

COULBY NEWHAM COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held Mon 19th October 2015

PRESENT Councillors Jan Brunton and Geoff Cole . Cleveland Police Crime and Commissioner Barry Coppinger, PC Alan Sanderson and PCSO Tony Smith (Dalby Way Police Office) Debi Whitehead (Chair) Joan Cook (Sec) and residents **APOLOGIES** Ann Wood

PCSO Smith read out a message from Inspector Sutherland advising residents to keep our homes secure by remembering to lock doors and windows not in view and to keep ourselves updated with what's going on in the area via Facebook and Twitter.

PC Smith said the total of Anti Social Behaviour incidents in Coulby Newham in the month of September was less than that of August. The other 11 incidents of Crime mainly included stealing Sat Navs and other items of value on show in cars, plus one TWOC. A gang has been targeting Sat Navs here and in other areas.

Nuisance behaviour in the two Coulby Newham areas - Harvington Chase and Lingfield Countryside Centre named for Police Priority has ceased and so residents present agreed that extra Police attention would be of more use somewhere else - perhaps the Parkway Shopping Centre would benefit from being named as a Priority. PC Sanderson said 'Operation Mini Boost' is already ongoing - the Police are keeping a high visibility, also covert, presence in the Parkway as a deterrent. .

Fireworks are being set off around Coulby Newham at the moment. A resident was concerned about safety and asked about a 'pop up' shop in the Parkway Centre with boxes of fireworks temptingly on display. PCSO Smith and PC Sanderson said '*They're all dummies*' The real things are securely kept in the back of the shop. Trading Standards keeps a check on the situation too. ID is asked for if there's any doubt of a customer's age. The Police are more concerned about Chinese fireworks being sold cheaply from the backs of cars etc. and asked residents to report anything suspicious.

As this meeting will be the last one that PC Sanderson will attend before his retirement at the end of November the meeting wished him all the very best for the future with a round of applause.

Police and Crime Commissioner Barry Coppinger came along to give us a snapshot of the new **Police Headquarters** soon to be built at Hemlington. There will be more to tell at the beginning of next year but he said the sale of the current Ladgate Lane Headquarters has been completed and the contract for Hemlington is now in the tendering process. He is keen to make sure we get value for money.

He updated the meeting on other aspects of Policing. This is Crime Awareness Week . **Hate Crimes** affecting race, disabled residents and those mentally handicapped are being highlighted. Schoolchildren in 30 schools are now more aware of those less fortunate than themselves and a theatre group is staging the effects of bullying. Bus drivers are alert and keeping an eye open too as school run time is a bad time for our vulnerable residents - and Middlesbrough footballers are Showing Race the Red Card

The Commissioner said **Safe Places** are where those in trouble can go for help. M & S and some other stores are safe places to go to. Orange Stickers to say so can be spotted around those stores.

Residents suggested more publicity about the scheme would be useful for both victims and those willing to help.

Payback is working well and offenders are doing a lot of good things in the community. The Commissioner encouraged residents to come forward with any ideas of work to be done.

Regarding Anti Social Behaviour, a **Central Information Centre** is being set up to be 'live' 24 hours to collate and share information immediately when a troublemaker's name crops up.

Operation Encompass is also being set up in Middlesbrough and Redcar and Policing areas for when children are affected by crime eg domestic violence. Children then become victims too but sometimes are forgotten. Operation Encompass makes the various people the child has contact with, such as teachers, aware of the situation so they can be treated with sensitivity. The scheme is already operational in Hartlepool where it was activated 300 times between July and September this year. Very soon all the Cleveland Policing area will be covered. This innovative idea is the first in the country.

CVSD (Cleveland Victim Services Directory) is a very good website that victims or witnesses to a crime can check out for help and advice.

Cleveland Connected is Cleveland Constabulary Information Website for up to date local information and more and which now boasts 12,000 household members plus 1,000 businesses .

Rural Watch for those on the outskirts is gaining support too.

