

# **SOUTH AND CENTRAL COMMUNITY FORUM**



**Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> October**

**at 10.30am**

**in Committee Room B, Civic Centre, Hartlepool**

**SOUTH AND CENTRAL COMMUNITY FORUM:**

Councillors C Akers-Belcher, S Akers-Belcher, Barclay, Buchan, Clark, Cranney, Hall, Hamilton, Hunter, James, Lauderdale, Lindridge, Loynes, Martin-Wells, Morris, Richardson and Sirs

- 1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**
- 2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**
- 3. TO RECEIVE ANY DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS**
- 4. MINUTES**
  - 4.1 To confirm the minutes of the Neighbourhood Forum meetings held on 5<sup>th</sup> July 2017
  - 4.2 Matters arising.
- 5. QUESTIONS FOR THE POLICE**
- 6. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME and WARD ISSUES (maximum of 30 minutes)**

**7. ITEMS FOR CONSULTATION**

- 7.1 Community Engagement and Cohesion Strategy – Presentation – *Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods*
- 7.2 Health and Wellbeing Strategy - Presentation – *Scrutiny Manager and Public Health Specialist*

**8. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND/OR INFORMATION**

No items

**9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS WHICH THE CHAIR CONSIDERS URGENT**

**Next meeting** – Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December at 1pm in Committee Room B

# **SOUTH AND CENTRAL COMMUNITY FORUM**

**MINUTES**  
5<sup>th</sup> July 2017

The meeting commenced at 1pm in the Civic Centre, Hartlepool

**Present:**

Chair: Councillor Carl Richardson - Victoria

Councillor Allan Barclay - Manor House  
Councillor Kevin Cranney - Foggy Furze  
Councillor Marjorie James - Manor House  
Councillor John Lauderdale - Burn Valley  
Councillor Jim Lindridge - Fens and Rossmere  
Councillor Brenda Loynes - Rural West

Public: Fred Corbett, Peter Joyce, J Kelly, Jean Kennedy, Evelyn Leck,  
Sue Little, Ray Pocklington, Keith Riley, George Stamper and  
Tony Richardson

Police Representative: Mal Suggitt

Officers: Clare Clark, Head of Community Safety and Engagement  
Phil Hepburn, Parking Services Manager  
Rachel Parker, Community Safety Research Officer  
Jo Stubbs, Democratic Services Officer

## **1. Notification**

A resident complained that the informal policy chairs meeting which had taken place prior to this meeting had not been advertised. The Chair apologised for this mistake which would be corrected for future meetings

## **2. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were submitted by Councillors Christopher Akers-Belcher, Stephen Akers-Belcher, Bob Buchan, Alan Clark, Ged Hall, Lesley Hamilton, Trisha Lawton, Ray Martin-Wells and George Morris.

## **3. Declarations of Interest**

None

#### 4. **Minutes of the meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2017**

The minutes were approved.

#### 5. **Update from the Police**

Chief Inspector Mal Suggitt was present and invited questions from the public.

**Rossmere** – A number of issues were highlighted including fires in the park and house break-ins in the area. A resident advised that people were gaining access to the park through holes in the fence and queried why repairs had not been carried out. The Parking Services Manager confirmed that investigations were taking place prior to the repairs being carried out. A resident queried whether it was best to report anti-social behaviour to the police or Council as 3 break-ins had been recorded to the police previously but nothing had been done. Chief Inspector Suggitt indicated that the break-ins had been investigated with some success. Reports could be made to either organisation.

**Policing** – A resident commented on the lack of police 'on the beat' and asked why the Police and Crime Commissioner was not in attendance. The Chair suggested he raise his concerns at the public meetings of the Police and Crime Commission as Chief Inspector Suggitt would not be able to answer these questions. He invited that the Commissioner could be invited to a future meeting. A member commented that extra PCSOs were deployed based on reported incidents and hot spots. Following a query from a resident Chief Inspector Suggitt advised that each neighbourhood response team had 17 core members however those on leave or training courses were not replaced as they did not have the manpower to do this. The resident referred to a recent incident which had taken place at a shop in the Fens area involving an armed shoplifter. On this occasion police had been despatched from Stockton and had taken 20 minutes to arrive. Chief Inspector Suggitt advised that in terms of the policing model Hartlepool and Stockton were classed as one locality and police would respond to where they were needed. The Chair suggested people ensure they report all crimes as this would lead to an increase in police and PCSOs in their area.

