



# ST ALBANS COMMUNITY SAFETY CONSULTATION FORUM

**7.00pm, Wednesday 22 June 2005**

**Council Chamber, St Albans Civic Centre**

## MINUTES

### Present:

Linda Bateman  
Mrs Sheila Bond  
Niel Clements  
Janice Crombie  
Judith Everett  
Robert Fox  
Cllr Henry Jones  
Joy Leighton

### **Cllr Brian Peyton (in the Chair)**

Nick Rayment  
Cllr Philip Rosen  
Roy Taylor  
Derek & Rosemary Wenzelul

Sopwell Residents Association  
HACRO  
Parish Council Liaison  
Neighbourhood Watch  
University of the Third Age  
Crime Prevention Panel  
London Colney Parish Council  
Victim Support

### **St Albans City and District Council**

Oaklands College  
Redbourn Parish Council  
HACRO  
St Albans United Synagogue

### Officers:

Carolyn Ashby  
Saiyed Asif  
Neil Kieran  
Sally Patient  
Christine Roach  
Chief Supt Alison Roome-Gifford  
Nick Smith  
Philip Winter

St Albans City and District Council  
St Albans City and District Council  
St Albans City and District Council  
Hertfordshire Police Authority  
St Albans City and District Council  
Hertfordshire Constabulary  
Hertfordshire County Council  
Hertfordshire County Council

## **ACTION**

### **1. Introductions and Apologies**

Vice-Chairman, Brian Peyton chaired the meeting. Roy Taylor announced that he was standing down as the representative for HACRO and introduced Sheila Bond, who will be replacing him on the CSCF. The Chairman thanked Roy for all his contributions over the years and welcomed Sheila to the meeting.

Apologies were received from Jane Cloke, Laura Cronshaw, Shaun Fenton, Cllr Paul Foster, Sue Gunn, Inspector Mike Hanson, Tonia Harvey, CI Mark Hunter, Joyce Lusby, Marilyn Tricker, Cllr Bert Pawle, Abdul Shohid, Cllr Iris Tarry, Steve Welch and Cllr Allan Witherick.

### **2. Minutes of meeting held on 17 March 2005**

The minutes of the last meeting were agreed.

### **3. Matters Arising**

The reliability of the reinstated Ringmaster system was questioned as messages are not always repeated twice, making it difficult for co-ordinators to take down the information. Supt Roome-Gifford will look into the situation.

### **4. Anti-social Behaviour**

**4.1** Neil Kieran, the Anti-social Behaviour Co-ordinator for St Albans, outlined the work he and the caseworker were undertaking in relation to tackling problems in the district. Their work patterns vary, enabling them to cover some evenings and weekends, when much of the anti-social behaviour occurs. One of the biggest problems at present involves anti-social use of motorbikes and mopeds. The emphasis is on enforcement with prevention, and they are going to have accredited powers to confiscate alcohol and issue some fixed penalty tickets. The method of enforcement is varied, depending on the nature and frequency of the problems, and includes interviews with offenders and parents, letters to parents, Anti-Social Behaviour Orders and the use of the powers of dispersal. There are currently about 12 Acceptable Behaviour Contracts in force, but this is expected to increase. There are also five ASBOs, with two more in the pipeline.

**4.2** They also work alongside other agencies and schools to prevent young people getting into trouble in the first place. In particular they work with secondary schools and, together with the Schools PCSO, have programmed a series of visits and discussions in the coming year focused mainly on the use of mini-mopeds and bikes. A leaflet is being produced on ASB for nuisance motorbikes.

**4.3** Concern was expressed by some members that work should be carried out with primary and junior schools, in addition to secondary schools. Chief Supt Roome-Gifford advised the meeting that a focus needed to be kept on the serious problems, which is why secondary schools are prioritised. However, schools PCSOs do visit junior schools.

**4.4** The motorbike problem in London Colney was highlighted as an area of concern. The police were asked if they could do more to stop the problems. Chief Supt Roome-Gifford informed the meeting that steps have been taken to tackle the issue but reminded members that groups of youths 'hanging about' did not constitute an offence so it was not always possible to take action.

**4.5** Nick Smith from the Youth Offending Team added that young people are also often the victims and the partnership needs to increase protection wherever possible, such as providing better lit play areas etc.

### **5.0 2005/06 Performance Update**

**5.1** A copy of the presentation given by Chief Superintendent Roome-Gifford is attached.

**Attachment**

**5.2** The new Community Safety Strategy 2005/08 has been launched.

Targets include one set by Go-East, which is to reduce an identified list of crimes by 18.5%. The British Crime Survey will be used to measure success of this extremely demanding target. Some members expressed concern about this method of measurement.

