

**COULBY NEWHAM COMMUNITY COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of the meeting held Mon 7<sup>th</sup> April 2014 in Langdon Sq Comm. Centre**

**PRESENT** Police & Crime Commissioner for Cleveland - Barry Coppinger    Councillor Jan Brunton, Fire Officer Jonathon Davies (Bickley Way Fire Station)    PC Alan Sanderson, PCSO Tony Hill (Coulby Newham Police Office)    Debi Whitehead (Chair)    Joan Cook (Sec) and plus residents

**Fire Officer Davies** told the meeting that over the 2013 Easter weekend the Brigade had received 600 calls. (Most of these regarding buildings within the town area) With this in mind they have been busy trying to get the safety message out before the 2014 Easter weekend by concentrating on 'hot spots' with leaflets and 'lectures'. Asked if the wheelie bins mentioned in the Last Minutes, were still being set alight here, he said that that phase has died down, but if anyone has reason to be concerned, please let them know.

PC Sanderson mentioned several bonfire looking piles of scrub dotted around Fairy Dell, perhaps gathered to encourage wildlife. The Police would be attending the forthcoming Friends of Fairy Dell meeting and mention these as a temptation to potential arsonists.

He read out **Chief Inspector Lamplugh**'s written report which told of a 2% reduction in Middlesbrough's crime figures in 2014 to date compared to the same time in 2013 - which means 248 less crimes – 248 fewer victims. He said despite the reduction in numbers the Police are more focussed and efficient. The Chief Inspector listed the qualities his officers must have and said it's a pity that members of the public aren't aware of some of the distasteful things those officers have to deal with on a regular basis.

But the public is an important partner in the fight against crime too and many results are intelligence led through people phoning in details or using Facebook or Twitter. He said even anonymous information is good.

**PC Sanderson** was then pleased to say things are quiet on the Coulby front. Anti-Social Behaviour has reduced from 40 in February 2013 to 14 in February in 2014. The Dispersal Order, covering a radius around the Manor Youth and Community Centre/Parkway Centre, lasting for several months at the end of last year, has been successful. He explained how youngsters were coming here from other areas where their own Youth Clubs had been closed down due to cuts. Confrontations were inevitable. The Manor Youth Club is available as a Youth Club only on a Friday night now. Local youngsters are being encouraged to go back.

Other crimes totalled 9, including shoplifting, Uniformed and covert officers are including the Parkway Shopping Centre in their routines.

He completed his report by welcoming PCSO Tony Hill back into the Coulby Newham fold following his Christmas patrolling in town.

Since being elected one year ago **Commissioner Coppinger** has attended 155 meetings to outline his ideas and ideals for Cleveland Constabulary... He attended tonight's meeting to update Coulby Newham residents on progress made.

**The Restorative Justice** programme in which the under-18- age offender and victim agree to meet face to face seems to be working. Around 700 meetings have been supervised. The victim receives support and the offender gets a chance to apologise and help put matters right, also to be deterred from re-offending. He/she may have to take part in **Community Payback**.

Community Councils can nominate Payback projects. These are not to replace anything usually done by paid workers... The John Paul Centre has recently been re- furnished by offenders. Lustrum Beck flooded over. Payback has worked there and the area has now been landscaped.

The new **Property Act Fund** has supported local projects to the value of £39,000. Funding comes from the sale of ownerless property in Police possession. Applications for financial help can be made Online.

The Commissioner was pleased to say that, together with the new PCC's of Durham and Northumbria he is working to ensure **Victims and Witnesses** are getting a better deal, especially vulnerable women and girls. He also wants to put a stop to bullying that some of our disabled residents and those with learning difficulties are subject to. **Safe Places** are being set up for any time they feel threatened. M & S have signed up to offer help and safe haven.

Councillor Brunton voiced concern that girls and boys suffering violence and exploitation may lose out because of departmental re-structuring - but a **Protection and Vulnerable People's Unit** is

being established and needed in the wake of the Jimmy Saville case. More victims are coming forward. Twelve major investigations are ongoing.

Having overall responsibility for every member of the Constabulary, the Commissioner wants to be sure he is a **Good Employer**. This includes making sure any contractors he signs up pay a fair, living wage to local workers too

As he attends meetings all over the Cleveland area one thing is evident – people value the job the Police do. Sometimes the Police themselves feel undervalued because they have to be careful and walk such a fine line but, he said Neighbourhood **Policing** is at the heart of the Constabulary, even serious and terrorism cases can be detected starting here.

