



STREET WARDEN STEERING GROUP
Minutes of Meeting held on Tuesday 8 February 2005
at the Acorn Centre, Lummaton Cross, Barton, Torquay

<u>Present</u>	<u>Organisation/Agency</u>
SC	EP Section – Torbay Council
TF	E P Section - Torbay Council
JC	E P Section - Torbay Council
VC	Street Warden – Hele
SS	Street Warden – Hele
Cllr Steve Darling	Torbay Council
MG	HVCA/CAPTARA
Cllr Gillian Hayman	Councillor
PH	Torbay Neighbourhood Watch
MM	SWAGTARA
WPC Diane Wyatt	Torquay Police
Inspector Mel Broad	Sector Inspector, Torquay Police
P.S. Ian McClure	Devon & Cornwall Police
VT	Neighbourhood manager RHT
JE	Neighbourhood Watch (Audley Road)

Item No.	Discussion	Action
1.	APOLOGIES Jenny Faulkner, Cllr Harris, Steve Stoppard, Kirsty Passmore, Dave Quaintance	
2.	MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • With regard to the abandoned vehicles at the bottom of Pendennis Road. An email was sent to Tara/Steve regarding the problems being experienced. Vicki and Sue are still trying to get matters resolved internally within Torbay Council. • With regard to the alleyways at the rear of 84-108 Hele Road, a number of gates have already been made and installed but there are still some outstanding. Waiting for an answer from Plymouth as to the legalities with regard to gating 'public rights of way'. • The footpath, with regard to the rear of 132 Pendennis Road will be fully covered in tarmac in about 2-3 weeks, as this has been a problem with people who use the path. Also, with regards to the fencing of this area, half will be done by Torbay Council, the other half by Riviera Housing. 	VC/TF

- The 'Drop-in' session was very well advertised etc and it was well organised and attended by the relevant Agencies etc. but was poorly attended by the public.

3.

FUNDING FOR STREET WARDEN SCHEME

- Tara reported that an ultimate decision by Torbay Council to make permanent funding for Street Wardens would be made 2nd week of March. Everyone is supporting the funding for the Street Warden Scheme and budgets have been agreed.
- Cllr Steve Darling could see no major problems for the Street Warden funding.
- Tara hoped the bid to double the amount of wardens would be successful. It is anticipated that three more Wardens will be employed to cover other areas, which includes Queen Elizabeth Drive and Foxhole, which may have similar issues to Hele.
- Steve Cox wanted to thank all concerned with regard to the funding of the Street Wardens and especially a big 'thank you' and 'well done' to the Street Wardens themselves.
- Sector Inspector Mel Broad also added that 4 PCSO's (Police Constable Support Officers) will be employed to assist in the policing of Hele and St Marychurch/Watcombe areas. These PCSO's will be funded by the Police through some government grant aid and their duties will be that of assisting in the prevention of minor crimes and anti-social behaviour. Their powers will be limited to detaining suspected criminals for 30 mins until a Police Officer arrives. They will wear full Police uniform and be easily recognisable. They will work closely with the Street Wardens and on occasions patrol with them. Their duties will begin at 8 am and finish at 10 pm and it is envisaged that their presence will reassure residents. They have a certain amount of training to go through first but it is envisaged they should be on our streets by 6th May.
- They will be directly responsible to the Neighbourhood Beat Manager who will dictate where they are needed at any specific time. They may work in pairs or fours if the situation warrants it to deal with specific problems. They will carry no defensive equipment but will have self-defence training.

MB

- A question was raised “How will the public know about these new appointed posts of PCSO’s?”
- There will be plenty of publicity and photographs of these new posts relating to PCSO’s released in March 2005 to help with public awareness.
- Cllr Steve Darling suggested they could work closely with Outreach Youth Workers and the Local Community and it is envisaged this will be the case, as they will be introduced to youth organisations.

