



ST ALBANS COMMUNITY SAFETY CONSULTATION FORUM

7.30 Monday 9 February 2004

Council Chamber, St Albans Civic Centre

MINUTES

Present:

Lyn Bolton
Neil Clements
Robert Fox
Jill Gipps
Derek Hills
Henry Jones
Joy Leighton
Bernard Lloyd
Bert Pawle
Brian Peyton

Rosie Sanderson (Chair)

Pat Shea
Roy Taylor
Iris Tarry
Stephanie White

Officers:

PCSO Janice Carter
Inspector Mike Hanson
Chief Inspector David Moore
Ian Markwell
Angela Parry
Sally Patient
Christine Roach
Philip Winter

Sandridge Parish Council
Wheathampstead Parish Council
Crime Prevention Panel
Hertfordshire County Council
Hertfordshire County Council
London Colney Parish Council
Victim Support
Hertfordshire Police Authority
Harpenden Town Council
St Albans District Council
Hertfordshire Police Authority
University of the Third Age
HACRO
Hertfordshire County Council
St Albans City and District Council

Hertfordshire Constabulary
Hertfordshire Constabulary
Hertfordshire Constabulary
Fire and Rescue Service
St Albans District Council
Hertfordshire Police Authority
St Albans City and District Council
Hertfordshire County Council

ACTION

1. **Apologies**
Apologies were received from Philip Rosen, John Henschley, Chief Supt Alison Roome-Gifford, Sue Gunn, John Ollerenshaw, Nick Smith, Steve Welch and Ken Jenkins.
2. **Minutes of meeting held on 19 November 2003**
With the addition of Roy Taylor to the attendance list, these were agreed.
3. **Matters Arising**
 - **Harpenden public meeting (Chair: Bernard Lloyd)**
Disappointment was expressed at the apparent poor

distribution of advertising literature for this meeting. Sally Patient will follow up and report back to Bernard Lloyd.

Sally Patient

4. **Community Safety Strategy Update 2003/04 and 2004/05**

A copy of the presentations given by Chief Inspector Dave Moore and Christine Roach are attached.

Home burglary has reduced and the many initiatives carried out by the SAFE project, Neighbourhood Watch, the Crime Prevention Panel and other partners, are likely to have contributed. An additional 35 Neighbourhood Watch schemes have been set up, bringing the total in St Albans to 565. SAFE has handled 781 referrals and carried out nearly 200 jobs in the last few months. Partnership funding will enable an additional technician to be employed, increasing their capacity even further.

Artifice burglary - there has been a big decrease with only 22 in the period April – January 2003/04, compared to 64 in the same period the previous year. Initiatives include training for front-line staff and the provision of information packs. Calendars have also been produced, providing advice for vulnerable residents.

Violent Crime – The number of sexual offences and violent offences while under the influence of alcohol and in a public place have all decreased. CCTV is a valuable tool in identifying and dealing with these offences. Pub Watch and door-staff training schemes have also contributed to the decrease.

The Central Area Independent Advisory Group (IAG) is one of the most effective in the county. Its aim is to be a critical friend to the Constabulary, providing help, advice and guidance on policy and operational matters. Initiatives to combat hate crime include the fitting of fire-proof letterboxes and a training video on homophobic bullying.

Robbery has increased in St Albans by 11%. Many involve the theft of mobile phones and to date 12,000 mobile phones have been security marked to provide a visible deterrent.

Vehicle crime has also increased (by 16%) and initiatives are in place to reverse this trend.

Drunkenness is down 7% from last year and disturbances around licensed premises in St Albans and Harpenden down 43%.

Ward Constables - it is proposed to increase to 49 the

number of ward constables in the Central Area.

Issues raised by members included:

Q. How do Automated Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) cameras work?

A. ANPR cameras are placed on location, identify vehicle number plates and cross-reference them with a range of data-basis to see if the vehicle should be stopped. If it makes a match it sounds an alarm to alert officers. Stevenage has linked the ANPR cameras to its CCTV system, but many systems would not have sufficiently high specifications to do this.

Q. When is something going to be done about the difficulties people have in contacting the police? There is normally an answerphone and no response to messages left.

A. New call handling technology is being installed and a new operational control centre being built. In addition, the Constabulary are moving over to the new 'Airwave' radio system, which will improve communications. (An information sheet is attached)
There will also be a target in relation to non-emergency call handling in next year's Policing Plan.
Government are also consulting on a new three-digit national number for non-emergency calls. This has been given support by the county council and the police authority.

