

## DEVON AND CORNWALL POLICE AUTHORITY

Notes of the **POLICE AUTHORITY LIAISON MEETING** for **RESTORMEL** held at the Village Hall, Fraddon on Monday, 20 October 2008 at 19.30 hours

### Present:

#### Police Authority

Ms J Norton ..... Chairman

Mrs K Olver (PALM Administrator)

#### Constabulary

Inspector D Meredith (Newquay Police Station)

Acting Inspector P Thomas (Bodmin Roads Policing)

Sergeant P George (Bodmin Roads Policing)

Sergeant E Fox (St Columb Major Police Station)

15 people attended the meeting and signed the Attendance Book.

#### 1. Opening Remarks

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced the Administrator and the Officers.

#### 2. Local Policing Summary 2008-2009

The Chairman outlined the information contained within the report.

#### 3. Consultation Questions

The Chairman asked those present if they had received copies of the summary document through the post. Of those present, 8 had received the document and 6 had looked through the document. 5 of those who had read the report felt that it contained relevant information.

#### 4. Police Report

Sergeant Fox presented the Police Report and informed those present that she was the Sergeant covering the local area.

- Comparing the figures from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2008 to 1<sup>st</sup> October 2008 with those from the same period of the previous year, there had been a reduction in crime and more crimes had been detected. The Police had been both proactive as well as reactive over the past year and they had particularly targeted drink driving and taken action which included prosecutions.
- Police had worked with youngsters who had carried out criminal damage and graffiti and at the start of the summer had worked with the offenders carrying out repainting of items in the park. Sergeant Fox considered that this restorative justice had been successful and that it had sent a strong message to the youngsters.
- Police had visited Fraddon to speak with youngsters and, in addition, there was a dedicated PCSO carrying out foot patrols in the area.
- The Police had assisted with the carnival earlier in the year and also the recent half marathon.
- There was a direct line available to the neighbourhood team at St Columb which was new in the current year.
- A Partners and Community Together (PACT) post-box was available with post-cards in the Co-op and there were regular street briefings every quarter where Sergeant Fox met with residents.
- The local youth club for over 11s had had to be closed due to an incident where the fire brigade had been called. Police were currently gathering evidence in relation to this incident. In addition there had recently been an incident involving the local Church and again Police were currently gathering evidence in relation to this crime.

- Police were aware of the difficulties with youngsters in the village and were carrying out high visibility patrols with PCSOs speaking regularly to the youngsters.

## 5. General Questions

Officers and Members of the Authority responded to questions from the public. A summary of the discussions is given below:

- Information on the Internet – Concern was raised regarding the availability of information on the Internet regarding bomb making and terrorism. Information on the Internet is not censored, however, certain web-sites are monitored and anti-terrorism staff work on operations regarding terrorism threats throughout the country.
- Road Safety – Concern was raised regarding the B3273 Pentewan Road being used by vehicles which are in poor standard of repair. It was noted that headlights are checked once a year during the routine MOT testing of vehicles, however, alternative headlights are available from Halfords which are not illegal and can be installed by the owners of vehicles. Due to the concern regarding the road, it was agreed that a local traffic officer would visit the site to determine the risks posed by the road and whether anything could be done to improve road safety in the area.
- Parking Tickets – It was noted that the new system for issue of parking tickets by the Local Authority was working in the Newquay area but that there were concerns more rurally. It was suggested that the concerns be raised through the Partners and Community Together (PACT) process, however, Sergeant Fox would investigate the particular problem areas identified outside the Co-op at Fraddon and in St Francis Road.
- Speeding – Concern was raised regarding speeding in Crantock at West Pentire Road. This would be raised with the local Neighbourhood Beat Manager.
- Partners and Community Together (PACT) – It was noted that a number of the points already mentioned had not been raised through the PACT process and those present were encouraged to attend PACT meetings and to complete post-cards to enable the local teams to identify priorities within the neighbourhood.
- Telephone System – The delay in answering and dealing with non-emergency telephone calls was commented upon. This remained a problem though was a high priority for the Constabulary who were looking into the matter. The vast number of calls received since the advent of mobile phones meant that often incidents were called in by a number of people which tied up telephone lines resulting in long waiting times.
- Vehicles for Sale – The number of vehicles on the road with for sale notices was remarked upon. It was noted that this needed to be raised with the Local Authority whose Environmental Health Departments dealt with these issues.
- Police Attendance at Meetings – The Chairman of the Porth Residents Association reported that there had been no Police attendance at meetings and residents were disappointed with the response. Inspector Meredith agreed to raise this matter with the local Neighbourhood Beat Manager.
- Messaging System – It was noted that the system did not appear to recognise the start of an answerphone message and started leaving a message as soon as the line was connected. This meant that the beginning of the message was missing when the message was replayed. A request was made for modification to the technology to allow for messages to be replayed in full. It was noted that an individual may receive an email as well as a telephone call. In this way they will have a telephone call to hear the message and if they don't catch it all, they have the option of reading the email. Alternatively, they can just have an email instead.
- Police Authority Liaison Meetings – Those present considered the meetings to be very useful as a means of communication with both the Police Authority and the Devon and Cornwall Constabulary.

**6. Matters of Interest from the Police Authority**

The Chairman reported that Police Authority meetings were now web-cast and available through the Internet for viewing. She noted the reduction in crime within Devon and Cornwall and across the country as a whole. The Police Authority and Constabulary had adopted a 'green agenda' and made changes to vehicles, improved recycling and made changes to buildings to reduce energy costs. The new Police Station in Bodmin was being built to very high standards.

It was noted that the Police Authority comprised 19 members, 9 of whom were independent members including one lay justice. Three new members had been appointed in the last month and there would be vacancies in 2009 for new members. Information regarding applying for vacancies was available on the web page or from the Police Authority offices and would be advertised in the local Press.

The Chairman responded to a question from a member of the public: A summary of the discussion is given below:

- Crime Figures Reporting - Concern was raised regarding the methods used for reporting of crime figures and their accuracy. It was noted that the figures for Devon and Cornwall were checked externally each year and there had been a definite reduction in the current year when compared to the figures of the previous year.

**7. Independent Custody Visiting Report**

Mrs Scarle reported on the role of Custody Visitors and encouraged those present to consider taking on this valuable voluntary role which benefited both those detained in custody and the Police Custody Officers.

**8. Neighbourhood Watch Schemes**

The Chairman of the Restormel Neighbourhood Watch Forum presented his report. During the current year there had been a growth in schemes within the Restormel area and a recent drop-in session had been held in Newquay. The event had been advertised widely and was well attended with a number of partner organisations present. The Annual General Meeting was due to take place in February of 2009. Unfortunately there had been a reduction in the number of schemes operating in the Fraddon area with currently only two schemes running.

**9. Dates and Venues of Future Meetings**

Monday, 9 March 2009 at The Senior Hall, Newquay Tretherras School, Newquay at 19.30 pm.

The meeting finished at 21.10 pm.