- 5.3** Currently, the two problem areas in the district for all crime are the town centre and London Colney.
- 5.4** More efforts need to be put into tackling theft of and from motor vehicles, particularly in the hotspot areas, such as the Savacentre, where Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) is now operating at the petrol station. Members suggested that more pressure should be put on the retail outlets at the centre to fund CCTV cameras to cover the car park. Approaches have already been made on a number of occasions but with no success to date.
- 5.5** Thefts from persons (pick-pocketing) primarily in the town centre, was currently running at more than the national average. High visibility patrols are operating on market days to reduce the problems. It is also hoped to launch a business/retail crime prevention initiative in the next few months to address theft from shops.
- 5.6** There is currently a large amount of criminal damage taking place, especially late night in areas such as Batchwood and near Harpenden train station. This is being analysed by the Partnership at present.
- 5.7** The Community Safety Partnership has now taken over responsibility for delivering two of the strands in the National Drugs Strategy – keeping communities safe and reducing supply. It is also contributing to and influencing the other strands. The county Drugs Unit has allocated a member of staff to work with the CSP to tackle this area.  
***Information about the misuse of drugs can be passed on to the Constabulary through the Crack Crime Drugs Line – 01707 354695 – or through Crimestoppers – 0800 555 111.***
- 5.8** The Extended Policing Family provides St Albans with a range of resources and skills in locality teams across the district. St Albans District Council has now received accreditation from the Constabulary and this means some staff will shortly be given limited powers, such as those described earlier by Neil Kieran.
- 5.9** In response to a question, it was reported that the funding of PCSOs was uncertain. Government is expected to make new money available for more PCSOs but it is understood that this will not be available to support existing PCSOs. The Constabulary and the Police Authority have raised concerns about this and will continue to pursue the issue.
- 5.10** The Constabulary has made a commitment to increase the support for Neighbourhood Watch and each district now has its own Watch Liaison Officer, who meets regularly with the Community Inspector and Neighbourhood Watch Community Co-ordinator.
- 5.11** An event was held in March for local councillors to start to look at how

the district should be divided into localities. Another event is planned for September. Neighbourhood Panels will be set up, but only if there is not an existing forum that could be used for the local problem solving work.

- 5.12** Members were invited to suggest topics from the Community Safety Strategy to be the focus of future meetings. Suggestions should be forwarded to Chris Roach initially.

**ALL  
MEMBERS**

**6. St Albans CDRP Action Plan 2005/08**

- 6.1** A copy of the action plan was circulated with the agenda. Members were asked to note the amendment that those coded with a 'T' were off target, not on target as the document stated. Carolyn Ashby informed members that a lead officer had been identified for each theme in the Strategy. These lead officers will meet every six weeks to monitor progress and take remedial action as needed. A quarterly report will be presented to the Responsible Authorities Group meeting on an exception basis. Members were invited to forward comments and suggestions on the action plan.

**ALL  
MEMBERS**

**7.0 Draft Communications Plan**

- 7.1** A revised draft was circulated at the meeting (attached for those members not present).

**Attachment**

- 7.2** Members are asked to feedback comments to Carolyn Ashby by **FRIDAY 22 JULY 2005**. They are also requested to suggest ways to engage with the communities they represent.

**ALL  
MEMBERS**

- 7.3** Philip Winter suggested that Hertfordshire County Council may wish to have more than one spokesperson, given the diverse range of services it provides. It was also requested that the Police Authority be added to the list of spokespeople.

**Carolyn  
Ashby**

**8.0 Any Other Business**

• ***Designated Public Place Order***

In April, the City Centre became a 'designated public place'. The new order enables police to tackle alcohol related disorder in the city centre and deal with any potential negative effects from the change in the licensing law. Since its introduction 73 containers of alcohol have been confiscated in 43 separate incidents.

SADC is also consulting about extending the area to Harpenden and the Clarence Park area from autumn 2005. A request was made to extend the area to London Colney. Other requests had also been received and these will all be considered and prioritised.

Nick Smith highlighted the problem that alcohol is often consumed from other bottles, such as Perrier Water or lemonade bottles. Members were assured that officers take account of the overall situation and not just the containers.

• ***NHS Committee Meeting***

Members were invited to attend a meeting at 7.00pm on 29 June in the Council Chamber to discuss the provision of drug and alcohol

services in St Albans.

**11. Date of next meeting**

Thursday 20 October 2005, 7pm in the Council Chamber, St Albans District Council.