



ST ALBANS COMMUNITY SAFETY CONSULTATION FORUM

7.00pm, Thursday 2 November 2006

Committee Rooms 2 & 3, St Albans Civic Centre

MINUTES

Present:

Cllr David Yates	SADC (Chair)
Sheila Bond	HACRO
Narinder Brar	Community Safety Officer, SADC
Dennis Cooper	Chair Hertswatch and St Albans NHW
Janice Crombie	Neighbourhood Watch
Charles Ferrier	St Albans Children's Centre
Robert C Fox	Crime Prevention Panel
Insp Mike Hanson	Herts Constabulary
Janet Tansley	St Albans Soroptomists
Joy Leighton	Victim Support
Cllr Bernard Lloyd	HCC
Cllr Joyce Lusby	SADC
Jon Lyon	Community Safety Support Officer, SADC
Hugh Oram	District Manager, Herts Fire & Rescue
Chris Roach	Community Support Manager
Chief Supt Alison Roome-Gifford	Herts Constabulary
Cllr Philip Rosen	Redbourn Parish Council
Nick Smith	Youth Offending Team Manager, HCC
Marilyn Tricker	Citizens Advice Bureau
Steve Welch	Strategic Director Community Services, SADC
Philip Winter	Crime & Drugs Strategy Unit, HCC
C. Cllr Allan Witherick	Herts Police Authority, Community Engagement Lead

2. Apologies

David Clance	SADC
Cllr David Clarke	HCC
Cllr Robert Clarkson	CVS
Laura Cronshaw	University of the Third Age
Judith Everett	Leisure Devt Officer Y/P, SADC
Emma Fraser	SADC
Cllr Michael Green	SADC
Cllr Eileen Harris	ASB Co-ordinator, SADC
Neil Kieran	Age Concern Hertfordshire
Lynn Overington	Herts Police Authority
Sally Patient	SADC
Cllr Bert Pawle	SA Synagogue
Derek & Rosemary Wenzelul	CDRP Liaison Officer, HCC
Sophie Westbrook	

3. Minutes – 21 June 2006

Agreed.

4. Matters Arising

(i) Single Non-emergency Phone Number (Chris Roach)

Chris Roach informed the group that Wave 2 of the Home Office plan to introduce 101 as the non-emergency number in order to relieve the pressure on the 999 service is being placed on hold until there is a better understanding of the outcomes of Wave 1. CR also stated that the introduction of a Council Anti-social Behaviour Hotline had been put on hold to avoid public confusion with the 101 number and the Council's Cleaner District hotline number.

(ii) CDA Review/Police and Justice Bill (Narinder Brar)

Narinder Brar informed members that the review of the Crime and Disorder Act, which had resulted in a number of recommendations, had been put on hold by the Home Secretary until the summer of 2007. The Police and Justice Bill will be the vehicle by which the recommendations are enacted.

(iii) Matters arising from minutes of 21st June meeting

AW reported that the proposed merger between Herts, Beds and Essex is indefinitely postponed. Some of the good ideas generated during merger discussions are still going to be taken forward. £190,000 worth of costs have been accrued in terms of consultation and officer time, £100,000 of which will be provided by the Government and the rest taken from reserve funding.

5. Update on Neighbourhood Watch (Dennis Cooper)

Dennis Cooper gave a presentation on the new structure of Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) in Herts and updating the Forum on all recent developments.

DC revealed that a charter was signed between the police and Neighbourhood Watch when the body was formally re-launched 18 months ago enabling NHW to open level-peg discussions with such authorities. United under the banner of Hertswatch, NHW is attempting to improve communication and to become more 'action driven' in order to build a better community and reduce the fear of crime. NHW are introducing a multi-level method of communication including the pilot phase of 'OWL' (Online Watch Link), an internet-based system providing information by voice-mail, email and fax and enabling street, area and ward co-ordinators to administer their own schemes via the internet.

DW is extremely optimistic about the way NHW is moving forward, he highlighted the NHW-assisted apprehension of a bogus caller/ distraction burglar and also the efforts that are being made to change the white ethnic predominance of NHW members. On the downside, from the observations of NHW Vice-Chairman Alan Redlich upon attending the October JAG meeting, it became evident that much is occurring around NHW of which the public is not aware, there is still much to be done in terms of spreading the message.

Mike Hanson wished it to be formally noted that Dennis Cooper is doing a fantastic job for NHW. Chris Roach raised the issue of NHW being the natural environment for the promotion of 'cold calling exclusion zones'. DC replied that although these are not currently a NHW initiative he would be happy to work with the Community Safety Partnership on their introduction. Alison Roome-Gifford mentioned the area in Potters Bar where a 'no cold-calling' zone has been designated using roadside signs akin to those displayed by NHW.

Ken Lane is the St Albans NHW Liaison Officer and can be contacted on 01727 796087 or ken.lane@herts.pnn.police.uk

A copy of the presentation slides is attached to the minutes.

Attachment

6. Partnership Performance to 30 Sept 2006 (Alison Roome-Gifford)

A copy of the presentation slides is attached to the minutes.

Attachment

7. Any Other Business

Hugh Oram mentioned the dramatic drop in deliberate car fires in the District, falling to 32 from 60 in the same period last year.

The issue of adult cyclists on footpaths was raised. Mike Hanson elucidated that this is a traffic offence and low priority but a perennially difficult issue due to enforcement difficulties. AR-G mentioned that it was for SADC to ensure that 'no cycle zone' signposts were in the correct places and visible.

Narinder Brar updated the group that following recommendations arising from the Crime & Disorder Act review she will be conducting an appraisal of the CSCF itself and how the forum conducts its business. NB will be looking at the membership of the group and ways in which concerns raised at CSCF meetings can be addressed at other existing fora and locality meetings. Dennis Cooper added that there should be ward meetings in each locality where issues such as footpath cyclists should be discussed.

8. Date of next meeting

To be decided following the review described above.

**Issued by Jon Lyon
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17th November 2006