

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

**at  
Belle Vue Community Sports & Youth Centre**

**on  
Thursday, 16<sup>th</sup> 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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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**

Brinkburn  
Elwick  
Grange  
Jackson  
Park  
Rift House  
Stranton

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

**3<sup>rd</sup> November 2005**

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING**



**PRESENT:**

|            |                             |                         |
|------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------|
| Chair:     | Lilian Sutheran             | Rift House Ward         |
| Vice-Chair | Clive Hall                  | Resident Representative |
|            | Councillor Stanley Fortune  | Park Ward               |
|            | Councillor Gerard Hall      | Burn Valley Ward        |
|            | Councillor Jean Kennedy     | Foggy Furze Ward        |
|            | Councillor Frances London   | Stranton Ward           |
|            | Councillor Dr George Morris | Park Ward               |
|            | Councillor Carl Richardson  | Grange Ward             |
|            | Councillor Vic Tumilty      | Grange Ward             |
|            | Councillor Gladys Worthy    | Rift House Ward         |

**Resident Representatives:**

James Atkinson, Dave Berry, Ian Campbell, Bob Farrow, Patrick Finnan, Evelyn Leck, Alan Lloyd and Billy Lynch

**Residents:** M E Lumley, Brian Neale and Julie Rudge

**Council Officers:**

Alison Mawson, Head of Community Safety and Prevention  
Denise Ogden, Town Care Manager  
Jo Wilson, Democratic Services Officer

**Police Representative:**

Inspector Peter Knights

**Cleveland Fire Brigade Representatives:**

ADO Tony Dale, Derek Minton

## **1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Councillors Stephen Belcher, Gordon Henery, Bill Iseley and Ray Waller and Resident Representative Patrick Finnan

## **2. MINUTES**

Minutes from the meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> July 2005 were confirmed as a true record with the amendment by Councillor Vic Tumilty that there were no bus lay-bys on Murray Street.

Resident Representative Dave Berry drew attention to the parking problems in York Road and was asked to bring this up later in the meeting.

## **3. YOUNG FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION AND PROJECTS AND GENERAL UPDATE FROM THE FIRE BRIGADE**

ADO Tony Dale and Derek Minton, who is 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 near the 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.

Resident Representative Bob Farrow asked if attendance on the course could lead to employment with the fire brigade. Mr Dale said it could but there were no guarantees. In response to a further question from Mr Farrow he said that children could be referred onto the course but there were limited places on it at the moment.

Councillor Gladys Worthy commented that all the youngsters shown on the presentation had been male. Mr Dale said they had to run segregated courses owing to bathroom facilities at the premises used for the course. Councillor Worthy went on to ask how the participants on the course were selected. Mr Minton said they ranged from children with no social skills and behavioural problems to those deemed gifted and talented. It was not designed purely for "bad kids".

Resident Representative Patrick Finnan asked who decided which children would lead the various teams during the programme. Mr Minton said the facilitators of the programme tried to bring the weaker children forward if possible but no-one was forced to do anything they didn't want to.

The Chair praised Mr Dale and Mr Minton for the presentation, saying it was good to see these children get the chance to turn their lives around.

#### **4. 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 13% increase in crime as a whole in the Central Forum area. However crime in the Park Ward had dropped by 21%. A table showing the figures for individual wards in the area was circulated.

Inspector Knights then gave a verbal update on the following issues

#### **Bonfire Night**

Inspector Knights said there had been additional police patrols in place for the three weeks preceding 5<sup>th</sup> November and there had been no significant increase in activity. This had been helped by the tighter timescales relating to the sale of fireworks. Those present were asked to inform the police of any inappropriate sales.

#### **Neighbourhood Watch**

Inspector Knights acknowledged this was not in the best state of health but it would take time to fix. The communications system was archaic but he could make no promises on how long it would take to mend. Those present were encouraged to pass on any ideas they had as Inspector Knights considered Neighbourhood Watch a good tool for the police.

Councillor Carl Richardson asked when the Ringmaster communications system would be fixed. Inspector Knight said he would expect it to take no longer than six months but could make no guarantees. Use of e-mail was a possible communication solution. Councillor Stanley Fortune asked if an interim scheme could be put in place in the meantime in view of the dark nights but Inspector Knights said he wanted long-term solutions to the problem.

Resident Representative Evelyn Leck said £300 had been spent on the Ringmaster licence by Neighbourhood Watch but nothing had come of it. She said not everyone had e-mail access. Resident Representative Patrick Finnan said it was imperative Ringmaster was repaired and called on the Council and MP to help speed up the process, saying six months was too long to wait.

The Vice-Chair asked Inspector Knights if there could be a greater police presence at Neighbourhood Watch meetings as it would help residents to know their concerns were being passed on.

