



ST ALBANS COMMUNITY SAFETY CONSULTATION FORUM

7.00pm, Thursday 17 March 2005

Council Chamber, St Albans Civic Centre

MINUTES

Present:

Janice Crombie

Judith Everett

Robert Fox

Henry Jones

Jean Eaton

Rosie Sanderson (Chair)

Councillor Bert Pawle

Joy Leighton

Philip Rosen

Roy Taylor

Officers:

Chief Inspector Neil Morehen

Inspector Mike Hanson

Sally Patient

Christine Roach

Carolyn Ashby

Nigel Harden

Philip Winter

Barry Pryke

Hugh Oram

Neighbourhood Watch

University of the Third Age

Crime Prevention Panel

London Colney Parish Council

Soroptomists International

Hertfordshire Police Authority

St Albans City and District Council

Victim Support

Redbourne Parish Council

HACRO

Hertfordshire Constabulary

Hertfordshire Constabulary

Hertfordshire Police Authority

St Albans City and District Council

St Albans City and District Council

Hertfordshire County Council

Hertfordshire County Council

Hertfordshire Fire & Rescue

Hertfordshire Fire & Rescue

ACTION

1. **Apologies**

Apologies were received from Chief Supt Alison Roome-Gifford, Steve Welch, Tony Keen, Derek & Rosemary Wenzelul; Charles Ferrier, Geoff Priseman, Nick Smith, Neil Kieran, Brian Peyton.

2. **Minutes of meeting held on 20 October 2004**

The minutes of the last meeting were agreed.

3. **Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising.

4. **Community Safety Strategy for 2005-08**

Christine Roach outlined the key points and the timeline for consultation on the strategy. She highlighted the Home Office target to reduce crime by 18.5% over the three years. Members had already been circulated the strategy and were broadly supportive. The Action Plan to support the strategy may be of more interest and would be circulated to members before the next meeting.

Carolyn
Ashby

5. Police Authority Policing Plan 2005-06 & Strategic Plan 2005-08

Cllr Rosie Sanderson explained that the plans had been launched on 21 March and that members will receive their own copies in due course. She asked members to note the new non-emergency police telephone number: 0845 330022.

Sally Patient

A question was raised about whether there was any way that members could complain as a group about sentences being perceived as being too lenient or cases not going to court, on behalf of the police. RS reminded members that police responsibility ends after arrest. She also responded that we need to be aware that there are ways of deterring crime other than a prison sentence, particularly given that the prisons are already full. Neil Morehen added that Herts Constabulary is currently working with the Criminal Justice Unit to improve partnership working.

It was noted that the Ringmaster system for Neighbourhood Watch (NW) had not been working properly for some time. NM replied that Herts Constabulary is looking to replace it with an updated and more robust system. Mike Hanson said that a letter had gone out to NW explaining that progress was being made and apologising for the delay.

6. Redesignation of the No Alcohol Zone

CR explained that the existing no-alcohol zone bye-law would be replaced with an order creating a 'designated public place' from April 2005. The new order will enable police to tackle alcohol related disorder in the city centre and deal with any potential negative effects from the change in the licensing law. SADC would also consult over the summer on extending the area to Harpenden and the Clarence Park area from autumn 2005.

It was suggested that the new order might move alcohol-related disorder elsewhere. CR replied that the designated public place included a buffer zone around the problem area. SADC were also looking at the possibility of setting up a community home for controlled drinking for a small number of individuals.

7. 04-05 Performance Update

Neil Morehen gave an update and agreed to arrange to send his powerpoint slides out with the minutes.

Attached

Philip Winter asked how Problem Orientated Partnership (POP) cases were reported to the CDRP. MH explained that the cases were discussed at fortnightly inter-agency meetings with all the partners, and then reported up via the Performance Management Group to the Responsible Authorities Group as necessary. RS asked whether Councillors were routinely informed of POP cases in their wards. MH said that there was currently no formal mechanism, but that Councillors had recently been invited to attend a training event on how POPs were managed. NM said that we should look at mechanisms for informing Councillors in the future (CA to raise at the next interagency meeting).

Carolyn
Ashby

A question was asked about how the detection rate for the CDRP – 28.6% with an increase of 7% over the previous year - compares to the national figure. NM agreed to find out.

8. Police Stops and Priority & Prolific Offenders

NM gave a brief overview of the changes on Police Stops and the new Priority & Prolific Offender scheme.

9 Fire Service & Community Safety

Barry Pryke from St Albans Fire Station outlined the work of the Fire & Rescue service in relation to community safety, and showed a video of the work carried out during Community Involvement Days.

Hugh Oram delivered a presentation on the new firestation for St Albans on London Road. He explained that it would enable the Fire & Rescue Service to respond to calls from London Colney more quickly. In response to a question about whether the move would delay responses to calls from the north of the district, HO explained that crews from either St Albans or Harpenden stations should be able to respond to calls from anywhere within the district within 10 minutes.

10. Any other Business

11. Date of next meeting

The next meeting will take place on Wednesday 22 June at **7.00pm** in the **Council Chamber, St Albans Civic Centre**.

**Issued by Carolyn Ashby, St Albans City & District Council
Telephone 01727 819305**