

**NORTH AREA POLICE AND
COMMUNITY SAFETY
CONSULTATIVE FORUM**
in
**Throston Grange Community Centre,
Glamorgan Grove, Hartlepool**
on
Wednesday 11th 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 10th January 2007
 - (b) Matters arising.
3. Update from the Police
4. Alcohol Free Zones – Head of Community Safety and Prevention
5. Any other business agreed by the Chair

WARDS

Brus
Dyke House
Hart
St Hilda
Throston

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

10th January, 2007

MINUTES OF THE MEETING



Held at 10am at West View Community Centre, Miers Avenue, Hartlepool

PRESENT:

Chair: Councillor Rob Cook – Hart Ward

Vice Chair: Resident Representative Linda Shields

Councillor Caroline Barker - Hart Ward
Councillor Mary Fleet - Dyke House Ward
Councillor Sheila Griffin - Brus Ward
Councillor Jane Shaw - Dyke House Ward
Councillor Denis Waller - Brus Ward
Councillor Edna Wright - Hart Ward

Residents: Pat Andrews, Cal Carruthers-Watt, Mr J Cooke, Cath and Liz Torley, Richard Turner, Alan Vale and Dennis Wilson

Resident Representatives: John Cambridge, Joan Norman, Mary Power, Joan Steel and Robert Steel

Officers: Karen Oliver, Neighbourhood Manager
Alison Mawson, Head of Community Safety and Prevention
Garry Jones, Neighbourhood Services Officer
Sally Forth, Anti-Social Behaviour Co-ordinator
Peter Gouldsbro, Community Safety Officer
Rachel Parker, Community Safety Research Officer
Ann Callaghan, Neighbourhood Development Officer (North)
Jo Wilson, Democratic Services Officer

Police Representatives: Andrew Leight, Mark O'Brien and Alastair Simpson

Fire Brigade Representative: Barry Waller

Housing Hartlepool Representatives: Angie Crawford, Natalie Dove and Sue Horseman

11. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

The Chair Councillor Rob Cook welcomed residents, Councillors and Officers.

12. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Sandra Fenwick and Resident Representative John Lynch.

13. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 6th September 2006 were confirmed subject to the following amendment:

- Police Update on Neighbourhood Policing – there had been a 13% drop in the fear of crime not 39%

14. 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:

- Nuisance neighbours in the Dyke House and Headland areas
- Anti-social behaviour and environmental issues at the Old Steetley Works site
- Off road motorcycling

Ongoing issues included

- Anti-social behaviour at North Cemetery and the Clavering and Throston shops
- Nuisance neighbours in Hurworth Street
- The formulation of a strategy to deal with young people and alcohol related disorder

Detailed information was given on these items by Inspector Simpson and the Neighbourhood Manager. This was followed by comments and discussion from those present, particularly in relation to the problems at Clavering shops. Among the comments made on this issue were

- The problem has been going on for more than 15 years
- When the police come the trouble moves to King Oswy Shops
- Because there is no outside funding available for the area nothing ever gets done
- We've been trying to get Clavering declared an alcohol free zone. Is there a problem with this being done in a residential area?
- There is a lot of anti-social behaviour on the Ocean Road walkway. Could a CCTV camera be placed there?

In response to these comments Inspector Simpson advised that Clavering was

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being considered as a pilot area specifically because of the lack of funding from outside agencies. The status of alcohol free zones in the town was currently under review as was the use and placement of CCTV cameras, particularly the possible use of a mobile camera. Officers were also aware of problems with displacement of anti-social behaviour. However anything done needed to be good value for money. Members felt that anything which resolves these issues would be money well spent.

Among the other issues raised with Inspector Simpson were

- Off-road cycles on the Central Estate were now virtually non-existent. 13 had been removed since last year.
- Brougham Residents Association – there had been no police presence at the meeting on the previous evening
- Hurworth Street – residents were appreciative of the work done by police and other agencies but there needed to be more than twice daily visits. Attention was drawn to a recent stress-related death in the area. The Neighbourhood Manager advised that there was a meeting with outside agencies on this issue that afternoon which would be fed back to the Dyke House Consultation Forum. She acknowledged that a lot of effort would be needed to come up with an effective strategy.
- CCTV cameras – a Councillor felt these were ineffective and the money would be better spent on increasing police patrols. He also called for the sale of alcohol from shops to be stopped and criticised

the recent expenditure on cameras in taxis. Such cameras could be used to keep a check on underage sales in off-licences.

The Chair thanked Inspector Simpson for attending and answering questions.

15. UPDATE FROM 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 members who suggested the issue be forwarded to Scrutiny and that a town-wide petition be circulated.

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

16. 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.

Members queried the cost involved in implementing the new security contract. They were advised that it was £110,000 per year which was a £30,000 saving on the previous contract. The contract runs for 3 years with the option for a 2 year follow-on after this. The contract would be reviewed on a yearly basis during that time.

The Chair thanked the Community Security Officer for attending and answering questions.

17. 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.

In response to queries from those present the Anti-Social Behaviour Co-ordinator advised that she would bring figures relating to the effectiveness of parenting programmes to the next Police and Community Safety Forum. She also reported that a request had been made for additional officers for each Neighbourhood Forum area.

The Chair thanked the Anti-Social Behaviour Co-ordinator for attending the meeting and answering questions.

18 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Bournemouth / Sandbanks Drive – concerns were raised about cars parking there particularly commercial vehicles. Drivers found it difficult to avoid the potholes in the round and the high fences made visibility a problem. The Neighbourhood Services Officer advised that some of the grass verges in Sandbanks had been tarmaced to help relieve this problem while the Neighbourhood Manager said she would contact the Highways Department.

“May I ask the inspector if it is now the accepted norm for the pavement to be

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blitzed by idiots riding bicycles on a permanent basis” – Inspector Simpson reported that this was still illegal and the action taken depended on the age of the rider and the circumstances of the incident. Fixed penalty tickets could seem disproportionate. The related problem of motorists parking on cycle tracks was also highlighted but Inspector Simpson advised that this was a Council Enforcement issue.

New Town Square / History Garden – A resident requested the installation of CCTV cameras at this site in order to prevent damage. Inspector Simpson advised he would forward this request on to PCs responsible for the area and ask them to speak to the children concerned.

19 ANY ISSUES TO BE RAISED BY COUNCILLORS AND RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVES

Communication problems with West View Police Office – A Councillor complained that officers were not getting back to residents when messages were left on the police answer phone. Inspector Simpson acknowledged this should not happen and resolved to speak to the officers concerned.

Citizen’s arrests – Inspector Simpson advised that reasonable force could be used to restrain someone but physical restraint was not encouraged. A member of the public could be prosecuted for using unreasonable restraint but a police officer would not be.

20 ANY OTHER BUSINESS AGREED BY THE CHAIRMAN

The Chair advised that there was a vacancy for another Resident Representative to serve on the Forum. Anyone interested should contact the Neighbourhood Manager; elections were

due to be held at the next North Neighbourhood Consultative Forum on 31st January 2007.

ROB COOK

CHAIR