

SOUTH AREA POLICE AND COMMUNITY SAFETY CONSULTATIVE FORUM

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

**on
Friday 17th 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 4th November 2005.
 - (b) Matters arising.
3. Police Presentation on Neighbourhood Policing
4. Update from the Cleveland Fire Brigade.
5. Public Question Time.
6. Issues raised by Councillors and Resident Representatives.
7. Any other business agreed by the Chairman.

WARDS

Fens
Greatham
Owton
Rossmere
Seaton

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

4th November 2005

MINUTES OF THE MEETING



PRESENT:

Chair: Councillor Michael Johnson – Rossmere Ward
Vice Chair: Michael James Arnold – Resident Representative

Councillor Geoff Lilley - Greatham Ward
Councillor Arthur Preece - Fens Ward
Councillor Maureen Waller - Owton Ward
Councillor Gerald Wistow - Owton Ward

Residents: R Allen, Mrs P Brotherton, B Coward, Mrs D Clarke,
Mr T Cooper, K Foreman, Ms. E Grint, E Alleevy,
B & D Rudge, J Naylor, B Waters and residents of
190 Wynyard Road and 18 Barford Close.

Resident Representatives: Allan McPartlin, Mary Green, Ron Foreman, Iris Ryder and
Stephen Gibbon.

Officers: Victoria Battell, Crime and Disorder Coordinator
David Frame, Town Care Manager
John Day, Community Technician
Sally Forth, Anti Social Behaviour Coordinator
Pat Watson, Democratic Services Officer

Cleveland Police Representatives: Acting Inspector Tony Green, Sgt Coulson,
PC Myers and PCSO

Cleveland Fire Brigade Representatives: ADO Tony Dale and Derek Minton

Housing Hartlepool Representative: Libby Griffiths

10. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

The Chairman, Michael Johnson, introduced those present and advised that the Chief Constable had sent apologies due to sickness.

11. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were submitted on behalf of Councillors Hargreaves, James and A Marshall. Also from Resident Representative Joan Smith.

12. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 5th July 2005 were confirmed.

There were no matters arising.

13. QUESTIONS FOR THE POLICE Acting Inspector Tony Green

(a) Off-road Motor Bikes and other problems relating to Owton Manor school field and area - A resident of Wynyard Road handed the Chair a letter to be passed to the Member of Parliament and copy of a letter he had sent to Chief Inspector Lawson. He felt that his approaches to the Police were being ignored. His complaint related to off-road bikers using the Owton Manor school field and adjacent private land behind his house as a speed/practice track. The letter provided further information and the resident felt very strongly that the responsibility and fault lies with the Council/LEA because he felt that if the fences had been repaired then there would not be the amount of trouble there is now. The bikers use the field for half an hour to one and a half hours and he asked for a quicker response from the Police when this is reported. A diagram of the problem areas was provided. Mary Green, Res Rep said that the bikes speed up Owton Manor Lane on the way to the field, every weekend and this has gone on for about a year.

Sgt Coulson advised that he had just received the letter that day. He was aware of complaints of motor bikes near the school fence and of gaps in the fence. He indicated it was difficult for Police on foot to stop the bikers. Attempts had been made but what was needed was the Police motor bike unit.

Inspector Tony Green said there was a national epidemic and problem areas all over Cleveland. He reminded the Forum

that although some of the bikers may be breaking the law the Police have to consider safety aspects before pursuit is put in place. He asked for people to keep reporting incidents and this would help the case for Hartlepool to get the Bikes Unit. He also commented that there were problems with the legislation and some shops/users were not complying with the legislation in place.

Owton Ward Councillor Wistow advised that in addition to the bikes issue there was also rubbish and used needles around the field and anti social behaviour problems. He had arranged to meet the Head of the school. The Town Care Manager, David Frame, also to become involved.

The Chair agreed that if Inspector Green would provide some information on the miniature bikes and legislation issues then a letter would be sent to the Member of Parliament from the Forum. The Forum to be kept informed of any progress.

(b) Anti-social behaviour and alcohol use – Spilsby/Stowmarket Close, surrounding areas and grass verge areas near A689 – A resident, Mr Coward, reported that problems were occurring at night and asked what hours the area police worked and Sgt Coulson replied. Inspector Green advised that the Neighbourhood Task Group, 1 Sgt, 4 PCs and 5 PCSOs deal with anti-social behaviour issues all over the town. These can be directed to specific problem areas. He reported the possibility of Cleveland becoming a national model for area based policing. Should come next year and the Government agree that policing has to be built into the Community. He accepted that the new Licensing legislation and current town centre drink related issues at weekends do impact on the ability to police the estates. A resident of Stowmarket Close reported ASB, drug use and discarded needles in the grass banks / tree areas

near the A689 – children from 10 years old to late teens in big groups gather – they throw missiles at houses and are confrontational. The resident commented that schools should be visited etc. Inspector Green commented that it is a society problem and only a multi-agency approach will help solve it. Police officers do go into schools to talk to young people – Tony agreed that groups of young people can be frightening to people. He commented that there is a need for change – young people should to be taught to be more respectful of others – parents need to be the first to act.

(c) Greatham Ward and Fens School and Shops area – The Greatham Ward Councillor Geoff Lilley reported long term problems relating to anti-social behaviour and alcohol use. He appreciated Acting Inspector Green's replies to questions but indicated that he would have like the Chief Constable to attend as he wanted to ask a number of questions – ie how many of the allocated Police Officers (1 Sgt, 5 PCs and 2 PCSOs) were actually available to police this community and why is the ward left without a community police officer for months on end. He also asked what extra uniformed police resources had been put into the Greatham Ward to combat the recent increase in anti social behaviour and why aren't they seeing the "yobs" being challenged and confronted. Those present did acknowledge the excellent service provided by Shelley Watson and the Community Safety teams but more manpower is needed. He also asked to what extent the Police financial shortfall of over £7M had affected the community's right to be policed?

