

Agenda Item 2

ST IVES NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM NEEDINGWORTH VILLAGE HALL

Wednesday, 6 January 2010

PRESENT:

Panel

Councillor J W Davies - Huntingdonshire District Council
(Chairman)

Councillor P Brace - Earith Parish Council

Inspector R Gourlay - Cambridgeshire Constabulary

Councillor A Holloway - Holywell-cum-Needingworth
Parish Council

County Councillor R Pegram - Cambridgeshire County Council /
Cambridgeshire Fire & Rescue

Representatives from St Ives Town Council, Luminus and
NHS Cambridgeshire will also be appointed onto the Panel –
details to be confirmed.

Other Representatives

Miss H Ali - Huntingdonshire District Council

Councillor I C Bates - Cambridgeshire County Council,
Huntingdonshire District and
Hilton Parish Councils

Cllr C Border - Holywell-cum-Needingworth
Parish Council

Mr N Burgess - Cambridgeshire Fire & Rescue

Councillor K J Churchill - Huntingdonshire District Council

Councillor Mrs M Clarke - St Ives Town Council

Councillor S J Criswell - Cambridgeshire County,
Huntingdonshire District and
Somersham Parish Councils

Councillor D Dew - Huntingdonshire District Council

Councillor I Dobson - St Ives Town Council

Councillor R Fuller - St Ives Town Council

Sergeant R Giddings - Cambridgeshire Constabulary

Councillor P M D Godfrey	-	Huntingdonshire District and Bluntisham Parish Councils
Mrs T Guinea	-	Huntingdonshire District Council
Councillor V H Lucas	-	Cambridgeshire County Council/ Police Authority
Mr R Reeves	-	Huntingdonshire District Council
Mrs K Squires	-	Huntingdonshire District Council
Mrs S Tabbitt	-	Cambridgeshire County Council

Members of the Public 16

APOLOGIES:	Mr T Jordan	-	Cambridgeshire County Council
	Ms H Kennington	-	Luminus

	ACTION
<p>1. WELCOME BY CHAIRMAN</p> <p>Cllr Davies, in his role as Chairman, welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked all for attending.</p>	
<p>2. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT IN HUNTINGDONSHIRE</p> <p>The Chairman explained the purpose of the Neighbourhood Forums in Huntingdonshire as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ providing an opportunity to promote understanding of the democratic arrangements and functions of public sector organisations in the local neighbourhood; ◆ informing, consulting and involving the public on issues of local importance; ◆ enabling local communities and the public to raise issues of concern and highlight priorities for action to public sector organisations; ◆ and influencing the decision-making processes that direct service delivery. <p>The Chairman reported that this meeting is different from the former safer neighbourhood panel and will deal with issues relating to other agencies in addition to the police. The Chairman reminded those present that issues raised should relate to a local area or community. Individual issues particularly in relation to planning/licensing should be discussed with the relevant agency at the end of the meeting.</p>	

<p>The Chairman also explained that in addition to listening to local residents'/communities' concerns, the meeting would aim to prompt the appropriate agency involved in finding a solution to the issues raised and to report back on progress at the next meeting.</p> <p>The Chairman reported that the Forum had been established for St Ives and the surrounding parishes of Abbots Ripton, Bluntisham, Earith, Fenstanton, Hemingford Abbots, Hemingford Grey, Hilton, Holywell-cum-Needingworth, Houghton & Wyton, Kings Ripton and Woodwalton.</p>	
<p>3. MEMBERSHIP</p> <p>Mr R Reeves, Head of Democratic and Central Services for the District Council, explained that the District Council would be administering the new Forums established across the District. Mr Reeves explained to the meeting that a Panel would be established to decide on priorities from the neighbourhood issues raised during the Forum meeting and to allocate tasks to agencies for action.</p> <p>Panel Members to date included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr J W Davies (Chairman) - Huntingdonshire District Council • Cllr R Pegram - Cambridgeshire County Council / Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue • Inspector R Gourlay - Cambridgeshire Constabulary • Cllr P Brace – Earith Parish Council • Cllr A Holloway – Holywell-cum-Needingworth Parish Council <p>Representatives from St Ives Town Council, Luminus and NHS Cambridgeshire would also be appointed onto the Panel – details of which were yet to be confirmed.</p> <p>Cllr R Pegram was appointed Vice-Chairman of the Panel.</p>	<p>St Ives Town Council / Luminus / NHS Cambridgeshire</p>
<p>4. CAMBRIDGESHIRE POLICE AUTHORITY – YOUR POLICE FORCE PRESENTATION</p> <p>The Chairman introduced Cllr V Lucas, County Councillor and Vice-Chairman of Cambridgeshire Police Authority.</p> <p>Cllr Lucas delivered a presentation on the Police Authority's role, budget and priorities for 2010.</p> <p>Those present were invited to ask questions following the presentation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Q - What is serious acquisitive crime? ◆ A – Cllr Lucas explained that serious acquisitive crime included burglary, robbery, car crime and serious assault. ◆ Q - How is the current uniformed staffing level providing value for money when we have significantly fewer Officers per head of population 	

