

SOUTH AREA POLICE AND COMMUNITY SAFETY CONSULTATIVE FORUM

**in
Owton Manor Community Centre, Wynyard Road**

**on
Friday 8th September, 2006
commencing at 10am**

A G E N D A

1. Apologies for absence
2. **MINUTES**
 - (a) To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 17th March 2006.
 - (b) Matters arising.
3. Police Update on Neighbourhood Policing
4. Update from the Cleveland Fire Brigade.
5. Selective Licensing of Private Landlords – Presentation by the Landlord Registration Officer
6. Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy – Presentation by the HBC ASB Co-ordinator.
7. Public Question Time.
8. Issues raised by Councillors and Resident Representatives.
9. Any other business agreed by the Chairman.

WARDS

Fens
Greatham
Owton
Rossmere
Seaton

***SOUTH POLICE &
COMMUNITY SAFETY
CONSULTATIVE FORUM***

17th March 2006

MINUTES OF THE MEETING



PRESENT:

Chair: Councillor Michael Johnson - Rossmere Ward

Vice Chair: Vacancy

Councillor Bob Flintoff	- Fens Ward
Councillor Geoff Lilley	- Greatham Ward
Councillor Arthur Preece	- Fens Ward
Councillor Michael Turner	- Seaton Ward

Resident Representatives: Ron Foreman, Iris Ryder, Joan Smith and Steve Gibbon.

Residents: Dorothy Clark, Ken Lahney, Rose Kennedy, Mrs Gibson, Dave Pascoe, Mr Oxley, George Springer, Mike Ward.

Officers: Alison Mawson, Head of Community Safety and Prevention
David Frame, Town Care Manager
Pat Watson, Democratic Services Officer

Cleveland Police Officers: District Commander Supt. Steve Ashman, Mark Doherty, PC John Southcott, Sgt Clough, PC Gardner and PC Shelley Watson

Cleveland Fire Brigade Officers: David Veitch

Housing Hartlepool Reps: Libby Griffiths, Lynn McPartlin

17. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

The Chair Councillor Michael Johnson welcomed residents, Councillors and Officers.

18. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Hill, James, A Marshall, M Waller and Wistow.

19. PRESENTATION ON NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING

The District Commander of Police for Hartlepool, Superintendent S Ashman, gave a presentation on Neighbourhood Policing which is to be launched on 3rd April 2006. (A copy of the presentation will be available at the next meeting). This is a Government led initiative which is aimed at developing how the Police and their partners are going to improve reassurance and public confidence locally.

The pilot site for Cleveland is Hartlepool and although the national British Crime Survey over the last ten years indicates that crime has gone down it is recognised that there is a greater need for reassurance and visibility. There is recognition that local problems need local solutions and Officers that people recognise and can have good dialogue with.

There are 4 key principles to the initiative:

- Access to dedicated named officer
- Influence what officer does
- Interventions
- Answers (feedback)

Supt. Ashman advised that we would see a lot of publicity and the named Police Officer and a Police Community Police Support Officer (PCSO) for each ward would spend 95% of their time in the ward. It is the intention that one of the officers will be on duty every day in every ward. The Force was looking at having a Police facility (either a base to work from, or drop-in) in every area, ie in schools, health centres, etc and there would be clear points of contact and dedicated telephone numbers. There would be regular ward surgeries to which ward Councillors would be invited. The officers would drop in when possible to meetings of the 51 residents groups and the many voluntary groups and if one of these

groups had a problem they wished to discuss they should request the Officers' attendance.

The South Sector Neighbourhood Officers would be:

Owton - PC Longstaff, PC Gardner,

PC Monton, PCSO Kennedy

Rossmere – PC Johnson,

PCSO Richardson

Seaton - PC Scott, PCSO Wildsmith

Fens and

Greatham - PC Myers, PCSO Richardson

There would also be a support team.

The Police Facilities would be at:

- Owton - Owton Office, Wynyard Road; Rossmere - Jutland Road Office;
- Rossmere – Jutland Road Office;
- Seaton – Rocket House (although an alternative was being looked for);
- Fens & Greatham – Tesco, Fens Shops and Greatham Community Centre.

Following the presentation, the following issues/questions arose;

Ken Lahney asked what hours the Officers would work – would they be available after 5pm. Supt Ashman said they need to respond to community needs. They may work opposite each other or sometimes together and would try to meet demand.

Cllr Lilley supported the idea and said he would like to see more pro-active policing at certain times, ie school year end, etc, and cover when someone off sick or on holiday. Supt. Ashman agreed that Officers should forecast better. He agreed the importance of getting into schools. He also advised that back-up teams could help in holiday or sickness situations. On this issue Res Rep Joan Smith asked if, when someone is on

extended leave, could the Police provide information on the replacement to local residents associations. Supt. Ashman agreed that this would happen – but a reminder would assist.

Mr Pascoe asked why the Police were now regionalising when a North Assembly was given the no vote. Supt Ashman commented that he believed that if there is a regional force it would be 3 or 4 years in the future. Neighbourhood Policing is a national initiative and the town get an extra 21 PCSOs out of external funding. At this point, the Chairman reminded those present to return their voting forms on regionalisation to the Freepost address.

