

**At a meeting of the COMMUNITY AND SAFER CITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE held in the CIVIC CENTRE on TUESDAY, 15<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER, 2009 AT 5.30 P.M.**

**Present:-**

Councillor R. Heron in the Chair

Councillors Ball, Copeland, Paul Maddison, O'Connor, Scaplehorn, D. Smith, Timmins and J. Walton.

**Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were submitted to the meeting on behalf of Councillors Speding and Wake.

**Minutes of the last meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> July, 2009**

**Matters Arising**

Stuart Douglas, Safer Communities Manager, informed Members that in response to the positive comments from the last meeting of the Committee, the Safer Sunderland Partnership had agreed to support the development of the Polycarbonate Glass Scheme.

At the request of Councillor Paul Maddison, Mr. Douglas advised that he would invite a representative from the Magistrates' Court to the next available meeting.

Jim Diamond, Review Co-ordinator, advised that a report on the meeting with the Home Office with regards to the new Code of Practice in improving the situation on the enforcement of controls on the sale and consumption of alcohol was expected to come to the October meeting of the Committee.

Mr. Diamond also advised that a response to Councillor D. Smith's enquiry in relation to the bacterial research of polycarbonate glasses would be circulated to all members of the Committee.

1. RESOLVED that the minutes of the last meeting of the Committee held on 7<sup>th</sup> July, 2009 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

## **Declarations of Interest (including Whipping Declarations)**

### **Item 6 – Anti-Social Behaviour Scene Setting Report**

Councillor Ball declared a personal interest in the item as a member of the Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Authority.

## **Performance Report and Value for Money Self Assessment 2008/2009**

The Chief Executive, Director of Finance and Deputy Chief Executive submitted a joint report (copy circulated) to provide Members with a value for money assessment in relation to safer communities for the period April 2008 to March 2009 as part of the Committee's Work Programme.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Councillor J. Walton commented on the excellent report and was pleased to see the introduction of the 30 extra police officers.

Councillor Paul Maddison enquired over National Indicator 35 – Building resilience to violent extremism.

Mr. Douglas advised that it was part of a government response to tackle the threat of terrorism. This was a fairly new agenda which the Cohesive Community Team were currently working on.

2. RESOLVED that the report be received and noted.

## **Designated Public Place Orders**

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) to brief the Committee on the Safer Sunderland Partnership approach to dealing with future requests for Designated Public Place Orders (DPPOs).

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Councillor Timmins commented on a document produced in 2003, banning drinking of alcohol in designated places, yet it appeared that landlords can now apply for pavement licences and are allowed to drink outside of the pub.

Mr. Douglas advised that DPPO's were introduced as a response to certain byelaws on drinking and consuming alcohol in the street. A DPPO can designate an area which would be enforced by the discretion of the Police.

Councillor D. Smith referred to the paragraph • Drink banning orders can be made against individuals aged 16 or over – and enquired if that should not include any age.

Mr. Douglas advised that an Anti Social Behaviour Order could be used on anyone over the age of 10 and it may be that if the age is below 16 a preference for other types of intervention is sought.

Councillor Scaplehorn commented that some of the major issues occur on housing estates where people bring their own drink which creates areas of disorder, which the Police seem powerless to tackle.

Mr. Douglas advised that a DPPO would be one way to deal with the issue. If the Police were contacted by members of the public, they could issue a Direction to Leave Order, take the names and details and then deal with individuals causing the disorder.

Councillor J. Walton commented that many pubs sell alcohol on the pavements and enquired if this would be restricted.

Mr. Douglas advised that if problems occurred, then the Licensing Section could look at revoking the licence as there is a code of conduct to deal with problematic licensees.

Councillor Copeland commented that a ban on the drinking of alcohol around schools was needed as she contested that existing ASB Orders were not being acted upon.

Mr. Douglas advised that the LMAPs were dealing with problems in particular areas action was being taken against certain individuals identified.

The LMAP had given consideration to the problems being experienced in the area, but there was insufficient evidence to warrant the introduction of a full DPPO.

Mr. Douglas advised Members to report any such incidents to the Police for investigation or report it to Mr. Douglas or Bill Blackett, ASB Strategy Manager.