**The Commissioner answered questions ...**

**“What’s happened to the Police Horses?”** Two have gone to the Northumbria Force - but they are on call if we need them. The other 3 have gone to a Horses’ Trust in Buckinghamshire to enjoy a happy retirement. This was a very hard decision for the Chief Constable to have to make. **75% Constabularies don’t have a Horse Section.**

*A resident said it was sad that the Antiques Roadshow had recently given Moresby Hall and the Horse Section excellent coverage, but he appreciated the decision made.*

**“How many Policemen do we now have?”** In all Cleveland - 1,400 plus 150 PCSO’S. We are aiming to reduce the number to 1333 Police and 132 PCSO’s. Included in this is the Top Team which will drop from 4 to 3 and Middle Management which will be reduced by 25%. Civilian Staff will be affected too. Hopefully all this will be achieved through voluntary redundancy and include officers who automatically retire on reaching 30 years of service.

We have already lost a total of 400 from the Constabulary but must cut 15% from the budget by 2016.

On the other hand there is a need to recruit younger officers for continuity. There are only half a dozen constables their 20’s. Perhaps youngsters now in the Cadet Force will go on to qualify as officers.

In addition to the above numbers there are 80 Specials – it’s hoped to increase this number to 200. Uniforms and training will be provided.

At the recent first **Criminal Justice Volunteer’s fair** at Teesside Unit to promote volunteering opportunities within the criminal justice sector, 900 people turned up.

**“When will the new Headquarters be ready?”** The present site on Ladgate Lane has been sold. I will sign the contract this year to tie everything up. The Police will move out in phases. The new facility at Hemlington will be a smaller building that all Emergency Services – Police, Fire and Ambulance - could share.

**“Is the future of the Helicopter safe?”** Yes, it’s now part of the ‘National Air Service’ based in North Yorkshire and as such, the costs have been reduced.

**“What are the duties of the Top Team?”** The Chief Constable Jacqui Cheer is responsible for keeping everyone safe. She is accountable to me as the Commissioner.

I am responsible for employing and if necessary, dismissing the Chief Constable. We are both directly accountable to the Home Office

We have Tasking meetings at 9.30am and 5pm each day to assess our situation and make the best use of resources. e.g. At a quiet time in their shift Traffic Police have been deployed in **Drugs** raids. Detectives have been de-centralised.

The Deputy Chief Constable is Iain Spittal who deals with the Forces’s Internal Matters.

The Crime Panel consists of Councillors from each of the 4 areas of the Constabulary plus independent members of the public. They are there to ask questions.

**“What about the Corruption investigations? They must be costing us a fortune. It will surely be difficult to restore the reputation of Cleveland Constabulary”** The investigations are coming to an end. There are only 2 or 3 cases yet to be concluded. The Home Office will foot the £4.6m bill. Other Forces have problems too. Policemen have to make instant decisions on a regular basis some of which can affect people’s lives. Cleveland Constabulary aims to be more open than any Force in the country. We will answer all questions asked.

**“Do you think, after one year in office, you’ve achieved the objectives you set yourself?”**

We’ve made good progress. Our finances are on the right track. The auditors say they’re looking good.

We’re pleased with responses to our Website

The Lady Chairman, a TESCO employee, said she couldn’t thank the local Police Officers enough for their quick responses to trouble at the store. She gave several examples of the action.

**Councillor Brunton** told the meeting that because of thoughtless parking around schools **mobile cameras** are being used to record evidence and show the dangers.

The **Rainbow Leisure Centre hours have been cut.** They will now close on Saturdays at 5pm. Sundays at 9pm. The Swimming Pool to close on Sundays at 6pm. This was regretted but Leisure Dept. must save £700,000.

Work is about to begin on a **crossing over Gunnergate Lane** near St Augustine's school.

Some householders have been putting the wrong sort of rubbish into the bins and others have been over filling. Leaflets have been delivered around Coulby to explain the **rubbish rules** - but not all residents present have received theirs yet. Councillor Brunton will make inquiries. There was some discussion on re-cycling and landfill. Residents were interested in the subject.

The meeting closed at 8.30pm