

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

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

**on
Friday 13th April, 2007
commencing at 2pm**

A G E N D A

1. Apologies for absence
2. **MINUTES**
 - (a) To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 12th January 2007
 - (b) Matters arising.
3. Update from the Police.
4. Update from the Cleveland Fire Brigade
5. Update on Emergency Planning Procedures – Chief Emergency Planning Officer
6. Update on Anti-Social Behaviour Enforcement Activity – Anti-Social Behaviour Co-ordinator
7. Presentation – Off-Road Motorcycle Strategy – Anti-Social Behaviour Co-ordinator
8. Public Question Time.
9. Any issues to be raised by Councillors and Resident Representatives.
10. Any other business agreed by the Chairman.

WARDS

Fens
Greatham
Ow ton
Rossmere
Seaton

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

12th January, 2007

MINUTES OF THE MEETING



Held at 10am at Greatham Community Centre

PRESENT:

Chair: Councillor Michael Johnson - Rossmere Ward

Vice Chair: Resident Representative Mary Green

Councillor Steve Gibbon	- Fens Ward
Councillor Cath Hill	- Seaton Ward
Councillor Geoff Lilley	Greatham Ward
Councillor Arthur Preece	- Fens Ward
Councillor Michael Turner	- Seaton Ward
Councillor Maureen Waller	- Ow ton Ward

Residents: Pat Brotherton, Mrs I Gray, Mrs S Kell, Mr H Oxley and J Smith

Resident Representatives: Ann Butterfield, Rose Kennedy, Alison Lilley, Michael McKie, Iris Ryder and Michael Ward

Officers: David Frame, Neighbourhood Manager
Sally Forth, Anti-Social Behaviour Co-Ordinator
Peter Gouldsbro, Community Safety Officer

Police Representatives: PC Galloway and Inspector Simpson

Fire Brigade Representative Barry Waller

Housing Hartlepool Representative
Andy Elvidge

9. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

The Chair Councillor Michael Johnson welcomed residents, Councillors and Officers

10. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillor Ann Marshall.

11. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 8th September 2006 were confirmed.

Matters arising

Resident Representative Michael Ward asked if a breakdown of crime statistics for the South area had been provided as requested at a previous meeting. Inspector Simpson advised that the presentation referred to the town as a whole but area specific figures had also been circulated.

12. UPDATE FROM THE POLICE - UPDATE ON NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING AND THE JOINT ACTION GROUP (JAGs) - POLICE

Inspector Alastair Simpson gave an update on Neighbourhood Policing. Aspects of Neighbourhood Policing were highlighted including the single point of contact phone number, the recruitment and training of 21 extra PCSOs and officer attendance at all public meetings. Analysis of Crime Statistics showed that since April 2006 total crime in Hartlepool had fallen by 10% and the crime detection rate had increased by 40%. This meant there were 867 less victims of crime than there had been in the previous year. A survey had shown that as a result of Neighbourhood Policing 89% of people felt safe walking alone during the day while 54% felt safe walking alone after dark.

Inspector Simpson and the Neighbourhood Manager then went on to update those present on the work of the Joint Action Group. Among the issues dealt with recently were

- Anti-Social Behaviour at Fens shops and St Patrick's shops

- Nuisance neighbours in the Owton area
- Anti-social behaviour and criminal damage at Fraser Grove
- A neighbour dispute in the Fens area
- Off road motorcycling

Ongoing issues included:

- Preventative measures at Fens shops
- Improvements to lighting in Rossmere Park
- The formulation of a strategy to deal with young people and alcohol related disorder
- Intensive support for a family associated with anti-social behaviour

Detailed information was given on these items by Inspector Simpson and the Neighbourhood Manager. The following issues were then raised:

- **Visual audits** – Councillor Geoff Lilley asked if information on when these would be taking place could be better communicated. Inspector Simpson said this was an ongoing concern which had hopefully be rectified.
- **Great ham crime figures** – Councillor Lilley requested information on how anti-social behaviour fitted into current crime statistics as this was an area of great importance to people. Inspector Simpson advised that anti-social behaviour could fit into a number of categories including crime, public order and criminal damage. Figures were available for reported incidents of disorder and these could be included. However as this had not been done before there would be no

comparison available. He would bring a monthly update to future residents' meetings.

