the Chairman.

WARDS

Brus
Dyke House
Hart
St Hilda
Throston

***NORTH POLICE &
COMMUNITY SAFETY
CONSULTATIVE FORUM***

2nd November 2005

MINUTES OF THE MEETING



PRESENT:

Chair:	Councillor Rob Cook	Hart Ward
Vice Chair:	Mary Power	Resident Representative
	Councillor Caroline Barker	- Hart Ward
	Councillor John Cambridge	- St Hilda Ward
	Councillor John Marshall	- St Hilda Ward
	Councillor Jane Shaw	- Dyke House Ward
	Councillor Denis Waller	- Brus Ward
	Councillor Edna Wright	- Hart Ward

Resident Representatives: Dennis Brightey, John Lynch and Linda Shields

Residents: E Barnes, D Black, C Carruthers-Watt, J Cooke, S Dickson, Sheila Halpin, Jean Lynn, Cath Torley, Liz Torley, Alan Vale and Hilda Wright

Officers: Alison Mawson, Head of Community Safety and Prevention
Karen Oliver, Town Care Manager
Pat Watson, Democratic Services Officer
Jo Wilson, Democratic Services Officer

Police Representatives: Inspector Peter Knights, Sgt Helen Bell, PC Steve Cranston and PC Val Marley

Fire Brigade Representatives:
ADO Tony Dale, Derek Minton and Gordon Young

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

The Chair Councillor Rob Cook welcomed residents, Councillors and Officers.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Sandra Fenwick, Sheila Griffin and Peter Jackson and Resident Representatives James Hastings and Ted Lee

3. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 6th July 2005 were confirmed.

There were no matters arising.

4. YOUNG FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION AND PROJECTS AND GENERAL UPDATE FROM THE FIRE BRIGADE

ADO Tony Dale and Derek Minton (employed by HBC Youth Service, seconded to the Fire Brigade), gave presentations and showed a video on the following:

Young Fire-fighters Association (YFA) – a scheme that gives young people from all areas of the local community the opportunity to develop, personally and socially, using the Fire Brigade as a positive role model. The aims of the YFA were outlined:

- To promote the Fire Service, to educate and increase awareness of arson, to highlight the consequence of hoax calls and fire safety at home and in the community.
- To offer Young Fire-fighters the opportunity to undertake the Fire Service Youth Training Association accredited B-TEC Development Programme.
- To promote the opportunity of delivering the fire safety messages to family, peer groups, the general public and all community partners.
- To assist in the promotion of self development both mentally and physically, whilst promoting self discipline, Social consciousness, community awareness and good citizenship.
- To foster the spirit of adventure and develop qualities of leadership amongst the members.

The YFA is housed in a new building next to Stranton Fire Station and courses are for 3 years, one night a week for 13 year olds onwards.

The video showed participants in the Local Intervention Fire Education (LIFE) scheme. The purpose of the 5 day scheme, for 13 to 17 year olds, being to provide training and development opportunities to young people who have been referred by various agencies. The aim being to encourage them to make the most of their physical and mental capabilities and to become more responsible, safer and caring members of their communities.

The culmination of the week's Life Skills and personal development course is the Passing out Parade and the presentation of their Certificates in First Aid, Fire Fighting Awareness and a Profile of Achievement by a Senior Fire Brigade Officer. The young people have an opportunity to demonstrate, in front of relatives and friends, the skills that they have learned over the five day intensive fire brigade experience.

The Fire Officers commented on the noticeable changes in personalities and attitude as the course progressed.

The Chair thanked Mr Dale and Mr Minton for the presentation and praised the fire brigade for running the courses. He said it was good to see young people getting involved.

5. UPDATE FROM THE POLICE

Inspector Peter Knights gave a brief presentation on reported crime figures July to September 2005. When compared with the same period in 2004 there had been a 5% increase in crime as a whole in the North Forum area. However there had been a drop in crime

in the Brus and Dyke House wards. A table showing the statistics for all the individual wards was circulated.

Inspector Knights introduced himself as the new Community Safety Inspector for Cleveland Police. He pledged to attend as many meetings as possible and urged the public to report any crimes to the police as this gave a true picture of what was taking place. Inspector Knights also drew attention to the dispersal order which comes into effect in the Dyke House area next week on 7th November. This is designed to improve the quality of life for the residents.

Councillors asked for detailed information on the crime statistics and were told these were not available at the present time. Inspector Knights explained the rise of crime by saying that previously officers did not record crimes if they were asked not to by the victims but now they did. He also said that increases in pub and club opening hours were also paying their part. He was reluctant to provide detailed statistics for individual wards as this would lead to a statistical discussion every meeting. The Head of Community Safety and Prevention said the crime figures were provided to give information to those present and local officers could come to individual ward meetings if residents wanted to look at them in more detail. However the Chair said he felt detailed statistical information should be made available to the Police and Community Safety Forums as not everyone went to the smaller meetings.

