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

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

**on
Thursday, 12th 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 11th January 2007
 - (b) Matters arising.
3. Update from the Police
4. Update from Cleveland Fire Brigade
5. Update on Anti-Social Behaviour Enforcement Activity
– Anti-Social Behaviour Co-ordinator
6. Presentation – Off-Road Motorcycle Strategy – Anti-Social Behaviour Co-ordinator
7. Public Question Time.
8. Any issues to be raised by Councillors and Resident Representatives
9. Any other business agreed by the Chair

WARDS
 Burn Valley
 Elwick
 Foggy Furze
 Grange
 Park
 Rift House
 Stranton

CENTRAL POLICE & COMMUNITY SAFETY CONSULTATIVE FORUM

11th January 2007

MINUTES OF THE MEETING



The meeting commenced at 10am in Committee Room B, Civic Centre, Hartlepool

PRESENT:

Chair: Councillor Lillian Sutheran - Rift House Ward

Vice-Chair: Resident Representative James Atkinson

Councillor Gerald Hall	- Burn Valley Ward
Councillor Frances London	- Foggy Furze Ward
Councillor Dr George Morris	- Park Ward
Councillor Gladys Worthy	- Rift House Ward

Resident Representatives: Ian Campbell, Bob Farrow, Patrick Finnan, Evelyn Leck, Alan Lloyd and Brian McBean.

Residents: Bob Elliott, Brian Hanna, Miss M E Lumley, Mr & Mrs Johnson, Mrs Loynes, Mr G Harrison, Mrs M Thoburn, Mrs Unwin and Miss J Rudge.

Council Officers: Denise Ogden, Head of Neighbourhood Management
 Alison Mawson, Head of Community Safety and Prevention
 Irene Cross, Neighbourhood Development Manager
 Sally Forth, ASB Co-ordinator
 Peter Gouldsbro, Community Safety Officer
 Pat Watson, Democratic Services Officer

Police Representatives: Inspector Alastair Simpson and Sgt Brian Crawley

Fire Brigade Representative: District Manager Barry Waller

Housing Hartlepool Representative: Libby Griffiths

16. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

The Chair Councillor Lillian Sutheran welcomed residents, Councillors and Officers.

17. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Akers-Belcher, Brash, Henery, Iseley, Kaiser, Laffey, Payne, Tumilty, R Waller and Resident Representative Mrs J Kennedy.

18. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 7th September were confirmed with 3 amendments as follows:

- Burn Valley Ward to be added to the Logo;
- The name of Resident Rep Evelyn Leck being added to the second bullet point on page 2;
- The name of Ian Campbell being added to the 5th bullet point on page 2.

19. UPDATE FROM POLICE including Update on Neighbourhood Policing and Joint Action Groups (JAGs)

Inspector Alastair Simpson gave a presentation and an update on Police issues. 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 – Dent and Derwent Street area (Anti-social behaviour (ASB) / drug dealing / working with private sector landlords);

- 'Sweet by the Sea' young persons events;
- Ward Jackson Park / Knightsbridge Gardens – A SB;
- Naisberry Park / Mountston Close / Saddleston Close area – A SB;
- Nuisance neighbours – Oxford Road area (A SB / crime);
- Unsightly property – Hucklehoven Way;
- Funding contribution to secure fencing for elderly persons bungalow s;
- Clear up waste ground – Waverly Terrace.

Ongoing issues were as follows:

- Strategy to deal with young people and alcohol related disorder;
- Dent/Derwent Street area;
- Additional CCTV coverage – Central area;
- Off road motorcycling;
- Mill House skateboard park

Detailed information was given on these items by Inspector Simpson and the Neighbourhood Manager. This was followed by comments and discussion from those present.

