

=
**CENTRAL AREA POLICE AND
COMMUNITY SAFETY
CONSULTATIVE FORUM**
in
Committee Room 'B', Civic Centre
on
Thursday, 11th January, 2007
commencing at 10 a.m.

A G E N D A

1. Apologies for absence.
2. **MINUTES**
 - (a) To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 7th September, 2006.
 - (b) Matters arising.
3. Update from the Police
4. Update from Cleveland Fire Brigade.
5. Presentation on the new Security Guard Contract – Community Safety Team
6. Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy – Community Safety Team
7. Update on Neighbourhood Policing and the Joint Action Groups (JAGs) - Police
8. Public Question Time.
9. Any issues to be raised by Councillors and Resident Representatives
10. Any other business agreed by the Chair

WARDS

Elwick
Foggy Furze
Grange
Park
Rift House
Stranton

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

7th September 2006

MINUTES OF THE MEETING



PRESENT:

Chair: Councillor Lillian Sutheran - Rift House Ward

Vice-Chair: James Atkinson (Resident Representative)

Councillor Jonathan Brash	- Burn Valley Ward
Councillor Gerald Hall	- Burn Valley Ward
Councillor Pauline Laffey	- Park Ward
Councillor Frances London	- Foggy Furze Ward
Councillor Dr George Morris	- Park Ward
Councillor Robbie Payne	- Stranton Ward
Councillor Carl Richardson	- Grange Ward
Councillor Victor Tumilty	- Grange Ward
Councillor Ray Waller	- Stranton Ward

Also Present: Councillor Maureen Waller

Resident Representatives:

Ian Campbell, Bob Farrow, Clive Hall, Evelyn Leck, Allan Lloyd, Billy Lunch

Residents: Margaret Angus, Sheila Bryan, Bryan Hanna, George Harrison, S and G Johnson, Brenda Loynes, M E Lumley, Margaret Maxfield, Brian McBean, M Thoburn, Hilda Wales, Emie Welsh

Council Officers:

Denise Ogden, Town Care Manager
Jon Wright, Senior Neighbourhood Services Officer
John Day, Neighbourhood Services Officer
Sally Forth, Anti-Social Behaviour Co-ordinator
Ken Natt, Landlord Registration Officer

Cleveland Police Representatives:

Inspector Alastair Simpson, Sergeant Bryan Crawley

Cleveland Fire Brigade Representative;
George Pendlington

8. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Stephen Belcher, Pamela Hargreaves and Stan Kaiser. Resident representatives James Atkinson and Patrick Finnan.

9. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 16th March 2006 were confirmed.

Matters arising – Councillor Tumilty asked that Ward Councillors be kept informed of any Police surgeries being held within their Ward.

Resident Hilda Wales indicated that the Ringmaster system did not appear to be working. Inspector Alistair Simpson responded that they were not aware of any problems but would ensure it was looked into.

10. POLICE UPDATE ON NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING

Inspector Alastair Simpson gave an update on Neighbourhood Policing which had been launched on 3rd April 2006. This involved a named PC and PCSO being assigned to each ward, weekly ward surgeries, greater visibility by police and a single point of contact telephone number of 01429 235811. Details were given of the background and key principles of the initiative. Analysis of crime statistics from April to July 2006 showed that total crime had dropped by 11% since the launch.

The following issues were then raised:

- Resident Representative indicated that he had encountered some problems when telephoning the

above number. Inspector Simpson responded that if any problems were encountered, residents contact him to inform him.

- Resident Representative indicated that she had previously requested a drop in centre be organised for the Stranton Centre as there were a lot of elderly residents in the area who found it difficult to attend the Belle Vue Centre. Inspector Simpson responded that this was being looked at and that an officer would contact Mrs Leck direct.
- Several residents raised concerns about under age drinking and the problems associated with this. Inspector Simpson advised that if anyone underage was apprehended with alcohol, the Anti-Social Behaviour Team would contact their parents. This scheme was also aimed at educating parents possibly through schools or Governors' meetings.
- Councillor Ray Waller indicated that the anti-social behaviour of young people with skateboards was increasingly becoming a problem around the Victory Square area. Inspector Simpson responded that young people had been consulted and their responses were that they did not like attending the allocated skate park near the Mill House Leisure Centre. This was currently being examined with a view to relocating this skate park but in the meantime, they were being moved on if causing problems.
- Resident Representative raised concerns about the Burn Valley area near to Colwyn Road being used for drug dealing. Sgt Bryan Crawley indicated that he was not aware of this but would ensure it was looked into.

- Councillor Richardson commented that different crime statistics seemed to be provided at each meeting. Inspector Alistair Smith responded that the same statistics could be presented to every meeting if Members felt this was more appropriate.
- Councillor Robbie Payne asked if residents who were evicted due to their anti-social behaviour were monitored once relocated. Inspector Alistair Simpson replied that the Anti-Social Behaviour Team were working with the Landlord Liaison Officer to tackle this.
- Mrs Thorburn reported that there was still a problem with anti-social behaviour in the car park at Aldi in Dunston Road. Sgt Bryan Cawley indicated that this area had been the subject of a POP (Probation Orientated Policing) initiative previously but this would be re-examined.