Mr. Douglas clarified that it was not against the law for a person to have alcohol in a public place, only if they were causing a disturbance.

Councillor D. Smith enquired as to who enforces the Drink Banning Orders.

Mr. Douglas advised that the Police would enforce the orders. If a person were in breach of an order it would then become a criminal offence.

3. RESOLVED that the Committee:-
- i) Note the report and the limitations in relation to extending or introducing new DPPOs (when alternative powers may provide greater flexibility);
  - ii) endorse the approach outlined in the report of Safer Sunderland Partnership to future requests for DPPOs.

### **Anti Social Behaviour Scene Setting Report**

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) to provide Members with a review on key current partnership responses to anti social behaviour.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Mr. Blackett referred to the comments in the previous item with regards to the drinking outside of schools and commented that many instances were residential problems. Many of the issues dealt with by the LMAPs could be dealt with by Gentoo.

Mr. Blackett suggested that Gentoo and the Neighbourhood Relations Team be invited to the Committee for a response to social landlord issues.

Mr. Blackett suggested it would be beneficial to consult with Gentoo as they have tools at their disposal which could help deal with the issue.

Councillor Copeland believed the Neighbourhood Relations Team needed expanding to deal with such issues.

Councillor Copeland informed the Committee that she had spoken to workers of the Youth Offending Panel/Payback Scheme, which provided a very good service. Councillor Copeland expressed concern over the potential effect of any reduction in resources for these services.

Councillor J. Walton referred to the great work being done through the Kickz Project and enquired if the intended expansion was going ahead.

Mr. Blackett advised that the expansion of the project would go to the Safer Sunderland Partnership Board in October before it would be signed off on.

Mr. Douglass advised that Northumbria Police had applied for funding, but did not believe finance had been secured as of yet.

Councillor Timmins advised of the ongoing work to create a standard approach/conditions for social landlords which would deal with unsuitable tenants.

Councillor Scaplehorn commented that there was a problem with Neighbourhood Watch as the Police did not have the funding to help start up or support the schemes.

Councillor Scaplehorn expressed his concern that not only were long established schemes being lost but the new ones also and requested the Committee look into the matter.

Councillor Scaplehorn advised the Committee that 18 months ago Sunderland had five Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinators, none remain with 60% of schemes having folded, it gave an indication of the lack of backing.

Mr. Douglas advised that it may be worthwhile to invite the Police to a future meeting to consider the Neighbourhood Watch Schemes.

Councillor Copeland commented that since the departure of Brian Murray – the schemes had fallen away as he had made participants feel appreciated.

Councillor J. Walton agreed with Councillor Copeland's comments on Mr. Murray and commented that the Neighbourhood Watch meetings used to be well attended by the public when there was a strong police presence, but as their attendance decreased, so did the public's.

The Chairman advised of the need to find out if the decrease in police participation had been due to lack of resources or down to the success they have had in reducing crime figures.

Mr. Douglas advised that it may be appropriate to request the Police to provide a report on the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme. He noted that the Area Committees were also looking at the issue.

Councillor Copeland commented on the CCTV funding for small shop owners and suggested the cameras be placed to watch the front and sides of the shop to discourage the sale of alcohol to the under-age, ASB and so on.

Mr. Douglas advised that the scheme had been launched by the Home Office to allow small retailers to apply for grants up to £3,000 for security measures.

Retailers had until 30<sup>th</sup> September to apply and every shop selling alcohol and late night takeaway establishments had been contacted in relation to the Scheme.

There was also the option to apply for funding of up to £50,000 for whole parades of shops, of which the Police had been requested to contact in relation to identified hotspots.

Having discussed the item, it was:-

4. RESOLVED that:-

- i) the Neighbourhood Relations Team and Gentoo provide reports on the Registered Social Landlord issues to a future meeting of the Committee; and
- ii) a separate report be presented by the Police on the Neighbourhood Watch Schemes to a future meeting of the Committee.

**Forward Plan – Key Decisions for the period of 1<sup>st</sup> September – 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2009**

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) to provide Members with an opportunity to consider the Executive's Forward Plan for the period 1<sup>st</sup> September – 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2009.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

5. RESOLVED that the report be received and noted.

The Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting.

(Signed) R. HERON,  
Chairman.