than the national average?

- ◆ A – Cllr Lucas explained that to provide the national average would require a significant increase in funding from Council Tax (20%). He reported that the Police Authority believed that the current service was providing value for money given the limited resources available.

Cllr Williams added that crime rates in Cambridgeshire were much lower than many other parts of the country which made it difficult to persuade the Home Office to divert resources from other parts of the country to Cambridgeshire.

- ◆ Q – How has information been gathered on public perception?
- ◆ A – Cllr Lucas explained that information was gathered through surveys, victims of crime, community forums etc and that the last survey completed attracted 1500 replies.
- ◆ Q - How does the police authority intend to provide information to the community to allow them to understand crime figures for their areas?
- ◆ A – Cllr Lucas reported that community policing information would be considered at the Forum meetings as an item for discussion.

There were several issues raised by members of the public present regarding police response times and opening hours of police stations. Inspector R Gourlay and Sergeant R Giddings agreed to speak to those concerned at the end of the meeting. It was also explained to the Forum how the cover system worked and why sometimes calls were responded to by Officers located in other areas.

5. NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING PROFILE

Inspector R Gourlay introduced herself to the Forum as the new Sector Inspector for the local area. In so doing, Inspector Gourlay handed over to Sergeant R Giddings to provide the update on the Policing Priorities for the previous quarter as she had only been in post a few days.

Drink Related Anti-Social Behaviour – St Ives Town Centre - Related to the Night Time Economy

- ◆ Number of patrols carried out including work done by Special Police Officers and reactive staff.
- ◆ Number of arrests made and interventions for assault and damage.
- ◆ Marked decrease in number of offences with exception of a slight peak during Christmas/New Year period.

<p>Youth Related Anti-Social Behaviour in Earith and Bluntisham</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Youths had been identified, charged and bailed and are due back in court this month. ◆ Key youth involved had been evicted from premises (property) in the above area so an improvement has been seen in ASB. <p>Youth Related Anti-Social Behaviour in St Ives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Foot patrols had been carried out, little activity noticed ◆ Foot patrols had noticed ASB activity in the Constable Road estate off the link footpath which had resulted in a spate of vehicles being damaged and some thefts. Police resources have been responding to this. <p>Overall figures showed crime had decreased in the area, with a slight increase only in personal attack figures.</p> <p>According to the public reports, the police data did not show any particular crime hotspots in St Ives at present.</p> <p>Those present were invited to ask questions to which Sergeant Giddings provided the following responses:</p> <p>Q – Hill Rise, St Ives Skate Park issues had resumed, what action would be taken to resolve this? A – Sergeant Giddings noted the police were discussing a barrier and more suitable lighting with the District Council.</p> <p>Q – Graffiti in Fairfields Drive – what action had been taken on this issue? A – Pictures had been taken of the graffiti and tagging, Sergeant Giddings thought they had an identification of the offender via contact with a local school and will be following this up.</p> <p>Q – Hill Rise Allotments had suffered some thefts, break ins etc at sheds. Also tents and young people have been spotted in the field opposite in the early mornings. A- Sgt Giddings to discuss with member of public and to investigate this issue.</p> <p>Sgt Giddings also reported youths had been prosecuted for dangerous driving and would be taken to Court where he was hopeful they would receive driving bans. He also noted Speedwatch had been active in the St Ives area and that in addition to this, via enforcement work, a number of fixed penalty notices had been issued although speeding still remained an issue.</p>	<p>Sgt Giddings/ Huntingdonshire District Council</p> <p>Sgt Gidding</p> <p>Sgt Giddings</p>
<p>6. NEIGHBOURHOOD ISSUES</p> <p>Issue with “boy racers” in Hill Rise, St Ives – Sergeant Giddings reported that he was currently looking for a solution to this problem as opposed to the nuisance being relocated</p>	<p>Sgt Giddings</p>

to another site.