The Commissioner encouraged residents to apply to the Police Fund for help with any Crime Prevention initiatives.

With Funding in mind residents wondered about the financial situation of Cleveland Constabulary.

He told the meeting that 'we have lost 25% in Government Funding since 2010. Between 2010 and 2020 we must lose 50% altogether' Ladgate Lane Headquarters was sold to cut costs. Yarm Police Station too as it was underused for Police business.

"Is the Lease on the Stables at Ormesby still having to be paid?". Not now.

He said 'We have reduced our total number of Police Officers by 400. To add to the remainder there are 130 PCSO's. We must make best use of our resources' Telephone Call Takers are being trained to help via the wire to reduce the number of visits the Police must make. This is not an easy job as 1,000 calls are made each day of which 250 are 999's. He said a 999 Missing from Home call means everyone must respond. There were 17 Missing Person Calls last week in Cleveland.

Cleveland Constabulary is focussing resources on the most serious cases and collaborates with Durham Police Force in murder inquiries etc. . They also share facilities with the Fire Service'

"Do you think Cleveland will be amalgamated with Durham to form one Police Force?"

'It will not be in our interest and costly to amalgamate. The Scottish Police had problems with the same idea. Our Ambulance Service is run from Newcastle. There are issues'

"Cleveland Constabulary has had some not very good issues in the past " The Commissioner acknowledged previous problems and said he has attended 300 meetings to date and knows our Police are much valued.

Christmas Lights . Can we afford to light up Coulby Newham this Festive season. We have LED ropelights for 43 street lamps and features for lamps on 3 roundabouts. The cost will be £2113 + VAT , the same as last year. Everyone present would be sad to lose them. Some ideas to raise money were voiced such as a Ceilidh and bag packing at TESCO. Fund raising would have to be a continuous process. We are awaiting estimates for lighting up sections of lamps , or just the 3 roundabouts. A decision will be made in the next week or so at the Executive meeting.

Councillors Updates **Councillor Cole** said the question of KFC for former Arundale's site would probably be discussed by the Planning Committee in early December. Residents said Dalby Way has become extra busy since Aldi opened there. To an idea about siting KFC on Site L (the triangle of land between the Surgeries and the Fire Station roundabout) Councillor Cole said the specification for that site from Jomast, the developers who now own that land, is for Non Food Retail. This would have to be officially changed and then re-applied for for a KFC.

Biffa no longer holds the contract for collecting our rubbish . Middlesbrough Council has taken over the job again.

Thirty three extremely disabled residents of BUPA's Residential Home 'Elmridge' in The Pastures estate, are having to be re-housed by Middlesbrough Council . There seems to be a problem getting enough qualified staff to look after their needs.

Councillor Brunton said our Bus Services have been much reduced and the Council will be meeting with the bus companies to try and address the situation.

Despite the continuing local pessimistic news she said Middlesbrough is a great place to live She pointed out developments around the town. Middlehaven is worth a look – not many people had walked around the College area , seen the STEM Centre, been up in the glass lift at the Transporter. She gave out leaflets showing many points of interest not just for visitors but residents too.

A resident who regularly attends Council meetings was present at the recent meeting in the Town Hall to discuss the closure of SSI Steelworks leading to unemployment for nearly 2,000 people of Cleveland area. He gave credit to Coulby Newham's new Councillor Joe Culley (not present tonight) for giving the best speech he has ever heard in the Town Hall.

Any Other Business

"Who's been living in our wood?" " In the woodland near The Coppice there's a shed, some laminated flooring etc. Who's there? No one knows.

*"Could a tree near 59/60 Thistle Rise please be pruned?. The branches are overhanging the footpath"*Noted.

"Where is the Renewal Form for a Bus Pass on the Middlesbrough Council Website?". To check.

"Who owns the Playpark at Newham Grange Leisure Farm? We understood it was paid for by Lottery Funding and would always be Free to children to play on without having to pay to go around the Farm itself? It's not free now." To check

The Reindeer Parade will take place in town on 29th November .