

**NORTH AREA POLICE AND
COMMUNITY SAFETY
CONSULTATIVE FORUM**

in

West View Community Centre

on

**Wednesday 6th 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 15th March 2006.
 - (b) Matters arising.
3. Police Update on Neighbourhood Policing
4. Update from Cleveland Fire Brigade
5. Bonfires
6. Selective Licensing of Private Landlords – Presentation by the Landlord Registration Officer
7. Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy – Presentation by HBC ASB Co-ordinator
8. Public Question Time.
9. Issues raised by Councillors and Resident Representatives.
10. Any other business agreed by the Chairman.

WARDS

Brus
Dyke House
Hart
St Hilda
Throston

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

15th March 2006

MINUTES OF THE MEETING



PRESENT:

Chair: Councillor Rob Cook – Hart Ward

Vice Chair: Mary Power – Resident Representative

Councillor Derek Allison	- St Hilda Ward
Councillor John Cambridge	- St Hilda Ward
Councillor Mary Fleet	- Dyke House Ward
Councillor John Marshall	- St Hilda Ward
Councillor Trevor Rogan	- Brus Ward
Councillor Denis Waller	- Brus Ward

Residents Representatives: Linda Shields, John Lynch and Dennis Brightey

Residents: Mr S Allison, Mrs S Barnes, Mr J Cooke, Mr J Maxwell, Liz and Cath Torley, Mrs Jan Gold, Mrs Carol Langhorne, Mrs Julie Holdcroft, Mr Cal Carruthers-Watt, Mr Alan Vale, Mrs D Black.

Officers: Sally Forth, Anti-Social Behaviour Officer
Gary Jones, Neighbourhood Services Manager (North)
Pat Watson, Democratic Services Officer

Cleveland Police Representatives:
Superintendent Steve Ashman
PC Shelley Watson
Inspector Alistair Simpson
PCs Carl Gatenby and Helen Ben
John Southcott (Neighbourhood Watch)

Cleveland Fire Brigade Representatives;
Station Officer Neil Rowland
Firefighter Ashley Cowan
Firefighter Darren Harrety

9. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

The Vic-Chair took the Chair at the beginning of the meeting in the absence of Councillor Cook who had submitted his apologies. The Vice Chair welcomed residents, Councillors and Officers from Cleveland Police and Fire Brigade..

10. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Cook (Chairman), Barker, Clouth, Shaw and Wright. Also from Resident Representatives Jim Hastings and Ted Lee..

11. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 2nd November 2005 were confirmed and there were no matters arising raised.

12. PRESENTATION ON NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING BY SUPT. S ASHMAN

(Councillor Cook took the Chair during this Presentation).

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 Police the whole of Hartlepool.

The pilot site for Cleveland is Hartlepool and although crime surveys over the last ten years indicate that crime has gone down it is recognised that there is a greater need for re-assurance and

visibility. There is also 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 (feed back)

Supt. Ashman advised that we would see a lot of publicity and the named Police Officer and a Community Police Support Officer (CPSO) for each ward would spend 95% of their time in the ward. One of the officers would be on duty every day in every ward. The Force was looking at having a Police facility 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 North Sector Neighbourhood Officers will be;

Hart - PC Royle, PCSO Smith
 Brus - PC Cranston, PC Milburn,
 PCSO Stone, PCSO O'Brien
 St. Hilda – PC Marley, PCSO Grey
 Throston – PC McManus,
 PCSO Heseltine
 Dyke House – PC Cowling, PC Clark,
 PCSO Lewis, PCSO Leight

There would also be a Neighbourhood Support Team.

Following the presentation the following issues/questions arose:

- Residents asked if Officers working hours be during the

problem times, ie 4pm onwards and weekends? Supt. Ashman said yes but residents have to help keep Officers informed by telling them when and where the problems are and telling Officer what they want to happen. If a problem is too big for the Neighbourhood Officers then the Neighbourhood Partners Group can consider the issue.

- A St Hilda Ward Councillor raised the problem issue of motor bikes, specially the ones being used by young children. The Cllr commented that surely the sale and use of such bikes was illegal and the criminal justice system is slow in finding a solution. Supt Ashman accepted that the justice system seems slow to re-act. He asked for continued reporting of names and addresses and any evidence and people should ask the Government to pass legislation.
- A Resident Representative from the Central Estate expressed concern at the St Hilda Officer also having to cover the Central Estate – he felt this was not sufficient in view of the severe problems on the Estate. Supt. Ashman indicated that Dyke House and Brus wards had been recognised as the most problematic wards. A St Hilda Ward Councillor pointed out the Safer Hartlepool Partnership Plan included St Hilda included in this category. A Brus Ward Councillor pointed out that Supt. Ashman had indicated that permission could be sought for Officers to move about if one area had more problems than others and the Councillor hoped that this would happen as indicated.
- Councillors were please and optimistic about the new initiative but expressed concerns about

what would happen when the pilot scheme ends after 3 years.. Supt. Ashman was confident that the higher percentage of police presence would continue in each area.

- Discussion took place about video cameras for residents' use that were available from Chester Road Housing Hartlepool office and Shelley Watson explained the circumstances when cameras are given out. Anyone with a query should contact Shelley or Housing Hartlepool.
- A Resident Rep congratulated the Police on recent naming and shaming of anti social behaviour offences.