**Hartlepool Police Station** – In response to a query from a resident Chief Inspector Suggitt advised that the enquiry desk at the central Hartlepool Police Station was open from 8am to 8pm with a telephone available outside those hours which would put the caller straight through to the control room. There were no plans to open additional stations in Hartlepool.

**Partnership working** – A resident queried whether the perceived causes of crime were reported to the Council in order that it be identified as a problem in that area and dealt with accordingly. Chief Inspector Suggitt confirmed that this did take place, noting that the immediate problem was tackled

before looking at the bigger picture. Police would work with partners including HBC, landlords and addiction organisations to try to get to the root cause and put it right.

**Control room** – A resident noted that she had called the control room recently on a number of occasions to report a fire at a social club but nobody had attended. She also reported that she had been verbally abused by the person on the phone. It had recently been announced that savings of £1.7 million accrued from the privatisation of the police cells would be used to fund a drone for use in Middlesbrough. She asked why the funding could not be used for a Hartlepool drone or for additional officers and made reference to a recent incident when cars had been stolen from a garage and burnt out over a weekend. Chief Inspector Suggitt was unaware of any such incident. He was unable to comment on use of funding but said that every effort was made to balance it fairly across the Cleveland Policing area. The Chair commented that if Hartlepool were removed from the Cleveland Policing area they would have even less officers.

Concerns were also raised around low staffing levels in the control room and the length of time taken for calls to be answered with a resident noting that a PCSO had recently waited on hold for 20 minutes. Chief Inspector Suggitt advised that more staff had been employed to answer the phones and questioned why the PCSO had not used his police radio which would have bypassed any telephone queues. A member of the Police and Crime Panel reported that the response time had reduced and more calls were being put through.

**Motorbikes** – A Councillor highlighted a problem with quad bikes and mini-motos being driven around the Manor House area, particularly in light of the start of the school holidays. Chief Inspector Suggitt acknowledged that this was an issue across Hartlepool but was problematic for the police to deal with as there were limited vehicles which could catch motorbikes and specific training and risk assessments were needed for them. He urged anyone with any knowledge of motorbikes being illegally driven to contact the police with names and addresses as this could assist in catching people in the act. A member of the Police and Crime Panel reported that a task and finish group would be convened to look at the problem in detail.

**Elderly** – A resident expressed regret at the lack of community spirit around Hartlepool particularly in terms of elderly residents. She referred to a number of incidents when they were asked for money by young people in and around the town centre and felt contact numbers for the police and council should be publicised more widely. Chief Inspector Suggitt commented that police focus was always on the vulnerable in society and asked for specific information as to where these incidents were occurring in order to increase patrols in those areas.

**Tesco** – A Councillor reported a problem with cars parking up at Tesco on Burn Road in the early hours of the morning revving their engines and

playing loud music. Chief Inspector Suggitt asked that further details pertaining to this be emailed direct to him.

**Burn Valley** – A resident advised that sex acts were being carried out in the Burn Valley and Stranton Gardens. She requested that should this be reported in the future the operators refrain from making snide remarks. Chief Inspector Suggitt asked that she make a formal complaint as all phone calls were recorded.

The Chair thanked Chief Inspector Suggitt for attending the meeting and answering questions.

## 6. Public Question Time and Ward Issues

**Fens and Rossmere** – A resident raised a number of issues around the area including holes on the pavements, refurbishment of the park, bin trucks breaking footpaths and burn out bins. He referred to the discrepancy in funding put toward Rossmere Park and Ward Jackson Park and requested that the Director of Neighbourhood Services take part in unannounced walkabout of the area. A member indicated that discussions were ongoing around funding streams for improvements to Rossmere Park but these could not be publically announced at the moment. In terms of a walkabout he noted that a year ago he had attended one during which a number of repairs requested by the resident had been actioned. He noted that he would be happy to take part in another walkabout at any time. The Chair asked that the member and resident liaise on finding a suitable date and time.

**Burn Valley** – The drains required urgent cleaning. The Chair asked that a target date for cleaning be given to the resident. Also problems with litter and dog dirt across the ward.

**Burn Valley Gardens** - Smell of urine near the swings which could be coming from the Dalton Piercy Caravan Park. Also drinking and drug taking.

**Blakelock Gardens** – A car had recently crashed into a house and left the scene and tyres had been slashed on a number of vehicles. There was a need for resident only parking.