Cllr Flintoff asked how the Police hoped to deal with constantly recurring problems – he gave Owton Manor Lane / back lane garages as an example, he said that 10 to 15 year olds were gathering, drinking and there was anti-social behaviour. He said the PCs and PCSO do visit the area but the kids just move and come back – they are there most nights until late. The Chairman asked Cllrs, Res Reps and residents to keep on reporting every incident. Cllr Flintoff felt the direct Police telephone line would help. Supt. Ashman advised of recent successes in stopping young people, seizing alcohol and returning them to their parents who often do not know what they are getting up to. He felt that the dedicated PC/PCSO would help get to the root of the problems.

Res Rep Steve Gibbon referred to the statistics that had been circulated, particularly Fens, and asked if the area would get more presence at night. Supt. Ashman said he understood the situation had improved recently – he added that everyone is entitled to the same level of policing and there will be capacity for increased resources – the dedicated officers are not all that will be available.

Cllr Lilley indicated that the Police Officers had made good links in the Fens/Greatham area but suggested it would be helpful if they had access to a bicycle as it's a long way to walk when problems are reported .

Cllr Tumer asked if the Police thought the Cleveland Police off-road bike section was sufficient to cover all the problems in the force's area – when he had contacted the off-road section at HQ. It seemed that they were always under pressure to meet demands. He welcomed the new Neighbourhood Policing and hoped there would be expansion of the motor bike unit. Alistair Simpson who would be in charge of Neighbourhood Policing, advised that Hartlepool would get the benefit of the Bike Unit regularly, including the South area. Supt. Ashman advised that there were 6 bikes but more would be welcomed, and, although again we have been slow at telling people, we have actually had a run of exercises. – The Chairman agreed that the Bike Unit were under resourced and the Forum should write to the Police Authority Members to express their views. The Forum agreed and the Chairman indicated that he would write to the Members indicating that the results are excellent when we do get the Unit but it would be ideal if more resources could be put in.

Mike Ward, a resident, said he would look forward to 3rd April and the new scheme – he was happy to have the 21 extra PCSOs in town but were there to be no extra PCs? And, what happens to the other problem areas, ie football games, night time in the town centre, etc. Supt Ashman said until a few months ago regular abstractions had been around the Town Centre, but for the last 5 months (approx) Cleveland Police had given Police districts extra funding for town centre work and next year Partnership

funding would help support this. Currently the Police consider they are seeing results. Offenders are being named, ie those urinating in streets etc. Pictures of those convicted of assaults etc would be shown and reward money had been secured – together with Partnership money – Legislation was being examined around issues of licensees responsibilities etc. also football clubs are being told they will have to pay a bigger proportion of Policing costs – more than basic cover.

The Chairman thanked Supt Ashman, Alistair Simpson and Shelley Watson for the presentation about the excellent scheme, and for answering questions. He said the Forum looked forward to Supt. Ashman coming back in a year's time to say there had been good results.

20. UPDATE FROM CLEVELAND FIRE BRIGADE

Fire Officer David Veitch reminded the Forum of the availability of Home Fire Safety checks and the work undertaken to date. The checks take approximately 40 minutes and smoke detectors are available – he urged people to take up the scheme.

David gave some statistical information and advised that the Brigade were trying to keep a visible presence in problem areas. He also advised of the new fire safety initiative and officers were speaking to residents groups and in people's homes. He referred briefly to impending changes and redeployment of Officers.

A Greatham resident thanked the fire officers for her fire safety check which had been carried out very professionally.

The Council's Head of Community Safety and Prevention, Alison Mawson, advised

that the Fire Brigade are a key partner in Neighbourhood Policing and possibly a Fire Officer will be seconded into the Community Safety team. She advised that "Taffy's" role (John Southcott) was to change – he would be part of the process of getting messages back.

In preparation for Bonfire Night, David advised that the Arson Task Force works jointly with the Police and the ambulance service and officers are becoming more proactive. Build up of rubbish leading up to bonfire night should be reported to the police or the Council and will be removed.

The Chairman thanked Officer Veitch for his presentation and for answering questions.

21. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Push-bikes on pavements and bikes without lights at night – These issues were discussed – it was accepted that confusion may be caused because some cycle tracks are now over pavements. The Police asked that any offences be reported and indicated that Police have a "don't walk by" policy, so any offences witnessed will be dealt with in the most appropriate manner.

22. ISSUES RAISED BY COUNCILLORS AND RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVES

Councillor Lilley raised the issue of young people and anti-social behaviour at night – false names are often given and when possible the police take them home to parents. He asked what was being done. Shelley Watson advised that it is often possible to get the correct name, either from friends or from schools and the giving of false names has lessened because the PCSOs often know them. Shelley added that, in relation to sale of

alcohol to young people, there had been a number of prosecutions with £400 plus fines.

Cllr Lilley also raised the issue of the local milkman being followed around the Fens estate by people stealing items he had left. He stressed the importance of the service to some people and the fact that the milkman's livelihood was being threatened. Shelley agreed to discuss the issue further with Cllr Lilley at the end of the meeting.

Resident Rep, Iris Ryder, raised the issue of the Police Complaints body and Alistair Simpson agreed to discuss this with Iris at the end of the meeting.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and indicated that the dates of future meetings would be circulated.

M JOHNSON

CHAIRMAN