

DEVON AND CORNWALL POLICE AUTHORITY

Notes of the **POLICE AUTHORITY LIAISON MEETING** for the Restormel area held at Newquay Tretherras School, Newquay on Monday 9 March 2009 at 7.30 pm

Present:

Police Authority

Mrs J Norton (Chairman)

Mrs K Olver (Administrator)

Constabulary

Inspector D Meredith (Sector inspector for Newquay), Acting Inspector P Thomas (Bodmin Roads Policing Unit), Sergeant E Fox (Neighbourhood Team Leader for St Columb Minor), Constable D Trout (Road Casualty Reduction Officer)

18 people attended as recorded on the Attendance Sheet.

1. Welcome

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

2. Matters of Interest from the Police Authority

The Chairman reported that the Policing Summary document produced in the autumn had been distributed as a statutory requirement. However, she noted that there had been a number of questions regarding the cost of producing the document and clarified that these had been distributed to all households at a cost of 8p per household.

The Council Tax for the year 2009/2010 included an element for the Police precept which had been set at 4.94% and would cost the average household 12 – 15 p per week. The precept had been set at this level to allow the promised 200 officers to return to the streets as requested by the general public. The Devon and Cornwall Force was one of very few Forces in the country who were able to carry out this type of programme during the current year.

Operation Quest was currently being carried out throughout the Force. This was to do with ensuring value for money throughout the Force through improvement of operational processes. Forces that had undertaken this programme had noted increases in efficiency, performance and customer satisfaction.

A new neighbourhood policing website was shortly to become available. The local neighbourhood team page could be reached through typing in the local postcode, accessing information, support, advice and contact details. Information was also available regarding forthcoming PACT meetings, providing the opportunity to impact upon local priorities for the police.

A Policing Pledge was being brought in across the country which would pledge a minimum standard of service in policing across ten specific areas. The pledge aimed to meet the needs of communities and contained standards relating to response times and time taken to deal with telephone calls. The new neighbourhood policing website contained a link to the Policing Pledge site.

3. Consultation Questions

The Chairman asked those present three questions as part of a consultation exercise relating to neighbourhood policing; the responses were as follows:-

- 11 of those present knew their local policing team;
- 11 of those present knew how to contact their local policing team;

- 8 of those present had recently seen Police officers patrolling in their local area.

4. Police Report

Inspector Meredith presented the Police Report for the Newquay neighbourhood team. He reported that:-

- A number of items had received attention having been raised at the last Restormel meeting, held at Fraddon. An officer was requested to attend the next Porth residents' meeting. Unfortunately, there had not been a meeting held since but an AGM and PACT meeting had been held. The civil enforcement officers had been contacted regarding parking issues and had since attended. Contact had been made with the traffic division regarding the B273 Pentewan Road which had already been noted as an on-going issue. Problems with the messaging system had been addressed. The messages could not be received as emails. They could, however, be adjusted to commence on completion of the answerphone message.
- General crime figures from September to February 2009 had been compared with the previous year. There had been a total reduction in reported crimes from 1101 to 916 for the local area.
- The new neighbourhood website which would give access to information for the local neighbourhood team was nearing completion. The website would give details of the local PACT priorities and provide email links for residents.

Sergeant Fox presented the Police Report for the St Columb Major neighbourhood team. She reported that:-

- The local team had been involved in a number of proactive projects and initiatives, including working with a local business to carry out a drugs operation including screening a number of employees. The operation had resulted in drugs being seized from the car park.
- Officers were working in schools and taking part in school assemblies.
- All victims of crime were contacted or received a reassurance visit from a member of the team.
- A Farm Watch scheme was in operation and a number of anti-social behaviour projects were ongoing.

Constable Trout reported that the Road Policing Unit were now working with neighbourhood colleagues as part of the PACT process. Road traffic units were working in country lanes and villages as well as major roads, looking at anti-social driving as well as speeding.

5. 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:

- Local Councillors thanked officers for their full presentation to the local Town Council meeting each month, which members of the public were welcome to attend.
- It was noted that there was a column in the local press giving details of local officers and activities. It was suggested that the column be used to update local telephone numbers and also to give information regarding the new website. Inspector Meredith reported that he was intending to hold a publicity event when the new website was completed which would hopefully include names and photographs of local officers.
- No information appeared to be available on the success of the Crimestoppers scheme. Inspector Meredith agreed to request that figures be made available for the next meeting. Clarification of the Crimestoppers scheme was given and members present were encouraged to report any crimes to the Exeter number as an enormous amount of work had been carried out to improve the call handling facilities with good results to date.
- Concern was raised regarding speeding traffic on the West Pentire road at Crantock. Some traffic calming measures had been carried out, however, there continued to be problems with speeding. It was suggested that the matter should be brought to the attention of the next PACT meeting and also at the Parish Council meeting. PC Trout agreed to raise the concerns regarding the area.

- Concern was also raised regarding speeding traffic and parking issues at Treloggan Road. It was noted that this had been raised as a PACT priority and work had been carried out with Bishop school and the local PCSO. PC Trout had already carried out some speed monitoring in the area which had not revealed excessive levels of speeding. He agreed to feed back information to Mr Paul Hedge regarding the speeds identified during the monitoring period.
- It was suggested that the traffic calming measures introduced around Newquay did not appear to be placed in the areas where speeding was regularly occurring. It was noted that the traffic calming measures were put in place by the County Council, taking into account advice from Police officers.
- The frequency of PACT meetings was questioned. It was noted that these were held as often as local areas felt they wished them to be held and that there was no set schedule for the timing of these events. Also, the format in which the meetings took place varied from place to place as required by local residents. Although the meetings were well advertised, often they were not well attended. It was suggested that, in an area like St Austell with a number of area specific concerns, it might be appropriate to hold meetings for individual areas of the town to ensure that the differing priorities raised by various areas were addressed.
- Problems with parking in St Columb Minor were noted and Inspector Meredith agreed to raise this with the local neighbourhood team.
- More information regarding local Neighbourhood Watch Schemes was requested, including where they were operating and who to contact. The Scheme was felt to be working well in a number of areas and the Police were very supportive.
- It was suggested that a review of a residential area with parking problems caused by the parking of commercial vehicles, compared to an area where this did not occur, might highlight solutions to the problems in future developments. The lack of parking space allocated when planning new developments was considered to be exacerbating parking issues in the area.
- The response times for dealing with 0845 numbers was praised. A member of the public present had recently used the number several times for different incidents and had been very impressed with the service received.
- A member of the public questioned why not all Police stations had their own direct contact numbers. Inspector Meredith explained that different neighbourhood teams chose to operate in different ways, however, email facilities were available. The Police Authority were looking at improving communication with the Police and were examining areas of best practice to see where these could be rolled out to other teams. It was considered that communication was improving through the use of the PACT process.

The Chairman thanked those attending for their questions and comments.

6. **Independent Custody Visiting Report**

Mrs K Scarle presented the Independent Custody Visitor report and outlined the role of visitors. She encouraged those present to consider becoming a Custody Visitor.

7. **Neighbourhood Watch Schemes**

It was noted that the scheme was flourishing in Crantock and a request was made for a Neighbourhood Watch Roadshow event. It was suggested that contact be made with the Restormal Co-ordinator, Mr John Adams. The Mevagissey Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator commented that he found the local PCSO very helpful and supportive.

8. **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.