The Chairman thanked Supt. Ashman for his presentation and for answering questions.

13. UPDATE FROM CLEVELAND FIRE BRIGADE BY STATION OFFICER NEIL ROWLAND

Station Officer Rowland gave a brief presentation and circulated information on fire calls and comparisons between 2004 and 2005. The number of fire calls requiring investigation and report had decreased from 35 to 33 and the number requiring small reports had decreased from 45 to 32. The number of deliberate car fires and building fires had also decreased

In reply to a question Station Officer Rowland confirmed that malicious / nuisance calls were driven down, quite dramatically at first but were evening out over the first quarter of this year. The Police and the telephone companies had been very helpful.

A resident raised concerns about the Marine Engineering building that had

recently been set on fire – she thought the buildings could contain asbestos. A St Hilda Ward Councillor confirmed that he was liaising with KO, the Town Care Manager, and actions were being taken through the enforcement process.

14. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Central Estate Problems - Serious incidents reported by residents of the Central Estate area – Residents made the Forum aware of a number of incidents that had been reported to the Police. On one occasion (broken picture window) residents felt there had been a poor response and this could have led to more crime being committed. On another occasion (when resident's name was supposed to be kept confidential) the resident had reported a serious incident and the actions and attitude of the Police when following up this report had been uninformed and inappropriate leaving the resident open to harassment and bad treatment by the Police. People on the estate had no confidence in the Police. Another issue reported was the ramming of street lights and cables pulled out by "yobs" leaving some areas in total darkness and the Police refusing to enter such areas. Inspector Alistair Simpson assured the Forum that when incidents are reported action is always taken and the issue is not 'closed down' by the police until a thorough investigation has been made. He accepted that there is a lack of feedback but sometimes this is necessary if actions are ongoing. Alistair agreed to take details of issues at the end of the meeting.

A Councillor advised that anyone with a complaint relating to the Police should contact the police Commission who would investigate the issue. Alistair advised that complaints are welcomed and there are no excuses for Police Officers not acting professionally.

Dispersal Orders – A Dyke House Ward Councillor advised that the situation in the Ward had improved as a result of Dispersal Orders. She was, however, concerned that when the police presence lessens the problems would start again. Shelley gave assurance that Police were still in the area and if and when they do go then a withdrawal plan will be put in place.

Residents of the Central Estate asked how they could get a similar order imposed. Shelley explained the reasoning for such orders and confirmed that on this estate other solutions were being examined, ie sale of alcohol etc. Alistair advised that through Neighbourhood Policing Officers would be on duty 24 hours a day. He said plans need to be put in place to get to the hear of problems and bring in Officers from other areas to help if necessary.

Discussion took place on naming and shaming, Anti-social Behaviour Orders and Parenting Orders. A Councillor felt strongly that, whatever the family issues are, those given Anti-Social Behaviour Orders should be named and shamed – any backlash should not be our concern. Shelley felt that the people who should be informed of Orders are those who have been affected, witnesses etc, but residents at the Forum felt that the neighbourhood where they cause the problems should be informed.

14. ISSUES RAISED BY COUNCILLORS AND RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVES

Councillors' views were that we should put trust in the new Neighbourhood Policing and give it a chance to work.

A Councillor reminded the Forum that it is only a minority of young people who cause problems by gathering in groups – we should try to interact with them.

Bonfire Night – A St Hilda Ward Councillor advised that last year he had received complaints of anti-social behaviour, fire risk and intimidation in various areas, but particularly the Town Moor. He said he had asked two years ago for:

- designated ‘roped-off’ areas where bonfires can be held;
- removal of illegal bonfire material;
- clearing/cleaning of areas the following day.

The Councillor said we should now start the process, as Middlesbrough and Stockton etc have. Sally Forth that she was liaising with Tony Dale (Fire Brigade) and Shelley Watson (part of the Working Group). She said there is a scheme in place and bonfires were removed last year – with a 2 day response time. She said there are no designated areas. The North Neighbourhood Manager, Gary Jones advised that bonfires are cleared and rubbish is cleared afterwards. The Councillor insisted that what was being done was not enough – there had been 3 bonfires on the Town Moor last year with rubbish strewn all around, in gardens etc. The environment was being destroyed and damage caused. There was also a strong fear of damage to property.

Shelley confirmed that a lot of relevant points had been raised and this needs to go to the Arson Reduction Team. She also mentioned that consideration was being given to a Fire Officer working part-time in the Anti-Social Behaviour Unit.

Central Estate – West View Road – behind Gillens’ Shop – this area was reported to be a particularly bad spot for a bonfire – last year it had been 20 feet high, rising to about 50 ft high when lit and it was quite dangerous.

The Chairman requested that this issue be put on the Agenda for the next Forum meeting.

Beaconsfield Street area - The Vice-Chair reported that she had received 2 telephone calls about anti-social behaviour, eggs being thrown, bottles around etc in this area. Also a Beaconsfield Street resident advised of problems caused by young people playing football. A St Hilda Ward Councillor confirmed that action was being taken to alleviate the problems around Beaconsfield Street /Square.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and for their input.

ROB COOK

CHAIRMAN