- **Lack of communication** – Councillor Steve Gibbon reported that a resident had reported problems with youths to her Neighbourhood Police officers but had received no response until Councillor Gibbon contacted them. PC Galloway advised that he would need to know the details in order to comment but generally if there was a problem with the report system it would go to the central control room.
- **Fens / Greatham Police Station** – Councillor Steve Gibbon asked when this would be put in place. Inspector Simpson said there was no budgetary provision for this and it was up to the good will of people with available premises. Health and safety was also an issue. Councillor Gibbon suggested a mobile unit could be the answer while Councillor Geoff Lilley suggested Fens School as a possible venue given its status as an extended school. Inspector Simpson advised that following previous discussions there had been problems with the suggested weekly police surgeries but these would probably not apply to monthly held surgeries. Sergeant Galloway would investigate.
- **Incident number** – Resident Representative Alison Lilley asked if an incident number could automatically be provided to anyone phoning to report a crime. This would mean that all reported crime would automatically show in the statistics. Inspector Simpson advised that any reported crime was automatically recorded in the

figures whether or not an incident number was given. If a caller asked for an incident number or there was likely to be a need for them to know it they would be given it. However in practical terms it was usually be of no value to the caller and could delay the call by a few seconds which in the case of an emergency call could be valuable time.

- **Fens shops** – Resident Representative Alison Lilley praised the work undertaken by the PCSOs in that area. This location had been an issue for years and a more integrated approach with the formation of a multi-agency working group was proving effective in tackling the problems here.
- **Vegas Arcade, Seaton** – Resident Representative Iris Ryder advised that a light had been promised for the back of the Vegas Arcade but this had not yet been provided. The Neighbourhood Manager would action this.
- **Durham Police job cuts** – Councillor Steve Gibbon reported that Durham Police had replaced 100 police officers with 70 PCSOs. Inspector Simpson advised that there were no plans to take similar measures in Hartlepool. These had been budgetary issues several years ago but these had been addressed with sound financial planning
- **Budgetary issues** – Councillor Maureen Waller asked how the million pounds awarded to Hartlepool would benefit the South area. Inspector Simpson advised he would request District Commander Ashman to respond to

that query. The Chair asked that he and Councillor Maureen Waller be contacted prior to the next South Neighbourhood Consultative Forum and that a full response be brought to that meeting.

- **Detection rates** – Councillor Mike Turner requested a definition of detection. Inspector Simpson advised that this referred to an instance whereby officers were satisfied that they had found the culprit responsible for a crime – be they charged, cautioned or issued with a penalty notice. So long as there was sufficient evidence the crime had been detected, even without prosecution.

The Chair thanked Inspector Simpson for attending and answering questions.

13. UPDATE FROM THE CLEVELAND FIRE BRIGADE

Barry Waller, District Manager for Hartlepool, gave a brief update on recent activity within the Fire Brigade. In the last 3 months there had been a 20% drop in the number of dwelling fires. This meant that there had been no deaths in a fire in Hartlepool in the last 12 months. The number of car fires had also dropped largely as a result of the use of an automatic number plate recognition system. This meant that any cars which were not taxed, tested or insured were crushed before they could be burnt out. 600 had been destroyed so far.

Details were given of a number of initiatives currently being undertaken by the Fire Brigade, including:

- The formulation of a risk register for at risk properties
- A clean sweep operation involving home fire safety visits, school visits and arson audits

- A week-long life course involving 10 youths
- The Young Fire Fighters Association
- Partnership with the PCT involving tips on healthy eating, how to quit smoking and how to perform CPR
- A mobile classroom to advise young drivers of the dangers of speed. This included a hard-hitting video which the Chair requested be brought to the next Police and Community Safety Forum.