Question raised about the Warners Park area in St Ives where four serious assaults had occurred. What progress had been made on this? Sergeant Giddings reported an arrest has been made which was pending prosecution. Sergeant Giddings also reported that in relation to an assault on an elderly gentleman, investigations had taken place but due to the lack of description, information or CCTV footage, at present there were no leads.

On the issue of drunken and disorderly behaviour on The Quay, St Ives Sergeant Giddings informed the Forum that this was moving forward but that an application for a Designated Public Places Order to move people away from this area needed to be approved by the District Council.

Sgt Giddings/
Huntingdonshire
District Council

Vote of thanks given to Police for their assistance in partially resolving the parking issues by Wheatfields School, St Ives. Request that support continues. Sergeant Giddings noted that while his Team could not provide a permanent presence, they would continue to visit regularly as they were now aware of the problem. PCSO's would be making contact with the school to keep them up to date with visits. Cllr I Bates added that this issue also existed at Hemingford Grey Primary School.

Sgt Giddings

Update requested on muggings of the elderly in St Ives. Sergeant Giddings reported that one individual had been caught in Ely and prevented from entering Cambridgeshire, which was attained through an Anti-Social Behaviour Order. Inspector R Gourlay reported that there have been no further incidents reported since this individual had been banned from entering the area.

A St Ives & District Road Safety Committee representative asked if they could bring their concerns to the Forum meetings as they did not currently feel they were receiving support from the Police or the County Council. The Chairman suggested that the Minutes of the Road Safety Committee could be submitted with the Agenda for the next Forum meeting. Cllr Pegram also suggested submitting a petition concerning road safety issues to the County Council's Huntingdonshire Traffic Management Area Joint Committee.

St Ives & District
Road Safety
Committee/Mrs K
Squires

An issue about anti-social driving at Millfields Park, St Ives during lunchtimes was raised. Sergeant Giddings reported that he would be requesting his Team to look into this issue.

Sgt Giddings

Sergeant Giddings, Inspector Gourlay and their team noted their availability at the end of the meeting to discuss any further/personal issues with meeting attendees.

<p>7. FUTURE ITEMS</p> <p>The Chairman requested items for future agendas, the following suggestions were made:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Street Lighting – lit during the day. Cllr Pegram reported there was a current review of street lighting and contracts being undertaken by the County Council and agreed with the Chairman to bring further information to the next meeting for discussion. ◆ Cow and Hare Passage, St Ives - Gate and gate furniture removal. ◆ Hill Rise, St Ives - Pedestrian Crossing/Speed Limit Review <p>It was agreed that the above items would be added to the Agenda of the next meeting of the Forum for discussion.</p>	<p>Mrs K Squires</p>
<p>8. FUTURE MEETING PROGRAMME</p> <p>The Forum noted that the next meeting would be held on 7th April 2010. It was agreed that copies of the Agenda would be made available at the meeting. However, the public were advised that a copy was available electronically on the District Council's website.</p> <p>The Chairman thanked all for attending and asked that people take the time to complete and return the feedback forms provided.</p>	
<p>9. PANEL PRIORITISATION</p> <p>At the conclusion of the Forum meeting, the Panel agreed the following Policing Priorities for the three months to March 2010:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Hill Rise Park, St Ives – Nuisance caused by drivers entering the Park late at night; ◆ Lat Night Damage to Vehicles in Constable Road, Renoir Close and Arran Way area of St Ives; and ◆ Anti-Social Car Use on Needingworth By-Pass. <p>Panel members were also asked to address those issues marked for their attention in the notes of the forum meeting.</p>	<p>Inspector Gourlay / Sergeant Giddings</p>

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