



Devon & Cornwall  
Police Authority

NEWS & INFORMATION  
3 / 2007

### Police Authority Meetings and News

The Police Authority met on Friday 11 May 2007. John Smith was elected as the new Chair of the Police Authority and Mike Bull as the new Vice-Chair.

Members previously agreed that to review how the Authority undertakes its business with the intention that it can become a strategic Police Authority which is 'fit for purpose'. Members considered the options at this meeting and this work is now being taken forward.

The Gender Equality Duty Scheme, which became a legal requirement on 6 April 2007, was approved by members and can be located on the Police Authority website: <http://www.dcpa.police.uk/PDFstore/policies-procedures/gender-equality.pdf?pdfname=AuditTable.pdf>.

### New Members

The term of office of four of the six independent Members expired on 31 March 2007 and the Police Authority undertook an advertising campaign with a view to making suitable appointments. The four current Members were eligible to re-apply.

Following the process laid down in the Police Act 1996 and associated regulations, the following people have been appointed as Independent Members of the Police Authority from 20 April 2007:

- Mr M Bull (Tiverton)
- Mrs L Dunn (Exeter)
- Mr D Money (Plymouth)
- Ms J Norton (Bodmin)

### Crimestoppers Most Wanted

To support the execution of warrants the Constabulary has published on the Crimestoppers local website photos of individuals wanted by the police. 'Crimestoppers Most Wanted' is an effective on-line tool which the public can use to help fight crime from the safety of their homes by viewing details and images of suspects on the internet. The public can respond with information on-line thus maintaining their anonymity. 'Most Wanted' has proved to be an effective tool and has already led to 24 arrests. The website averages two to three million hits a month.

The national Crimestoppers website can be viewed at:

<http://www.devon-cornwall.police.uk/v3/howhelp/crimestoppers/appeals/mostwanted/index.htm>

The local Crimestoppers website can be viewed at :

<http://www.devon-cornwall.police.uk/v3/howhelp/crimestoppers/appeals/mostwanted/index.htm>

## **Violent crime down**

Violent crime has bucked the national trend and fallen in Devon and Cornwall, according to new police figures. End-of-year Force crime statistics reveal that violent crime has dropped by 0.5%, with 27,145 offences recorded. Burglary and vehicle crime continue to fall and are at their lowest levels since 1988 – burglary dropped by 5.3%, with 4,665 offences recorded, while vehicle crime fell by 2.9%, with 13,405 offences recorded.

Overall crime is up by 0.5% with 124,569 crimes recorded, which is 635 more than the previous year. This is largely due to increased levels of antisocial behaviour and criminal damage, which is a priority area for the Force in the coming year, and which will be addressed by enhancing local policing teams, including the massive intake of new police community support officers.

The number of drugs offences in the Force area fell by 5.6%, with 3,867 recorded during the last 12-month period.

## **PACTs**

Devon and Cornwall Constabulary is showing its commitment to putting the public's issues at the heart of policing priorities with a new network of community meetings. The Force has established Partners and Community Team (PACT) meetings across Devon and Cornwall to give the public a real chance to influence how their area is policed.

The meetings involve local police officers, community leaders, partner agencies and voluntary services, and enable people to talk about the matters that concern them the most where they live. The new measures are part of the ongoing drive to encourage greater community involvement in policing, making the Force more accessible, more responsive to citizens' needs and more accountable to the public it serves.

Acting Assistant Chief Constable Bob Spencer said: "We are truly committed to engaging with the people we serve to establish and maintain ongoing communication, involving them in identifying community priorities, finding solutions to local problems, and then letting people know what we have done.

All 43 police forces in England and Wales are working to meet the objectives of the National Policing Programme, commissioned to support the Government's vision for accessible policing.

Devon and Cornwall Constabulary has succeeded in one of the main aims of the national programme for neighbourhood policing - having dedicated Neighbourhood Teams in place well before the March 2008 deadline.

## **Police Authority Liaison Meetings**

Two recent Police Authority Liaison Meetings held at Brixham Community College and Dawlish Community College test ran a 'drop in' session in conjunction with the formal meeting. The drop in aspect of the meetings attracted many young people and encouraging feedback was obtained from both meetings.

## **How to contact the Police Authority**

*You can contact the Police Authority at*

***PO Box 229, Exeter, Devon EX2 5YT***

**Telephone - 01392 268333**  
**Fax - 01392 268330**

Or via the website:- [www.dcpa.police.uk](http://www.dcpa.police.uk)

## **How to contact the Police**

**GENERAL ENQUIRIES (24 HOURS):**  
**08452 777444**

*To report crime or criminal damage*  
*To request police advice or attendance*  
*To be connected to a police station*

**999**

*When life is at risk, Offenders are nearby*  
*Someone is injured, Immediate action is required*

Minicom Users  
Crimestoppers  
Website

01392 452935  
0800 555111  
[www.devon-cornwall.police.uk](http://www.devon-cornwall.police.uk)