

**Minutes**  
**The Eastern Area Partnership Board (EAPB) – Face The People Session**  
**19 May 2009, 5.30pm at the Eagle Hotel, Thornaby**

**APPROVED BY EAPB ON 30 JUNE 2009**

**Eastern Area Partnership Members:**

**Graeme Oram** (Five Lamps Organisation) **Doug Nicholson** (Friends of Tees Heritage Park) **Meg Collins** (Over 50s Assembly) **Tom Bowman** (Ingleby Barwick Town Council) **Cllr Kevin Faulks** (Stockton Council – Ingleby Barwick East Ward) **Insp Ian Garrett** (Cleveland Police) **Peter Brennan** (Village Park Residents Association) **Cllr Sylvia Walmsley** (Stainsby Hill Ward) **Cllr Tina Large** (Stockton Council – Mandale & Victoria Ward).

\* Members are representing their nominating body.

**Face the People Panel**

**Geoff Lee** (Chair) **Lucia Saiger, Elaine Lumley** (Teesside Probation Service) **Mike Batty, Marilyn Davies** (Stockton Council) **Dave Brunskill** (Cleveland Police) **Dave Pickard** (Tristar) **Gerry Wareham** (Crown Prosecution Service) **Elizabeth Benomran** (Stockton Teaching Primary Care Trust) **Emma Champley** (Stockton Drugs Action Team)

**Eastern Area Partnership Advisors:**

**Nicola Hall, Andy Whinnerah** (Stockton Council) **Tracy Roberts** (Stockton Residents & Community Groups Association).

**Observers:**

**Dave Jamieson, Ronnie Stephenson, Philip Stephenson, W. Merryweather, J. Rogers, F. Rogers, Beryl Robinson, Mr M.B Saavel, Mrs M.B Saavel, Stewart Featherstone, B. Alder** (residents) **Cllr Steve Walmsley** (Stockton Council – Mandale & Victoria Ward) **Cllr Eileen Craggs** (Stockton Council – Stainsby Hill Ward) **Shirley Stenburge** (Stockton Council).

**Apologies**

**Eastern Area Partnership Members:**

**Carol Adams** (Village Park Residents Association) **Philip Day** (Holmes & Middlefield Residents Association) **Pat Bell** (Thornaby Town Council) **Lesley Cannon** (Job Centre Plus).

**Eastern Area Partnership Advisors/ Observers:**

**Linda Russell-Bond** (Thornaby Community School).

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<p>Geoff Lee (<b>GL</b>) provided an introduction, explaining that the Safer Stockton Partnership has a responsibility as the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership to hold a Face the People session. GL explained that tonight's meeting was the third Face the People Session held across the Borough. GL thanked the Eastern Area Partnership for incorporating the Face the People Session into their May meeting.</p>	No
<p>GL introduced the panel members. Marilyn Davies (<b>MD</b>) explained that an initiative 'Whatever it Takes' was being launched at tonight's meeting. MD explained that Whatever It Takes was initially developed by the fire service to provide additional services in a small area but had been broadened to include other agencies providing enhanced services for a specified period in hot spot areas. MD explained that the Whatever It Takes would take place in Mandale &amp; Victoria area and the Fire Service volunteers, members of the Community Safety Team and Police Community Support Officer would be door knocking in the area asking residents what it would take to make life better in the area. MD stated that leaflets explaining the initiative would also be delivered in the area and that the initiative would run for 6 months.</p>	No
<p>A discussion took place around CCTV. Cllr Sylvia Walmsley (<b>SW</b>) explained that it costs £375 to erect a CCTV camera and £200 to monitor it. SW stated that Ward Councillors are asked to fund CCTV cameras from their budget and as the budget is £14,000 it is very costly to fund them. MB explained that unfortunately the Council does not have a budget to purchase or monitor CCTV cameras and thus it is requested that Ward Councillors consider using their budget to fund them when they are requested by residents. MB stated that he understood the demands on the Ward Councillors budget. A discussion took place around whose responsibility it was to fund CCTV cameras. Insp Dave Brunskill (<b>DB</b>) explained that the police have a limited budget and no budget for monitoring of CCTV cameras and explained that CCTV cameras were not the long term cure to resolving crime. GL explained that the Safer Stockton Partnership were working together to reduce crime across the borough. It was noted that street lighting is another way that helps to reduce people's fear of crime.</p>	No
<p>A query was raised regarding CCTV cameras that were funded by Village Park Residents Association (VPRA) on Thorntree Road that were removed without consultation with local residents. MB explained that the Council drafted a funding bid to provide costs for the CCTV camera and the cameras were installed with the understanding that once the funding ran out, the shops on Thorntree Road would fund the cameras. Mike Batty (<b>MB</b>) explained that as the CCTV had addressed the problem of anti-social behaviour in the area, the shops were unwilling to contribute to the costs of the camera thus they were removed. It was noted that VPRA were not consulted on this or asked to raise additional funds to continue the CCTV cameras.</p>	MB to contact Peter Brennan (VPRA) to discuss this issue.

