

**Face the People session.**

1. Members will recall that we held our second Face the People session in Billingham on the 1<sup>st</sup> September 2008. Notes taken at the session are attached.
2. The session was attached to a meeting of the Billingham Partnership and it was reasonably well attended by 23 members of the public.
3. We agreed on the 18<sup>th</sup> March 2008 that we would hold these sessions yearly by joining an established meeting and that we would visit each Local Area Partnership Board area. It is proposed that the next session should be held in Thornaby in early 2009.
4. Members are asked to endorse:
  - a) The proposal to hold the next Face the People session in the Thornaby area.
  - b) The representative for the Local Area Partnership Board to identify a suitable meeting in early 2009.

Community Safety Manager  
3<sup>rd</sup> October 2008.

Notes from Face the People session held in Billingham on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2008

**Q. Have we anticipated what may happen as a result of the credit crunch and possible recession?**

<b>Respondent</b>	<b>Response</b>
D Brunskill	Aware of the acknowledged link between high unemployment, deprivation and crime. Crime analysts are employed to monitor trends. Dwelling Burglary is at it lowest level ever. MORI survey suggests that residents of Stockton are more likely to report crime and British Crime Survey response also reflect this so we are comfortable that we have a true picture. We know that some offenders have diverted to metal theft and we have catered for change by adopting a key priority – Emerging Issues, which allows to re focus on new trends.
G Lee	We monitor the impact of all crime types. In the Violence Reduction Group we analyse data to direct our responses to ensure that we are aware of changing trends.

**Q. Congratulations to the Fire Service who have done some excellent work on Low Grange. Other service providers could replicate this work. Have we considered the impact of the Forum closure?**

<b>Respondent</b>	<b>Response</b>
M Batty	Discussions taking place to develop a cohesive response. Within this there will be a plan for alternative activities especially for young people. We will also step up enforcement presence to be prepared should there be increase in anti social behaviour. Dialogue with the Billingham Partnership will influence this work. Initiatives will include LIFE course, similar work to that being developed to cover Mischief Night and Bonfire Night.

**Comment from the floor: The Fire Service are to be commended on the LIFE programme.**

**Q. Facilities in John Whitehead Park may help but we need to get this up and running. Have we considered security and policing issues for when building work commences?**

<b>Respondent</b>	<b>Response</b>
D Brunskill	It will be tackled in the same way as Thornaby, the flip side is though that people come to Billingham from outside of the area to use the Forum and they will no longer come.

**Q. Can we do some proactive work to reduce incidents of misuse of quad bikes?**

<b>Respondent</b>	<b>Response</b>
D Brunskill/M Batty	The Off Road Motorbike Team come into the borough often in response to reported incidents. The use of headcams is being looked at and this provides evidence that allows us to seize bikes. Neighbourhood Enforcement Officers also have powers to assist with this, so they can be contacted to also report incidents to.

**Q. What can we do when council tenants do not take care of their gardens?**

<b>Respondent</b>	<b>Response</b>
D Pickard	Technically it is a breach of tenancy however we have to apply to court to end a tenancy and there is reluctance by the Court to evict. THL can offer support to those who are vulnerable and in some instances can go in and do the work and recharge the tenant.

**Q. Tesco car park is used for motorbiking what can we do?**

<b>Respondent</b>	<b>Response</b>
D Brunskill	We are aware of 'boy racers' using this car park and will continue to ask Tesco to put their camera on the car park to deter and provide evidence.

**Q. THL seem to have quite a lot of void properties, why?**

<b>Respondent</b>	<b>Response</b>
D Pickard	Turnaround for empty properties is 20 days so there should not be evidence of void generally except perhaps in areas where substantial regeneration work is underway and properties are being demolished.

**Q. Where will the super surgeries be sited?**

<b>Respondent</b>	<b>Response</b>
E Benomorán	The Treatment in the Community Plan is newly available but does not provide the detail as yet.
M Batty	There are proposals for Integrated Health Centres in Billingham, Stockton and Yarm. The redevelopment of Billingham Town Centre may well accommodate one.

**Q. Do drug dealers lose their houses and assets when caught?**

<b>Respondent</b>	<b>Response</b>
Dave Brunskill	Yes. Gathering evidence can be a lengthy process but information received is acted upon. To date we have seized £572,000 value of drugs. Last year we seized £400,000 and two houses were included in this. The Police have an Economic Crime Unit that looks at cash seizures and confiscations.

**Comment from the floor: Stockton DAT seen as the number 1 in the country with the best public services. DAT are now looking at testing for all drugs not just the main ones. The DAT has an analyst who is able to build up an intelligence map and this can help to direct work.**