

## DEVON AND CORNWALL POLICE AUTHORITY

Notes of the **POLICE AUTHORITY LIAISON MEETING - CARRICK** held in the School Hall, Falmouth Community School, on Tuesday 20 September 2005 at 7.00pm.

### **Present:**

**Police Authority:** Mr David Money (Chairman), Mr. J. Currie (PA Member),  
Mr I Thompson (Administrator)

**Constabulary:** Chief Inspector Steve Harrison (Geographical Chief Inspector) and  
Inspector Dave Scott. (Sector Inspector)

51 People attended of whom 42 had signed the Attendance Register.

### **1. Introductions**

The Chairman welcomed everyone and introduced Police Authority Members and Police Officers.

### **2. Police Report**

Chief Inspector Harrison gave the report supported by Inspector Scott; this included an overview of the Geographic Chief Inspector's role and responsibility -

Emphasis was placed on the high visibility policing strategy along with the introduction of Neighbourhood Beat Managers and good working practises now being developed. The introduction of Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) was also bringing big changes to the way a policing service is provided.

Falmouth is one of the safest areas in Cornwall.and was the top performing sector in the Force. Congratulations were extended to Inspector Scott on both his High Sheriff's Award and the Neighbourhood Team Award.

Overall, crime has reduced by 12%; this has been achieved through using local partnerships such as the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership and the introduction of new initiatives such as Anti-Social Behaviour Orders.

### **Inspector Scott.**

Falmouth crime figures April 2005 to August 2005.

Vehicle Crime (thefts from vehicles)	120	Down 6 incidents - a reduction of	4.8%
Burglary Dwellings	40	Up 11 incidents - an increase of	37.9%
Violent Crime Common Assaults	29	Down 32 incidents - a reduction of	52.5%
Other Violence	138	Down 25 incidents - a reduction of	15.3%
Drugs	28	Down 17 incidents - a reduction of	20.0%

From April 2005 to August 2005 there have been 1011 reported crimes, a reduction of 12.8% compared with the same period last year (1825 incidents reported last year).

The Government 's target for the reduction of overall crime over the three year period was 15%. Falmouth was now expecting to achieve this.

Violent crime was showing a downward trend. A firm line was being taken in respect of late night eating establishments in the town centre. A 1.00am closing time has been implemented which assists with the dispersal of people coming out of night clubs later rather than them gathering around food "Take Aways". One establishment was appealing for a 3.00am closing time; this was to be opposed by the police at the Magistrates Court hearing later in the month.

Security staff/door staff now have to be trained and licensed. Incidents of disorder on the street can now attract a fixed penalty ticket of £80. These, together with ASBO warning letters, have all had a marked influence on behaviour in the Town Centre.

PC Andy Hocking has been actively involved with the Community Safety Sergeant and the Licensees of three Night Clubs in Falmouth to introduce a joint banning scheme. The scheme is intended to deal with customers who engage in disorderly behaviour or violent crime inside the clubs or in public areas outside. Offenders would be banned from all three establishments.

All licensed premises have had to apply for new licences which will be issued by the District Council rather than the Magistrates Courts. Police have been involved with reviewing applications and giving advice as appropriate.

It was noted that there were difficulties in policing the Town Centre night clubs. It was felt that the community had a right to expect their police to respond to other priorities in the town and not to commit all the resources to the problems caused by late night drinkers.

Whilst there has been an increase in burglaries this year, some of this was down to the good weather experienced and residents leaving windows and doors open when going out.

The Boslowick Neighbourhood Beat Manager, PC Bob Jones, was attending a meeting at Boslowick Community Centre to discuss proposals to provide activities for young people in the area. Carrick Community Safety Partnership has provided some £20,000 to finance improvements for this area.

The dispersal order for the Gyllyngvase Beach area expires at the end of October 2005 and appears to have been beneficial regarding the beach and gardens. The order will be reviewed with residents and interested parties when it expires.

Residents in the area of Gyllyngvase Beach, Spennen Wyn Road and Cliff Road have complained about the speed of vehicles and noise from vehicles, some associated with "boy racers" in the area. Cornwall County Highways have been requested to review the sea front roads for long term solutions.. Speed surveys in this area have identified that on occasions speeds in excess of 30 miles per hour have been recorded. The Police Traffic department based at Camborne has been made aware of the problems and their specialist support requested.

The circumstances surrounding the death of Councillor Peter Solheim were still ongoing with a team of dedicated officers continuing their enquiries from the Falmouth Police station. The trial was currently listed to take place around Easter 2006.