The Chairman agreed that a letter should go from the Forum to the Chief Constable putting the above points and reporting the hotspot areas in the South area.

Inspector Green said the Police do take the problems seriously. He asked for the

reporting of problem areas with days/times where possible and he promised to try to have the task group diverted to them.

Resident Rep Stephen Gibbon commented that in his dealing with the 999 service he had received fantastic response. He pointed out that the problems in his area were often during the week. He was aware that the Police were often tied up at weekends but asked if they could visit the areas during the week. Inspector Green advised of the ripple effect on staffing/manning hours as hours are structured around the weekend need for the Town Centre. He said plans were in place to have more officers available for the outer areas and there would be an operation later in the month when a large number of officers and a hospital unit would be on sites. They would stop and speak to young people and prosecute where appropriate. They would name and shame offenders in Hartlepool Magistrates Court –(agreed with Magistrates).

Parking in bus bays near raised kerbs – Res Rep Iris Ryder reported this and said that often disabled people were not able to get on/off buses. (one near Gillen's shop) David Frame requested that specific areas be reported to him and he would pass them on to the Council department now responsible for parking issues.

Sale of alcohol to under-age people – A Res Rep, Mary Green, reported a shop in her area where this was occurring every Friday. She had reported it to the Licensing Section at HBC. Inspector Green noted the shop and indicated that shop keepers who persisted in selling to those under age would be prosecuted and possibly have their Lottery status removed. Test purchasing was still being undertaken and there had been some prosecutions. Anyone wishing to make a report should ring 296588.

Violence against the Person and Criminal Damage Statistics

– Councillor M Waller expressed alarm at the increases and said it would be use for Councillors and the Police to get together to discuss the hotspot areas. She asked for regular liaison. Inspector Green requested that she phone on extension 2166 or e.mail him or Inspector Peter Knights on this issue.

Fraser Grove – motor bike issues 7 nights a week – Cllr M Waller also reported problems being caused by the miniature and adult bike users in this areas.

Speeding by cars in Owton Manor Lane – Res Rep Mary Green reported that this was still going on – walls and the bus shelter had been damaged. She asked if the Tripod system could be used. The white van had been used but speeding was still going on. She asked for accident statistics on this and all other roads for comparisons. Inspector green suggested that Cllrs and Res Reps could write in under the Freedom of Information Act to get such information. John Day agreed to provide what information he could.

The Chairman thanked Acting Inspector Green and the Police Officers for their attendance and for answering questions.

14. YOUNG FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION – Presentation by Tony Dale and Derek Minton
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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.

Derek was asked if there were places for girls on the schemes. He advised that there were currently 12 girls on the scheme and he said they grow in confidence daily. And the schemes help develop their badly needed social skills.

In reply to a question, Tony advised that the schemes are not a way for young people to get into the Fire Service but felt successful completion could help if they decide to apply when older.

Tony invited Forum members to visit the YF Association on a Wednesday night between 6pm and 9pm (by appointment).

Those involved and Sally Forth from the Anti Social Behaviour unit, who had made referrals to the scheme, commented that they had noticed a big change in the young people's manner and attitude after spending time on the courses.

Councillor M Waller congratulated on the Officers on the schemes and commented that the Police and Ambulance Service should do something similar. She agreed with Derek on the need for better social skills. She said she would like the scheme available for the 'good' kids also. Tony Dale commented that his own children would like to do it but he felt that they and lots of other young people did have good social skills – he indicated the target group for the courses and the reasons behind this.

The Chairman advised of the Directory of Services for young People Card available at the meeting. This gave details of a number of schemes and organisations involved in helping all young people. One scheme, Respect, was available at the Arches, Park Road – telephone number 244443 – The scheme offers confidential and reliable support for 13-19 year olds with counselling or mentoring and support from the youth team. Monday-Friday 9am to 5pm and weekend drop-in sessions.

15. COMMUNITY SAFETY SECTION REPORT by Victoria Battell, Crime & Disorder Coordinator (HBC)
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Victoria Battell reported that two pieces of work were being undertaken by the Community Safety Section. (1) related to CCTV which was undertaking a full review – this would end in March 2006 and a further report would be brought to the Forum when this is completed (2) Safe Drinking Campaign aimed at tackling violence and disorder associated with alcohol – there would be a town wide scheme launched by the Safer Hartlepool Partnership.

The following questions/issues arose:

Councillor Wistow asked how the impact of the new drinking/licensing laws are to be monitored. Victoria advised that a piece of work had been commissioned earlier in the year to look at the Town Centre at night – results of the research would be released shortly to the Safer Hartlepool Partnership. Those who carried out the survey would repeat the research after 12 months to try and monitor the difference.

Discussion took place on serving people who are already intoxicated and on how the "drink till you drop" promotions relate. Also, staff incentives and instructions from licensees for them to sell more

drinks. Victoria said “we are trying to change things by the development of the Council’s Alcohol Strategy and the Police are still working closely with licensees. The Chairman and Councillor Wistow felt that high profile prosecution of licensees and under-age drinkers would help. Victoria advised that the police do work closely with the Licensing Officers from HBC and they visit licensed premises often.

Iris Ryder, Res Rep, reported that in one premises cameras were used and images placed on the internet. More detail was provided and she was advised to report this to the Police.

The Chairman thanked Victoria and looked forward to further reports.

16. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no further questions.

MICHAEL JOHNSON

CHAIRMAN