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<p>Comment was made that despite the media portrayal Thornaby was not full of outlaws and bandits. It was noted that the real concern for the area was the mindless violence and vandalism caused by a minority. Cllr Steve Walmsley explained that the courts and sentencing need to be looked at to ensure that they are a realistic deterrent and there should be a zero tolerance approach. It was noted that parents need to be involved.</p>	No
<p>A resident explained that their house had been burgled three times in the past 10 years and whilst the police were fantastic, the court threw the case out. Comment was made that sentencing needs to be stronger and the impact on the victim should be taken into consideration. Gerry Wareham (<b>GW</b>) explained the Victims Charter which gives the victim of the crime the opportunity to explain to the court the impact the crime has had on them. GW explained that he understood people’s frustrations around sentencing, however the sentences that can be given out are limited and the courts have to work to the guidance set by government. GW explained that short term prison sentences do not work well as if someone does go to prison for less than 12 months, there is a significant chance they will re-offend quickly. Elaine Lumley (<b>EL</b>) explained that community sentencing is more challenging. EL explained the role of the Probation Service, stating that their core purpose is to reduce re-offending and they work closely with all partners to achieve this. EL explained that the Probation Service also do some restorative work in the community.</p>	No
<p>GW explained that sentences can only be appealed in certain circumstances and this is the decision of the Attorney General. GW further explained that the Victim Impact Statements are used to provide an emphasis to the courts on the impact of the victim.</p>	No
<p>DB explained that the reporting rate for burglary in Stockton was 96% and this was higher than the national average.</p>	No
<p>Comment was made that Friends of Tees Heritage Park have been established to create a national park alongside the river from Yarm to Tees Barrage. It was noted that there are problems with anti-social behaviour along the river and there needs to be a coordinated approach to the policing and management of the river and surrounding lands, as British Waterways have limited authority. It was explained that a lot of residents are put off from spending time along the river due to the anti-social behaviour and this needs to be resolved if the heritage park is to be successful and gain public support. It was suggested that a relationship should be developed with the police and a policing policy is included within the overall plan for the area. GL welcomed the suggestion and explained that it was an issue that the Safer Stockton Partnership had not previously discussed but would welcome further discussion on. DB explained that members of the public should report acts of anti-social behaviour along the river to Insp Ian Garrett so his officers are aware if it is an emerging issue. IG explained that it was recognised as a specific problem. It was explained that Cleveland Police are involved in the Tees River Users Group.</p>	No

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<p>A statement was read out from a member of Thornaby Against Street Crime (TASC). GW explained that the courts did not make decisions on sentencing based around cost effectiveness and they have to follow the code of only prosecuting when there is a realistic prospect of conviction. A discussion took place around CCTV and street lighting on Westbury Street.</p> <p>Comment was made that residents do not have any confidence in the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) as often no action is taken. It was suggested that the CPS should do something to restore confidence. GW acknowledged that the CPS needs to do more work to inform residents what they do. GW explained that the CPS had an 87% conviction rate last year. GW agreed to attend a meeting of VPRA.</p> <p>Cllr Kevin Faulks explained that Ingleby Barwick has significant issues around drug dealing and anti-social behaviour and explained that Ingleby Barwick Town Council funds dedicated Neighbourhood Enforcement Officers in the area and felt that this funding could be better spent in the area. MB explained that Ingleby Barwick wards are in the bottom of any crime lists, thus the funding from the Town Council ensures that the area has a dedicated service from the NES. MB explained that without this dedicated service, Ingleby Barwick would have a share of the 5 NES and Senior Officer that cover the whole of the borough and are in proportion to need and volume of activity. MB explained that the Council was grateful for Ingleby Barwick Town Councils continued support for the NES service.</p> <p>GL called the meeting to a close and thanked the panel and those in attendance to their contribution. GL explained that the issues raised tonight would be fed back to the Safer Stockton Partnership for consideration and action where appropriate.</p>	<p>MB to feed back the issue of street lighting on Westbury Street.</p> <p>GW to attend a meeting of VPRA.</p> <p>No</p> <p>No</p>
<p><b>13. Date of Next Meeting</b></p> <p>The next business meeting of the EAPB will be held on:</p> <p><b>Tuesday 30 June 2009, 9.30am at the Five Lamps Organisation, Thornaby.</b></p> <p>EAPB members are invited to forward any agenda items for future meetings to Nicola Hall.</p>	