### 3. Open Session

The Chairman explained the use of the written Question Forms and, considering the large number presented, divided them under specific headings: -

- a) "Boy Racers" / speeding traffic and noise pollution in the Gyllyngvase Beach, Spernen Wyn Road and Cliff Road areas.

The following issues were raised: -

- The perceived slow Police reaction to telephone calls from the public and the time it took for officers to attend;
  - The Police need for evidence under the requirements of the Crown Prosecution Service to enable a successful prosecution;
  - The use of appropriate legislation to bring prosecutions;
  - The requirement to put up signs telling drivers that speed cameras were in use;
  - The ongoing noise pollution to local residents from sound systems in cars;
  - That noise pollution was the responsibility of the District Council and not the police;
  - The noise from car exhaust systems;
  - The use of tickets/fixed penalty fines to deal with noise nuisance relating to vehicles;
  - Could Carrick District Council close the car park overnight with fixed gates/barriers so that vehicles could not enter the area?
- b) Anti-Social behaviour and the use of skateboards and BMX bicycles in public places.
- The legality of skateboarders using the public highway;
  - That local partnerships were spending large sums of money to provide skateboarding parks/areas that BMX cyclists could also use;
  - These pastimes were not the prerogative of the very young; adults were also highly involved;
  - The Carrick Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership was investing large sums of money in local projects to address these and other problems affecting young people;
- c) Other questions.
- Restorative Policing is a method where perpetrators and victims are brought together to find a way forward.
  - Central telephone system call handling and 999 calls received at the Force communications centres were in excess of 1000 per day. Identified problems were reducing but there was still more to do. All 999 Calls were answered within 10 seconds. 999 Calls were then evaluated and given a grading on seriousness of the incident. Resources are then evaluated so as to ascertain what staff were available. Young persons drinking and using threatening behaviour would carry a high grade of seriousness and would be dealt with as a priority.

- Carnon Downs speeding traffic. The Police Traffic Department to be asked to install counting/speeding survey equipment which would then ascertain actions required. i.e. traffic calming measures etc.
- Dog fouling was a matter for the local Council and the dog warden is able to issue fixed penalty tickets.
- Problems of local builders/developers parking on the pavement was an ongoing matter. Officers do put fixed penalty tickets on vehicles when appropriate. Officers were visiting building sites to seek builders' assistance to park with due care for local residents.
- It was requested by a member of the Licensing committee of Carrick District Council that checks be made on the signing and the use of the loading bays in Falmouth Town Centre (The Moor) as Taxi drivers were complaining about vehicles parking in their waiting area and the traffic warden had reported that he/she was unable to issue parking tickets.
- Use of the local press to report crime and police initiatives. It was noted that the Police Authority was doing some work on this to enhance better public relations;
- A Local Councillor explained the increasing problems the Town was facing with the large number of students coming to the new University campus at Tremough;
- The ways in which the public can influence the Police Authority to increase police numbers/resources;
- The Force will have 3,500 warranted officers by the end of this year – the highest level ever.
- The Force was now re-evaluating the staffing levels of each area;
- Police Officers responding to a report would not arrive with blue lights and sirens unless it was an urgent response;
- PC Andy Hocking, Neighbourhood Beat Manager was complemented by local residents on his work in the area;
- The Assistant Head Teacher of Falmouth School, Mr Terry Burke, extended his gratitude to the local police for their immediate response and preventative work within the school of which there were some 1300 pupils;
- Restrictions on vehicular access to Market Street, Falmouth, was introduced to reduce the pollution levels at peak holiday time. Traffic flow in the area was now being looked into by consultants on behalf of Carrick District Council and Falmouth Town Council.

#### **4. Matters of Interest arising from the Police Authority**

The Police Authority's Newsletter was distributed: -

The Chairman reported that an application to Government office regarding the funding of more Police Community Support Officers in Devon and Cornwall has been initiated. There was to be an increase of 25,000 PCSOs nationally. This Authority has signalled its interest to Government.

The Home Secretary has issued his thoughts / views on the restructuring of Police Forces across England and Wales . There are 43 Police Forces at present. Each Force has been asked to put forward their own indications of what they feel would be appropriate.

## **5. Neighbourhood Watch Schemes**

Contact addresses to be exchanged after the meeting. There were no reports.

## **6. Date and Venue of Future Meetings**

To be confirmed later.

The Chairman thanked everyone for their participation and contributions to the debate. He assured the meeting that the items discussed would be addressed in detail.

The meeting closed at 9.10pm.