Self assessment framework – This is currently taking place and will look at how well the Partnership is performing and lead to the development of an improvement plan.

The Partnership needs to carry out a crime audit in the coming year to inform the development of its Strategic Plan for 2005/08. In addition, from this April, the Partnership needs to produce an Annual Report.

Anti-social behaviour – St Albans will receive £25k from Go-East to fund work in this area. The full criteria has not yet been issued but will include the requirement for St Albans to have a nominated anti-social behaviour officer. This has already been done.

The Partnership's website – www.stalbanscsp.org.uk – will be launched shortly. Members are requested to give feedback to Christine Roach and will be advised of the launch date.

**Christine
Roach**

Issues raised by members:

Q. Who is on the Anti-social Behaviour theme group?

A. Christine Roach will supply a list of theme group leaders and structure chart (See attached). SADC Housing Officer,

**Christine
Roach**

Neil Kierran leads the anti-social behaviour theme group.

Q. Is it possible to have a financial report on how the Building Safer Communities monies are spent.

A. The Responsible Authorities Group monitors expenditure on a regular basis. However, it would be a good idea for the CSCF to receive regular reports and this will be added to future agendas. In addition, the latest report is attached.

**Christine
Roach**

Q. Will the CSCF get an opportunity to see the self-assessment?

A. This will be circulated to members, with comments requested as soon as possible. The deadline for completion is 31 March.

**Christine
Roach**

Q. Confused about the funding of PCSOs. Can we see a breakdown of what and how money is spent.

A. All existing PCSOs in St Albans are funded by the Home Office. SADC is looking at the possibility of funding additional PCSOs. However, the police are withdrawing its funding for the Community Safety Officer Post, so SADC is already facing additional expenditure. The Police are looking at putting in £54,000 from BCU funding and possibly funding two PCSOs from money saved by withdrawing its traffic warden service. Harpenden Town Council and London Colney Parish Council are also looking at part-funding for PCSOs.

Q. Are schools informed when Anti-Social Behaviour Orders are issued and how many are there in the district?

A. The process of obtaining an ASBO will probably involve the schools. There is currently only one ASBO in the district. Under the Anti-Social Behaviour Act 2004, the county council can take out an ASBO directly.

5. Life as a Police Community Support Officer

PCSO Janice Carter gave a brief presentation on the work she undertakes in Redbourn. Before taking up her post she received three weeks' training, including a day's training in self-defence. She mainly patrols on her own and 75% of her work is carried out between 3.00pm and 11.00pm.

6. Public Consultation

Verulum area meeting – 27 November. There were 27 people present and the main concerns centred around disturbances caused by people using licensed premises in the area and the new licensing laws.

The next public meeting will be held on 24 February in New Greens, St Albans. This is in response to the death from drugs of a teenager last year.

It was agreed that future meetings should be held only where there were known issues or concerns.

The following meetings will be arranged:

- June/July - Sopwell – there are emerging problems with anti-social behaviour but the meeting will not be themed. Tenant associations should be contacted in advance.
- September – Central Harpenden – focus on youth interests. Invitations will be sent specifically to the youth service, Youth Town Council, shopkeepers, etc. Bernard Lloyd will supply a list to the Police Authority.

Bernard Lloyd

It was agreed not to hold a themed meeting on drugs.

7. Any Other Business

Q. Are there any performance targets in the Community Safety Plan and if so, how are they monitored?

A. Targets are not included in the current Plan but will be included in the new Strategy for 2005/08. The Audit Commission has reported on the effectiveness of Community Safety Partnerships. Scrutiny of this report is going on in conjunction with the police. An executive summary will be added to the next agenda.

Christine Roach

A copy of the Community Safety Strategy will be circulated to members.

Christine Roach

Q. What does the Performance Management Group do?

A. The PMG is developing a monitoring system and some SMART targets. It also evaluates projects, using crime statistics as measures.

Q. Are the terms of reference for the CSCF still current?

A. Yes, but these can be reviewed annually if members wish. These will be looked at as part of the self assessment and a report brought back to the June or October meeting of the CSCF.

Christine Roach/ Angela Parry

8. Dates of meetings

The next meetings will be held on :

23 June and 20 October 2004. Both meetings will be held in the Council Chamber, St Albans Civic Centre. A PA system will be used for these meetings.

Christine Roach

Sally Patient
Hertfordshire Police Authority
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