**Westmoreland Walk** – A car was being parked behind the bollards and washed.

**Bowling Green** – Dogs were being regularly let off their leads.

**Burn Valley Social Club** – Hole in the roof despite recent refurbishment

**Waldon Street** – Alley gates at rear being left open allowing access to houses from the rear. The Head of Community Safety and Engagement would remind residents of the need to lock the gates.

**Park Road** – A railing had been damaged during an accident at the Eldon Grove junction.

**Burn Valley Ward surgeries** – Why were these no longer advertised in Hartbeat? A Ward Councillor noted that these were publicised via leaflet and funded by members therefore not advertised in Hartbeat. The next surgery would take place on the second Monday in September at the Ord Centre.

## 7. **Presentation – Community Safety Plan** (*Community Safety Research Officer*)

The Community Safety Research Officer gave a brief presentation on the current consultation on the 3 year Community Safety Plan. Figures showed that recorded crime at increase in Hartlepool since 2014 with violence against the person particularly on the increase and drug dependency at twice the national average. Anti-social behaviour had reduced slightly. Details were given of vulnerable localities within the borough. A public consultation had show most respondents wanted to reduce crime and victimisation while creating confident, strong and safe communities. As a result of this consultation the following strategic objectives for the plan had been identified:

- Reduce crime and victimisation
- Reduce the harm caused by drug and alcohol misuse
- Create confident, cohesive and safe communities
- Reduce offending and re-offending

Key activities had been identified as partnership working, crime prevention, anti-social behaviour and community cohesion and engagement. The consultation would run until Monday 24<sup>th</sup> July. Responses could be submitted via the HBC website at [www.hartlepool.gov.uk/community-safety-plan](http://www.hartlepool.gov.uk/community-safety-plan)

A Councillor highlighted the practice of illegal drugs being distributed by youngsters on bikes without lights and asked what was being done to prevent this. Officers advised that all reports were recorded and

investigated but were unable to give information on police activity. People could also use the Crimestoppers number to leave information anonymously. A resident asked that the contact numbers be provided in Hartbeat.

How could people who were not computer literate take part in the consultation? The Community Safety Research Officer advised that more traditional hard copy methods of consultation were also used.

The Chair thanked the Community Safety Research Officer for attending the meeting and answering questions.

The meeting concluded at 2:45pm

CHAIR

**MATTERS ARISING FROM THE SOUTH AND CENTRAL COMMUNITY FORUM HELD ON 5th JULY 2017**

4.2

Ward	Reported problem/ concern	Referred to (officer)	Response	Actioned / resolved	Comment
Fens & Ross	<p>Rossmere Park - Previous walk about meeting with Chief Exec. Resulted in review of park and H&amp;S improvements but there are still issues of concern. - Wagons damaged block paving on footpath off Barra Grove. Bins burnt out in park - why no CCTV /</p>	PH	Suggested meeting with TH and service area managers to meet with Tony Richardson (PH,PF,GJ )		walk about meeting arranged with residents, ward councillors and officers - to take place 20/10/2017
Burn Valley	<p>Drains have not been cleared for some time. Gully's overflow. What is the scheduled visit / timetable for gully cleaning?</p>	PF	Annual scheduled maint. Programme also reactionary response to complaints		agreed to clear.
	<p>Beck next to Burn Valley Play Area - reports of strong smell of urine - suggestion that this is an illegal water connection from Dalton Caravan Park</p>	GJ	Not aware of any illegal connections		Horticulture team regularly clear debris from beck to allow it to flow. Any debris washed down after rainfall also removed from culvert.
	<p>Blakelock Gardens - back of 11 O'clock shop 1)Used for drinking / drug use. 2)Residents allow dogs to roam "off lead" 3) Dog fouling and littering issues</p>		Passed to Police intelligence. Enforcement officers visited as part of patrol of area		Continuing to monitor and patrol.
	<p>Rear of Waldon Street - Can letter be sent to residents reminding them to close the gate and risks of not doing so</p>	CC	Letter sent by ASB / neighbourhood officer highlighting issues and seeking resident co-operation		Highways will consider painting as part of annual maint programme.
	<p>Park Road / Eldon Grove - Guard railing replaced after RTA, but needs replacing to match remaining</p>	PF	No longer common practice to paint when guard rail replaced (lack of funding)		