The following issues were then raised:

- A resident said dispersing people from one area would only move the problem to another. Inspector Knights said he was mindful of the effect but officers would step outside the dispersal zone if necessary. However

the whole town could not become a dispersal zone.

- The Chair asked which hours the dispersal zone would be patrolled. Inspector Knights said the hours would be adjusted depending on need and urged residents to report all problems so police would be able to respond as needed.
- A Councillor asked where gangs of children would be dispersed to as parents may not be happy if their children were moved away from home. Inspector Knights said this would depend on individual situations but officers would endeavour to send them home.
- A Resident Representative asked if there would be any improvement in police response times. Inspector Knights acknowledged that slow police responses were frustrating but serious cases had to be dealt with first. However he urged residents to report any problems as multiple calls about an area would lead to an increased police presence.
- A Resident asked if feedback to those who had reported crime could be improved. Inspector Knights said the Police Communications Centre had started a ringback system to victims of crime but Cleveland Police had had 200,000 incidents so far this year so there was a resourcing issue.
- A Resident asked if it was possible to remove alcohol licences from off-licence owners selling alcohol to minors? Inspector Knights said this was a matter for the magistrates and urged those present to report any incidents of this nature to the police so the matter could be taken to the courts.

- A Councillor asked if Hart Ward could be designated a hot spot and assigned warden patrols due to the 200% increase of violence against the person in the last year? Inspector Knights said he did not know if Hart would become a hot spot but there would be extra police patrols. He did not know if the violence was alcohol related but said violence against the person also included threatened or perceived violence as well as actual violence. Detailed information on the causes of violence against the person in the Hart Ward was requested for the next meeting. Inspector Knights explained this would involve police officer going through each individual crime report and questioned whether residents would want to sit through so much statistical information.
- A Resident enquired about follow-up procedures for victims. She had reported a crime four months ago and had heard nothing from the police. Inspector Knights said he would have expected officers to have contacted her by now and arranged to discuss the particulars of her case with her after the meeting.
- Residents enquired about the current status of Neighbourhood Watch. Inspector Knights said the Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator had been taken ill recently and there was currently an interim Co-ordinator. Neighbourhood Watch was an important part of community policing and he was personally pushing for a full-time Co-ordinator. The problem was there were too many local Co-ordinators and the ringmaster communications system was flawed. The Chair asked if e-mail could be used as a communications device and Inspector Knights agreed to examine this.

- A Councillor asked if it would be possible to have more police presence at the Police and Community Safety Forum. Inspector Knights said people wanted officers at meetings and patrolling the streets and they could not do both. Another Councillor said he would rather see a drop in crime than have police officers sitting in meetings.
- A Resident Representative asked if it would be possible to recruit “civilians” to fill certain policing jobs to help with current staffing levels. Inspector Knights said this was already being done in the police control room

6. COMMUNITY SAFETY SECTION REPORT

The Head of Community Safety and Prevention reported on the use of CCTV cameras in the town. A covert camera had been in place near Clavering shopping parade for two weeks and Council Officers were now holding discussions with the Anti-Social Behaviour unit on how to engage with the youths loitering in the area. The Chair asked if there were any plans to install more cameras there but was told there were not. However a camera had been approved for Spion Kop which was expected to be in place in the New Year.

A Councillor asked if statistical information could be provided to the forum on the benefits of having CCTV cameras installed. The Head of Community Safety and Prevention said she could bring information on cameras leading to arrests but not on whether these arrests led to prosecutions.

The following issues were then raised:

- A Resident asked if the Headland paddling pool camera was

operational. The Town Care Manager reported that it was and it had recorded incidents of vandalism during the summer months.

- A Councillor asked if Hart Ward would be allocated Community Wardens. The Head of Community Safety and Prevention said as Hart was not a Neighbourhood Renewal area they would not be eligible for Community Wardens under that particular scheme. Funding would need to come from elsewhere.
- A Councillor called for the use of CCTV cameras in successful prosecutions to be reported by the media. Inspector Knights said CCTV cameras were referred to in court cases and they were an exceptionally useful tool.
- A Resident Representative asked if the area around Carnegie Hall could have a speed camera or humps. The Chair reported that a survey was being done on the issue and the results would be reported back to the forum in due course.

7. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

None at this time

8. ISSUES RAISED BY COUNCILLORS AND RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVES

A Resident Representative drew attention to the continuing problems with motorbikes and fly tipping on Spion Kop. This was noted.

Councillors and residents questioned the telephone answering provisions at local police stations. Inspector Knights said if an incident needed urgent action it should be phoned through to the central office on

Ladgate Lane. The local officer number should only be used for non-urgent calls. Calls to the central office would be logged on the computer and so would not be missed. A Councillor called for more liaison between local offices.

A Resident Representative asked if there could be more positive news on the agenda for the next meeting. The Chair reported that the presentation given by fire officers was good news and asked if there was anything residents would like to see on the agenda.

A resident asked if a list of CCTV cameras in the North area could be made available. The Chair said this could be sent out.

R Cook

Chairman