

**Notes of the WASHINGTON PRIDE MEETING  
held at the MILLENNIUM CENTRE, WASHINGTON  
on FRIDAY, 30<sup>TH</sup> MARCH, 2007 at 2.00 p.m.**

**Present:-**

Councillor Sleightholme in the Chair

Councillors Fletcher, J. Stephenson, W. Stephenson, Timmins, Trueman,  
P. Walker, Whalen, B. Williams and L. Williams

P.C. Martin Brace	-	Northumbria Police
Sharon Hodgson, M.P.		
Karen Graham	-	Development and Regeneration, Sunderland City Council
Ruth Frostwick	-	Sunderland TPCT
Jacqui Reeves	-	Washington MIND
Chris Foreman	-	Sunderland City Council

Members of the Washington Community

**Notes of the Last Meeting**

The notes of the last meeting were accepted as a true record.

**Chairman's Report**

The Chairman advised that the Planning Applications were proceeding for proposals for the new bus station and massive expansion of The Galleries retail facilities.

Juliet Court will be the new manager of The Galleries Shopping Centre. The New Primary Care Centre was due to commence shortly with a £9m expenditure.

**Police Report**

P.C. Martin Brace, Community Beat Officer, gave an update on crime and disorder in the Washington Area for the period April to April 2005/2006 in comparison with the same period 2006/2007. The overall crime was down by 4.9%.

P.C. Brace reported that the Police had tried to tackle the problems of parking at Usworth Colliery School by placing cones in the offending areas. This had been successful for the duration of the Police presence.

Councillor Jill Fletcher advised that she was currently liaising with the Council's Highways Department regarding the possibility of double yellow lines and a mini roundabout in the area.

Councillor Peter Walker welcomed the overall reduction in crime but also queried what was being done to tackle the worrying growth in violent crime. P.C. Brace reported that a CCTV van at the Groove Nightclub had led to a significant increase in arrests. It was hoped that early intervention tactics would prevent the assaults that had been happening to people leaving the Groove.

Councillor Walker then went on to suggest that the installation of CCTV in Concord would be a valuable asset. P.C. Brace agreed that Concord front street would benefit from CCTV intelligence as had been seen in Sunderland City Centre where camera footage had been used as evidence in court proceedings. In the Washington area such evidence is reliant upon witness statements.

P.C. Bruce advised the Group that he ran the Pub Watch Scheme in Washington and was acutely aware of the value of CCTV.

Karen Graham, Area Regeneration Officer, advised that the issue of CCTV cameras in Washington would be raised at the next Local Multi-Agency Partnership Forum (LMAPS).

The Chairman queried how useful the use of head cams would be in evidence and information gathering. Karen Graham advised that Strategic Initiatives Budget Funding had financed head cams in the North area for Police Community Support Officers where it is believed five arrests had been made on the backup of evidence gathered by the equipment. An interim report will be produced providing feedback on the success of the scheme.

P.C. Brace interpreted the percentages he had given in terms of actual crimes.

Overall Crime	-	05/06	-	4,010
		06/07	-	3,815
Burglary/Dwellings	-	05/06	-	189
		06/07	-	203
Burglary (Other)	-	05/06	-	255
		06/07	-	182
Vehicle Crime	-	05/06	-	461
		06/07	-	272
Violent Crime	-	05/06	-	879
		06/07	-	924

Bill Craddock advised that at the end of 2005 he had applied for support from the Governments 'Respect' drive – a cross government strategy to tackle anti-social behaviour, unfortunately this grant had not been secured for the Blackfell Neighbourhood Watch scheme.

Concern was expressed regarding youths trespassing on the viaduct at Mount Pleasant where people had been seen throwing bricks.

P.C. Brace advised that there had been a targeted operation to try to prevent youths entering the viaduct from Shiney Row and drinking alcohol. Local schools had spoken to some of the people involved and parents had also been advised of the situation.