One of the primary initiatives being undertaken by the Fire Brigade was an attempt to change the bonfire night culture. It was felt that banning the sale of fireworks unless they were to be used at an organised display would be a positive step forward. This was fully supported by those present. The following issues were then raised:

BASF Incident – Councillor Geoff Lilley requested information on how updates on the situation had been given to the wider community. Most sites utilised a siren check and the public needed to know how emergency situations were advertised. The District Manager advised that BASF operated a process whereby if the only danger was on site communication was minimal but if the danger was to the public at large then the media and Councillors were informed. Concerns were raised by the Chair that despite attempts by the Emergency Planning Joint Committee there was still no alert system in place other than word of mouth. The District Manager acknowledged that this was a problem but short of knocking on doors there were few solutions. A discussion followed during which those present expressed their concerns on this matter. Following this Councillor Maureen Waller requested that an Emergency Planning Officer attend the next meeting. This was supported by the Chair.

Longhill Fires – Councillor Geoff Lilley requested an update. The District Manager described this as an ongoing problem but said measures had been taken including the successful prosecution of flytippers and the installation of CCTV. The Fire Brigade were working with the owners and it was hoped that eventually they would get sick of being prosecuted.

The Chair thanked District Manager Waller for attending and answering questions.

14. PRESENTATION ON THE NEW SECURITY GUARD CONTRACT – COMMUNITY SAFETY TEAM

The Community Safety Officer gave a presentation on the Revised Community Security Contract. The main provisions of the contract included static guarding, locking and unlocking services, deterrent guarding and alarm activation response. The main priority was to reduce anti-social behaviour and minimise vandalism and damage. Details were given of the function of the security officers and their links with the police and the community. The following issues were then raised:

Bogus security guards – The Chair asked who the public should contact if they suspected someone was posing as a security guard illegally. The Community Safety Officer advised them to contact the police or the Neighbourhood Manager. Inspector Simpson said the police took this very seriously as it focused on the vulnerable in society.

Mosquito device – Councillor Geoff Lilley asked if Hartlepool Borough Council owned one of these. The Community Safety Officer advised those present that this was a device which generated noise, used to deter young people from areas. This was only used in private premises

and future usage would be discussed at anti-social behaviour task force in the future.

Signage – Resident Representative Iris Ryder requested that contact numbers for the public be included on the signage. The Community Safety Officer reported that this would be included on the advanced signage.

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

15. ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR STRATEGY – COMMUNITY SAFETY TEAM

The Anti-Social Behaviour Co-ordinator gave an update on the Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy for Hartlepool. Details were given of progress to date and the three main objectives which had emerged from the consultation as follows:

- Improve Co-ordination
- Streamline use of enforcement tools
- Develop further prevention services

Members were advised that a further draft was yet to be completed and the aim was to have the final strategy in place by February or March. Consultation documents on the second draft were distributed to those present for completion.

The Chair said the Anti-Social Behaviour Unit was under funded by the Council and more resources should be identified from existing funds.

16. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

None.

**17. ANY ISSUES TO BE RAISED BY
COUNCILLORS AND RESIDENT
REPRESENTATIVES**

Greensides – Councillor Geoff Liley asked when a meeting would take place to discuss this issue. The Anti-Social Behaviour Co-ordinator advised that a date would be organised, hopefully within the next 2 weeks.

Alcohol byelaws – Councillor Mike Turner drew attention to the expiration of these at the end of August 2006 and asked if all police officers were aware of this change. Inspector Simpson confirmed this was the case and said the Council's Crime and Disorder Co-ordinator was hoping to reapply the existing byelaws before considering new areas. Police officers were aware of the enforcement procedures in this case.

Warrior Drive, Seaton – Councillor Mike Turner advised that there had been an accident at the Station Lane end where a lamp post had been knocked over. Was it possible for officers to look at ways of slowing the speed down on this particular stretch of road in order to prevent a recurrence? The Neighbourhood Manager would pass this request on to the Traffic Team Leader.

MICK JOHNSON

CHAIR