11. UPDATE FROM CLEVELAND FIRE BRIGADE

Station Officer George Pendlington gave a brief presentation and circulated information on fire calls and comparisons between 2005 and 2006. There had been a drop in the number of vehicle fires, accidental house fires and where damage to property had occurred with no change in the number of deliberate house fires. However the number of small fires (eg rubbish etc) and malicious false alarm calls had increased although in total the overall number of total calls in the Central area had reduced by 5.

Station Officer Pendlington went on to give probable reasons for these changes and made reference to the safety Improvement Plan which had recently been approved.

A discussion followed where the following issues were raised:

- Councillor Ray Waller reported that there were still fires happening on the Longhill Industrial Estate and he was concerned that the Estate was not being managed correctly. The Town Care Manager responded that there had been 8 successful prosecutions undertaken through the Environment Agency against 1 company. A multi-agency response was needed involving all the ward councillors and the Town Care Manager would organise this.

12. SELECTIVE LICENSING OF PRIVATE LANDLORDS – PRESENTATION BY THE LANDLORD REGISTRATION OFFICER

The Landlord Registration Officer gave a presentation on the proposed Selective Licensing of Private Landlords initiative. It was explained that this allowed local authorities to require private landlords in designated areas to be licensed, with the aim of improving the standard of management of housing in the private sector.

Details were given of when and where selective licensing would be applicable, licence requirements and enforcement powers officers would have. Members were advised that consultation would continue to the end of September, the results of which would be reported to Cabinet before the end of the year. The following issues were then raised:

- Brian McBean questioned whether there was adequate funding in place to police landlords. The Landlord Registration Officer responded that although there would be set up costs involved it was hoped that the selective licensing would be self-funding.

- M Gunn reported that there were several problems of anti-social behaviour around the Raby Road/Lowthian Road area, in particular around the back alleys.
- Councillor Gerard Hall indicated that the Landlord Registration Scheme would be subject to an investigation within Scrutiny later in the year. He was concerned that evicting anti-social tenants would just be moving the problem around. The Landlord Registration Officer responded that there would be some displacement and that maximum effort would be put into some areas including support and enforcement. He added that there may be scope to include local conditions within the registration scheme.
- Councillor Carl Richardson asked if this would be a compulsory scheme. The Landlord Registration Officer responded that if the scheme was introduced within a certain area, it would be compulsory to all within that area. If someone refuses to sign up, they could either be fined or have the property taken off them.
- Councillor Richardson was concerned that the conditions of the scheme may not be upheld. The Landlord Registration Officer indicated that it would be the responsibility of the landlord to ensure that the property was safe and failure to do so would be classed as a breach of the licensing conditions. However, he added that this would be a labour intensive process and he was unsure exactly how it would be policed.
- Councillor Robbie Payne raised concerns that this scheme relied heavily upon the honesty of the landlords. The Landlord Registration Officer indicated that certain

requirements could be part of the conditions, for example, fire safety checks.

The Chair thanked the Landlord Registration Officer for the presentation and for answering questions. Councillor Sutherland also indicated that it may be useful to have a seminar in the future about the Landlord Registration Scheme to ensure Members were fully aware of the implications.

13 ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR STRATEGY – PRESENTATION BY ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR CO- ORDINATOR

The Anti-Social Behaviour Co-ordinator gave a presentation on the proposed Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy for Hartlepool. Details were given of the following

- Mission Statement
- Strategic objective 2005/8
- Local Area agreement commitment
- Task Group action plan
- RESPECT agenda
- Supporting families
- Strengthening communities
- Effective enforcement and community justice
- Legal powers
- Resources

Members were advised as to the anti-social issues which concerned people the most, with dogs and dog mess being top of the list. It was anticipated that the draft strategy would be in place by the end of October and finalised by December.

A discussion followed where the following issues were raised:

- Councillor Jonathan Brash commented that the number of ASBOs issued indicated that the

structure was not working. The Anti-Social Behaviour Co-ordinator responded that ASBOs were only a very small part of what the Anti-Social Behaviour Team were responsible for and that prevention and support were the main mechanisms for dealing with anti-social behaviour.

- Mrs Loynes asked if the Council held records for reports of anti-social behaviour around the Mounston Close area for the last 21 years. The Anti-Social Behaviour Co-ordinator indicated that the records did not go back that far. The Chair indicated that the Town Care Manager would contact Mrs Loynes after the meeting to discuss this issue.
- Resident Representative Clive Hall asked how the family support would be initiated. The Anti-Social Behaviour Co-ordinator indicated that there were a couple of teams in place to deal with this issue through a multi-agency approach.
- Mrs Thorburn added that the green area in Springston Road had been planted on, reducing the areas available for young people to play. The Town Care Manager responded that the decision to introduce the planning was taken two years ago with full consultation to residents. There were still some occasions of anti-social behaviour occurring in this area and a working group was being established to try and resolve the anti-social behaviour in the area.
- Gordon Johnston asked if the east side of Tarnston Road had been considered with regard to the erection of alley gates. The Town Care Manager noted this request and confirmed that a policy for walkways was currently being developed.

The Chair thanked the Anti-Social Behaviour Coordinator for her presentation and for answering questions.

14. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no questions at this time.

15. ISSUES RAISED BY COUNCILLORS AND RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVES

No issues were raised at this time

LILIAN SUTHERAN

CHAIR