4. Steering Group Structure

- This steering group structure was discussed at length. It was proposed they would still meet regularly with relation to Hele. Other departments’ etc. may wish to have their input with regard to Street Wardens & PCSO’s. A proposal will be brought to the next Steering Group.
- Vicki suggested combining some of the meetings she attends, as she spends a fair amount of time at meetings where the same issues were being raised.
- Cllr Steve Darling agreed linking meetings together as the same issues were being raised at a number of meetings.

SC/TF

5. HELE STREET WARDEN SURVEY

- The Street Warden Survey was sent out with the minutes.
- Tara Fowler discussed the result and ran through the statistics for the benefit of those present at the meeting.
- With relation to Question 5 in the Survey, it was quite evident that residents were quite frightened of shopping at lunchtime, because of the amount of youths who congregate around the shop areas, particularly the Co-op. Some residents even felt they needed to change their shopping habits, hence avoiding the lunchtimes.
- WPC Diane Wyatt added that the schools are to look at these problems and there was a new Police Officer permanently at the school. Two Schools have already helped fund two Police Officers to work within the schools.

TF

- It was also suggested that the children be issued with passes to enter and leave school.
- Paul Hammond suggested a “School Neighbourhood Watch Scheme” and this could be looked at as an experimental project.
- It was also mentioned it is “Truancy Week for three weeks in March.
- With regard to littering, it was suggested that a ticket system be put in place for children age 10 years and above for children caught littering, but this would be difficult to follow through if the children didn’t pay their fines. Further work was being undertaken to research this.
- To summarise the survey there were two main concerns i.e. crowds of youths and drugs.
- It was suggested that the positive aspects that came out of the survey, be put to the Press, as we did have some very positive feedback. Respondents felt that the rates of Crime & antisocial behaviour were improving and that there were further improvements in other environmental problems. It was all very encouraging.
- Cllr Steve Darling asked whether the Street Wardens carried cards with their contact numbers on, which could be handed out to the public. The Street Wardens said they did carry cards.
- Vicki suggested that “Important contact numbers” could be incorporated in the next edition of their Newsletter which would be issued on 18th February, and welcomed anything else that anyone felt they would like to add.
- Tara Fowler will put together an action plan in light of the survey results and said we would build on the “positives” that came out of the survey.

6.

UPDATE FROM WARDENS

- Vicki updated us on the skip collection before Xmas. She said there were 10 containers. Also Vicki and Sue said there would be another skip collection on 12/13th March. They also suggested that those people, who had transport and could get their items to the skip, this would be preferable. They did suggest a small charge for the collection process but this would have to be discussed with Steve Cox.

- Vicki appeared on TV local news regarding the new gates, which were put on the alleyways, as this had been a very successful operation.
- They had also arranged fund-raising activities to help raise money for the Tsunami disaster and the money they collected was enough for three shelter boxes towards the appeal.
- The abandoned cars in Pendennis Road have now been ticketed and removed. The area is now clear.

7.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- Steve Cox announced he is to have a change in his role from Principal Environmental Health Officer and has been asked to help in the implementation of the Licensing Act which incorporates thousands of applications resulting in the new 24-hr opening times.
- Tara will now have the day to day responsibility with respect to the Street Wardens, but Steve will endeavour to come to the Steering Group Meetings.

Community Safety

- Mr Paul Hammond said he had received a new plan on Community Safety for 2005/6. He read out some of the relevant points to the Steering Group. Tara Fowler said she would acquire a copy of this, as she wasn't aware of it.
- Mel Broad announced to the Group that WPC Diane Wyatt will no longer be a Neighbourhood Beat Manager but has been offered the post of Domestic Violence Officer. He wanted to wish her well, as did other members of the Group, and said how much they enjoyed working with her. Maureen expressed her thanks on behalf of the residents for the excellent work Di had done. This was supported by all those present..

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

TUESDAY 19th April 2005
 2:00 P.M.
 ACORN CENTRE, LUMMATON CROSS, BARTON,
 TORQUAY

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