- Resident Rep Ian Campbell asked if there was a seasonal aspect about "walking alone". AS indicated that there may well be but figures were not available. Ian commented that it would be interesting to get figures on a survey in mid winter. AS noted the comment and advised that staffing capacity would need to be considered.
- Sgt Brian Cawley spoke on the Ward Jackson Park problems – this had been included in the Neighbourhood Policing and a temporary camera had been arranged with Peter Gouldsbro,

alcohol had been seized and the efforts made by Police seem to have worked. Brian indicated he was aware of the Mountston / Saddleston issue and would be managing the issue.

- Mill House Skateboard Park – it was felt that children would not use it because they felt bullied – Alastair and Denise advised that they were trying to make it safe and were working on the issue. It was suggested that some alteration to the surfaces in the Town Centre area would stop the area being used by skateboarders.
- Resident Rep. Alan Lloyd asked about the £2m debt at Durham where Police and services were being axed and asked if the same would happen in Hartlepool. Alastair Simpson advised that the Durham debt is a budget deficit and they will go through a cost saving process. Cleveland had already gone through this process years ago and are now in a better position.
- Resident Rep Bob Farrow said the recent initiatives of the Police had been very positive. He felt the service was good and Police could be contacted straight away – they will even turn up, if requested, when they are on holiday.
- Resident Rep Patrick Finnan referred to the Police statistics, which were indicated to be “provisional”, and asked for an explanation. Alastair Simpson said they were accurate but could only be called audited after June when they had been accepted by Government. Patrick commented that CCTV was needed at the lower end of West End and he asked if the camera at Raby Road was working – he referred to a recent incident. Peter Gouldsbro said he believed the camera was

working and asked for more detail on the incident.

- Resident Rep Brian McBean said it was re-assuring to see that Stephen Street was not now on the problem area list. This had been achieved by the multi-agency approach and people were now sleeping more soundly in their beds. He thanked the officers and staff involved.
- Vice-chair James Atkinson asked to what extent is vandalism taken into account – how and where is it counted. Alastair advised that the figures were included under Criminal Damage. Denise said some vandalism to Council property is covered by HBC insurance.
- Resident Rep Evelyn Leck said the Neighbourhood Policing was excellent. People have confidence in the PCs and PCSOs. Who take pride in their area.
- Councillor London congratulated officers on the way young people were being helped.
- Resident Rep Alan Lloyd referred to Waverley Terrace and indicated that emergency services could not get through. Denise noted this but advised that the emergency services had not raised this as a problem. Issue.

The Chair thanked Alastair Simpson for his presentation and for answering questions.

20. 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. (Any resident groups wanting advice should get in touch.)
- 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.

Views expressed at the Forum, in relation to fireworks, were that the timescale for their sale should be shortened or not be on sale at all and that there should only be controlled displays.

Discussion took place on serious incidents in Housing Hartlepool (HH) properties and the issue of insurance was raised. Libby Griffiths from HH advised that new tenants are offered the facility of insurance which they can pay for on a weekly basis if required.

Barry Waller said it was important that residents advise of any gathering of rubbish as this could result in fires. Resident Rep Alan Lloyd advised that rubbish was being thrown over/through the fence at the top of Brierton Field. Barry noted this.

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

21. 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 Safety Officer for attending and for helping with queries.

22. 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

A questionnaire was circulated to enable residents to consider the draft aims and objectives and/or give comments on the draft Strategy.

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

23. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME including Councillors and Resident Representatives

Resident Representative Evelyn Leck repeated an earlier request for **police drop-in sessions at Stranton Learning Centre**. Alastair said he would get Sgt Brian Cawley to contact her.

Resident Representative Ian Campbell advised that the latest information on surgeries in the **Park Café** was that the venue was being risk assessed. Alastair advised that if the venue was needed he would get Sgt Brian Cawley to get in touch.

Councillor Hall said he wished to applaud the activity in **Oxford Road area** by the Police and the Anti-social Behaviour Unit. He said the two officers, Mick McArdle and Andy Bell, were excellent.

A request was made for CCTV at **Park Road/York Road junction** as there were ongoing traffic problems.

Lillian Sutheran

Chair