P.C. Brace emphasised the difficulty of trying to Police this area all of the time. Sufficient man power was required to prevent youths from entering the viaduct on both sides, Police in the Houghton and Mount Pleasant area would need to be on shift at the same time and co-ordinate their efforts.

The Chairman advised that the issue had been raised with the Passenger Transport Authority whereby Nexus had agreed to determine the feasibility of the owners putting up fences to deter offenders.

The Chairman thanked P.C. Brace for his report.

### **Washington Primary Care Centre**

Ruth Frostwick, Sunderland Teaching Primary Care Trust, presented the report. Ms. Frostwick advised that consultation had taken place with 54 groups from a wide range of ages, interests and location.

Consultees advised that they wanted to see the following at the PCC:-

- Facilities and services to maintain and protect your health;
- Sexual Health and Family Planning Services;
- Substance Misuse Services including drug, alcohol and general addictions;
- Mental Health and Talking Therapies;
- Facilities for community use;
- Services that focus on the wellbeing and health of young people;
- Cancer services to include screening for cancer, treatment and support;
- Minor Injuries and Ailments Unit;
- To recognise the value of complementary therapies.

Their concerns related to:-

- Location;
- Transport;

- Special Needs;
- Quality of Service;
- Finance and Policy Issues;
- Environment;
- Staffing.

Therefore taking into account consultations with community groups and the public and discussions with providers and Practice Based Commissioners the following service content was agreed:-

- MIU;
- Radiology;
- Integrated Sexual Health;
- Urology;
- Child and Adolescent Mental Health;
- General Surgery;
- Renal Dialysis;
- Substance Misuse;
- Community Dental Service;
- Community Hall and Council Pod;
- Links to Wellness (Leisure Centre).

In response to a number of queries, Ms. Frostwick advised that a survey would be carried out on the nearby road and footbridge. Eventually the PCC would be open 24 hours, however it was envisaged that this would not be the case initially and opening time patterns would follow those that had operated at Grindon Lane. Ms. Frostwick advised that the PCC services would be in addition to those provided at the existing health centre.

The Chairman thanked Ms. Frostwick for her report.

### **Washington MIND**

The Chairman welcomed Jacqui Reeves to the meeting and invited her to give her presentation.

Ms. Reeves informed the meeting that Washington MIND had acquired and was due to move into accommodation in Washington Village Centre. The new premises will be community based, independent and user friendly.

Ms. Reeves was thanked for her update.

### **Pride Website Update**

The Chairman welcomed Chris Foreman from the e-neighbourhood Team, ICT, Sunderland Council.

Mr. Foreman advised that the team work with communities and special interest groups to create unique community websites delivering content tailored towards the needs of that community.

The web sites offer a single point of contact with the facilities for a one point event calendar, directory list access to funders' involvement with other area forums and participation at key citywide events.

The team also offers training on a wide range of related subjects which allow communities to effectively market and manage their own site on a day to day basis.

Karen Graham, Area Regeneration Officer, advised that the funding for the website had been obtained through the Washington Area Committee SIB funding. A part time employee from Bridge would be working with Chris on developing the site.

The Group gave their support for the site and the Chairman thanked Mr. Foreman for his presentation.

### **Any Other Business**

Kathryn Warrington, Sustainable Development Assistant at Sunderland Council, handed around a Climate Change Survey and requested that attendees complete the questionnaire. This year Sunderland City Council would be promoting a climate change campaign that aims to raise people's awareness of climate change and their attitudes towards it. Before the campaign starts, the Sustainability Team are aiming to understand what people's attitudes towards climate change were at present.

Sharon Hodgson, Member of Parliament for Gateshead East and Washington, updated the meeting on issues regarding Tyne and Wear Public Transport issues including backing for the re-opening the Leamside Line.

Councillor Trueman stressed the need to have a transport system which services people's needs. It must also be borne in mind that a significant number of the workforce in Sunderland are involved in car manufacture.

**Date and time of the next meeting to be arranged.**