### **Binge drinking**

Additional police patrols would be assigned to the town centre and there were several associated initiatives underway. Inspector Knights felt that by handling disorder in the town centre there would be a positive knock-on effect on the outlying estates.

Councillor Gladys Worthy asked if publicans would be invited to contribute to the cost of additional police patrols rather than it being covered by the taxpayer. In response the Town Care Manager said there would be a public meeting the following evening to discuss such matters. Expected to attend were the Chair of the Licensing Act Committee, Licensing Officers and representatives of the police and the licensed trade.

### **Operation Sabre**

A weapons amnesty would take place in the coming weeks as part of a drive to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour. Similar amnesties had been run in the past and been very successful at removing weapons of all kinds from the streets.

Following Inspector Knight's presentation Councillor Frances London praised the police for their continued efforts.

## **5. COMMUNITY SAFETY SECTION REPORT**

The Head of Community Safety and Prevention gave a verbal update on the following issues –

### **Hartlepool CCTV system**

A review of this was currently underway, the results were expected by the end of March 2006. It was felt that the town centre was well serviced but the provision on the estates could be improved.

### **Anti-social behaviour**

A dispersal order would be coming into force in the Dyke House area. Although this was in the North area there was a possibility that any dispersed youths may come over into the Central area.

### **Binge drinking**

A major campaign "Think before you drink" would be launched aimed at the health impact of binge drinking on young people. Police patrols would also be increased in the town centre for the introduction of the new licensing laws and the festive season.

Resident Representative Ian Campbell asked how vigorously police prosecuted adults buying alcohol for under-age children. Inspector Knights said they were prosecuted if possible but it was often difficult to identify those responsible as they were usually strangers approached by children on the street. Off-licence managers were aware of the situation and appropriately vigilant.

### **Taxis**

The Head of Community Safety and Prevention said she was trying to encourage more taxis to frequent the town centre on an evening.

### **Community Wardens**

The Head of Community Safety and Prevention said a review into the future of Community Wardens was due to be completed by Christmas. More police officers would be brought into town in April 2006 and the introduction of neighbourhood policing was being considered.

Resident Representative Bob Farrow said the wardens did an excellent job and

public feeling should be taken into account when making any decisions. Resident Representative Billy Lynch said a Government meeting on Regional Wardens was taking place in Stockton that day and he would forward any information from that meeting to the next Forum.

Resident Representative Alan Lloyd asked if Cleveland Police had any plans to recruit more Police Community Safety Officers if the Wardens were removed but Inspector Knights was unable to answer. The Vice-Chair said community policing was also effective.

## **6. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

### **Stockton Road**

Resident Representative Evelyn Leck asked what was being done to stop the sale of alcohol to underage children in Stockton Road. The Town Care Manager said the shop in question had been prosecuted twice and the new year had promised there would be no under-age sales. She would check if this agreement had been breached.

### **Burn Valley**

Resident Representative Evelyn Leck drew attention to anti-social behaviour in the Burn Valley. The Town Care Manager said the police were increasing patrols in the Burn Valley and there were plans to introduce CCTV and a new lighting system into the park.

Resident Representative James Atkinson asked what was being done to nip any future problems in the bud. Inspector Knights referred to the Cleveland Police "Don't walk by" initiative and said officers were now going into nurseries to talk to the children. In addition cautioning young people had an 80% success rate

## **Fireworks**

Resident Representative Evelyn Leck said residents were being tortured by fireworks in the run up to bonfire night. Councillor Gladys Worthy called for the sale of fireworks to private individuals to be banned. The Chair reminded those present of the Council's official display at Seaton Carew on 5<sup>th</sup> November.

## **Under-age drinking**

Resident Representative Billy Lynch asked what was being done to combat this, suggesting the use of a colour-coded bottle scheme for off-licences in order to determine where the alcohol was being bought. Inspector Knights said he would look into it.

## **Crime statistics**

Councillor Gladys Worthy asked how the use of crime statistics had been combined with the recent Ward changes. The Head of Community Safety and Prevention said the system used for calculation allowed them to show the information on the new wards while bringing in the previous wards.

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

### **Anti-social behaviour in the Grange Ward**

Councillor Vic Tumilty said in recent weeks gangs of children had been running riot and he was concerned that the Dyke House dispersal order would move even more of them into the area. He also commented on the lack of police presence on the streets.

Councillor Frances London called on the police to take a tougher line on the parents. Resident Representative Ian Campbell asked how under-age drinkers were able to pay for the alcohol.

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| <b>8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS AGREED<br/>BY THE CHAIR</b> |
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Resident Representative Ian Campbell commented on the lack of named speakers in the previous minutes. The Town Care Manager explained that the decision to include names in the minutes had been made after the previous meeting.

LILIAN SUTHERAN

CHAIRMAN