

DEVON AND CORNWALL POLICE AUTHORITY

Notes of the **CARADON POLICE LIAISON MEETING** held at the Public Hall, Liskeard on Wednesday 16 September 2009 at 7.30 pm

Present:

Police Authority

Mr B Preston (Chairman)

Mrs K Olver (Administrator)

Constabulary

Acting Inspector M Howe (Acting Sector Inspector for Liskeard and Looe)

Inspector M Taylor (Bodmin Roads Policing Unit)

Sergeant J Williams (Neighbourhood Team Leader for Liskeard)

Sergeant A Griffin (Bodmin Roads Policing Unit)

Constable H Priestly (Neighbourhood Beat Manager, Liskeard South)

22 people attended as recorded on the Attendance Sheet.

1. Welcome

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced himself. The Officers in attendance introduced themselves to those present.

2. Matters of Interest from the Police Authority

The Chairman reported that there had been a new Chairman of the Police Authority appointed. The new Chair, Mr Mike Bull, had been an independent member of the Police Authority since 2003. Mr Preston had himself been appointed as the new Vice Chairman of the Police Authority. The Chairman reported that there had been a number of changes to the membership of the Police Authority following the change of Cornwall to a unitary authority and the appointment of new independent members.

The meetings of the Police Authority were available on the Internet and could be retrieved from archive format. New audit commission inspections of Police Authorities were due to commence shortly, although Devon and Cornwall Police Authority were not due to be inspected in the first tranche of inspections.

There were currently two senior roles within the Police Authority which were vacant and would hopefully be filled shortly, that of the Chief Executive and also the Treasurer.

"Daisies" had been placed on all of the chairs for those present to complete. The Chairman asked that those attending the meeting complete the forms and return to the administrator to enable a return from the meeting to be passed to the head office.

3. Police Report

Acting Inspector Howe presented the Police Report for the Liskeard and Looe neighbourhood team. He reported that:-

- Crime in the area was slightly raised compared to the previous year, particularly in dwelling burglaries in rural areas. The number of violent crimes had been reduced with a good detection rate of 33% which was above the force target rate. In order to help with the reduction in violent crimes, officers had been issued with metal detectors, as had some of the licensed premises in the area and this had increased

public reassurance. There were also two pub watch schemes in the area which were proving effective in banning violent offenders. The schemes were supported by the Police and also local authority officers.

- The teams were now fully staffed with all posts filled. The release of staff from back office to front line duties had made a significant difference to the workings of the team. A summer policing plan had been in place in Looe with additional foot patrols in the town during the evenings.
- Operation Quest had improved the management system for bookings of appointments with officers. This was proving to be very successful in managing officer time.
- Partnership schemes included the successful shop-watch scheme, including the issue of radios to retailers and installation of an aerial. It was hoped to start a Police Cadet scheme in 2010 which would be run at Liskeard, meeting at the fire station. The scheme would target 13-16 year olds and would include some law, Police procedure and drill. It was hoped that the cadets would be involved in the local community. Cadets would wear a uniform with red epaulets. Project Crystals was due to commence in October. The scheme was targeted at young persons and was to include the teaching of ways to diffuse situations and increase self control.
- There was on-going work at the skate-board park on the perimeter boarding, including street art. There were a number of damaged pieces of equipment and surface wear to be repaired. The park needed to be kept at a good standard to encourage the youngsters to use it.
- Partners and Communities Together (PACT) was continuing with post-cards distributed. The scheme had been running in the Liskeard Rural area for a few months, with Parish Councils becoming involved and working together. The scheme would be rolled out to the Looe rural parishes in the near future.
- A speed-watch operation was being undertaken in the area. A recent successful operation had been carried out in Widegates. A Police volunteer programme would be undertaken to train operators and hand over the day to day running of the scheme to volunteers. The volunteers would be given restricted access to the Police database to enable them to contact the drivers of speeding vehicles.
- A marine-watch scheme was taking place in the Looe area with officers working with the Environment Agency and carrying out patrols on the water.

Inspector Taylor presented the Roads Police Report. He reported that:-

- There had been one fatality less on the roads each week over the past year in the area. He thanked members of the public for keeping to the speed limits for the local roads.
- There has been an on-going study of the speed of vehicles through the Catchfrench section of the A38.
- There were plans to install a footbridge across the A38 at Carkeel to improve the safety of pedestrians crossing the road. A public meeting had been called to view the proposed bridge which was due to be held on 25/26 September 2009.
- The Saltash tunnel would be closed during the night of 18 October 2009 to enable a major incident practice to be carried out.
- Operation Vortex had recently been carried out, using unmarked Police vehicles, particularly targeting those motorists exceeding the 70 miles per hour speed limits.
- Work was continuing on the Trerulefoot/Torpoint road, however, the numbers of motorcyclists injured on the road was still high.
- An initiative was due to start shortly working with Think, particularly looking at HGV tachographs.

4. Open Session – General Questions on Policing Issues

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

- The training and use of speed cameras by volunteers was questioned. The local PCSO's would train volunteers in the use of the equipment and, once accredited, they would be requested to carry out campaigns in their local area. The schemes had been extremely successful to date. Concern was raised about volunteers carrying out such work in their local area and that there might be repercussions for them. Also, concern was raised regarding access to the Police database. It was noted that access

to the database would be restricted and that all persons given such access would be vetted prior to use and their actions audited. The training would include information regarding the legitimate use of the database and volunteers would be advised that misuse would constitute a criminal offence.

- The problems being encountered by residents of Doublebois in crossing the roads since the completion of the new Dobwalls by-pass was raised. Although the area was in a 40 mph speed zone, motorists did not seem to recognise the speed limit and appeared to be driving through the area at speeds well in excess of the speed limit. It was suggested that the problems should be raised through the PACT process and also should be reported to the Highways Agency. It was possible that the problems could be engineered out, however, Inspector Taylor agreed to raise the matter with colleagues.
- The speed warning signs placed locally appeared to be effective and it was questioned whether more use could be made of these signs.
- It was noted that monies received through the speed reduction programme were used to fund the cost of the programme with any additional monies put back into casualty reduction works.
- It was noted that the introduction of a 20 mph speed zone required roads to include engineered speed reduction measures. It was considered unlikely that a 20 mph speed zone would be agreed for the Doublebois section of the A38.
- Comment was made regarding the improved policing in the rural communities and local residents were appreciative of the changes in local policing policy.

The Chairman thanked those attending for their questions and comments.

5. Independent Custody Visiting Report

Mr Clive Sargeant presented the Independent Custody Visitor report and outlined the role of visitors. He encouraged those present to consider becoming a Custody Visitor.

6. Neighbourhood Watch Schemes

A resident reported that he had recently noted the alarm to be active in the local Somerfield store and had reported this to the Police. He had been unhappy to investigate the area further when asked and had been unhappy with the Police response when telephoning. It was suggested that he write to the Somerfield store regarding the alarm in view of the number of recent false alarm incidents.

7. Dates and Venues of Future Meetings

The date and venue of the next meeting would be advised.

There being no further business, the Chairman thanked everyone for their contributions to the meeting and closed the meeting at 21.15 hours.