

## DEVON AND CORNWALL POLICE AUTHORITY

Notes of the **POLICE AUTHORITY LIAISON MEETING for the Newquay Policing Sector** held at Newquay Tretherras School, Newquay on 19 April 2010 at 7.30 pm

### Present:

#### Police Authority

Ms J Norton (Chairman)

Mrs K Olver (Administrator)

#### Constabulary

Superintendent J Whitmarsh, Inspector D Folland (Sector Inspector Newquay)

14 people attended the meeting.

### 1. Welcome

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced herself, Superintendent Whitmarsh, Inspector Folland and Karen Olver.

### 2. Matters of Interest from the Police Authority

The Chairman reported on matters of interest from the Police Authority:

- Following the daisy consultation held at the last meeting, the majority of the respondents had indicated that they were confident that the police in their area were dealing with antisocial behaviour and crime. The consultation had extended across the whole of Devon and Cornwall and most people completing the daisies tended to agree with the statement (48%). The results would be independently analysed and full information on the consultation would be presented on the Police Authority website.
- A new Deputy Chief Constable had started two weeks previously. Shaun Sawyer had joined the force from Scotland Yard and the Authority were very pleased with the appointment. Sue Howl had joined the Police Authority as the new Chief Executive and had started to make some changes. An interim Treasurer had been appointed and it was hoped that a permanent appointment would be made shortly.
- The Police Authority would be inspected during the coming year for the first time. The Authority were keen to do well in the inspection and were working hard to achieve this.
- The details of members' expenses were now available on the website and it was hoped that information on expenses claimed in previous years would also be made available in this way.
- The Authority had set the precept for the year as part of a three year planned financial strategy. The strategy had, to date, resulted in over 200 officers being returned to front-line duties. At the same time, savings of 15 million pounds had been made from changes to back office functions such as HR. The Council Tax had risen by some 14 pence per household per week, 4.94% for a band D property. The force had been asked to make savings of 3.9 million pounds in the coming year and it was possible that even higher savings could be requested in the following year. The Devon and Cornwall Police Authority were a low spending authority compared to other similar forces and were the lowest spending authority in the South West in terms of Council Tax.
- A new website "Court and Convicted" was now available with details of sentences for those convicted.
- A new Police Report Card system had been brought in by the Government and Devon and Cornwall had been marked as one of the top 15 forces in the Country for this. This was a good starting point and provided a good measure for the public to compare Devon and Cornwall with other Police Authorities. Further information on the report card system was available on the website.
- The Chairman reminded those present that meetings of the Police Authority were webcast and available to download from the website.

### **3. Open Session – General Questions on the Police Authority**

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

- It was noted that the new Court and Convicted site was managed by the criminal justice unit and is not back-dated. This is a process which is building and it was hoped that it would be well received. Information on the site was in the public record and therefore was not considered to infringe upon human rights. It was felt that, as there were no longer courts held in Newquay, that this might overcome any local knowledge gap regarding outcomes. The local officers were also updating victims regarding the site.
- Concern was raised that the meeting did not appear to have been well publicised. It was noted that advertisements had been passed to the local press and radio, as well as local libraries, councils and Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinators. It was noted that there was a lot of consultation being undertaken through the PACT meetings. Concern was raised that the local council noticeboards appeared to be out of date. The Chairman of the Neighbourhood Watch forum agreed to publicise the next meeting through the newsletter and forum.
- Concern was raised regarding the call centre system being remote from the area. It was noted that, when the local call centres were unavailable to take calls, calls were transferred to another area to maintain continuity. The two call centres in Plymouth and Exeter were extremely busy, however, a great deal of work had been done to improve the service to members of the public.
- An additional 19 front-line officers had been received in the mid sector. Newquay had received an additional three officers and all of the other inspectors within the section had received the allocation that they had requested. In addition, a new team had been set up to support the local teams. The back office functions had been re-determined and there had been very few redundancies for back office staff.
- The PACT (Partners and Community Together) system was outlined. Officers were working with other partners to try to resolve local issues. The Police had chaired the meetings to date, however, it was hoped that the local Community Network Manager would be chairing the meetings in the future.

### **4. Police Report**

Inspector Folland presented his report:-

- Policing in Newquay had been positive during the last year and there had been a further reduction in overall crime figures for the area. There had been an increase in the number of violent crimes reported, however vehicle crime and domestic burglaries had decreased substantially.
- The detection rates for the area had been good and effective use had been made of the restorative justice process.
- Work had been done to resolve the problems caused by the Newquay Fight Club, resulting in a number of convictions and two custodial sentences. This has effectively broken up the group who were intent on causing injury and suffering to innocent victims.
- The PACT process is identifying community priorities and partnering work was being undertaken to try to resolve the priorities. For the Newquay town area these were skateboarding in East Street and Bank Street, particularly outside the Post Office and parking and overnight camping in Esplanade Road, Pentire. For the Edgcombe/ Treloggan area the priorities were drugs activity in Mayfield Recreation ground and speeding in Towan Blystra road, particularly the hill by Dukes Way. For the St Columb Minor area the priorities were speeding on East Road, Quintrell Downs and parking problems in Church Street, St Columb Minor.
- The local force website page was being updated regularly and work was to be undertaken to try to identify ways to report this to a wider community.
- The Newquay Safe Partnership was working well and now consisted of over 20 partner groups including the local councils. A number of goals had been set and positive outcomes delivered, however, there was a need to establish the local policing plan for the area. The partnership had been recognised by the Home Office as an example of good practice and they had provided expertise to move the group

forward. The partnership was now one of twelve Neighbourhood Agreement Pathfinder Projects. The partnership will be supporting Newquay through the summer and there is a good relationship with the Newquay Association of Licensed Premises.

Superintendent Whitmarsh commented that she had been invited to speak to the Police Authority regarding the work carried out in Newquay and the work had been raised as best practice to be taken to areas suffering similar problems, such as Torbay.

During 2009/2010 the mid-Cornwall area had performed well and there had been over 400 fewer victims of crime than in the previous year. It was important to continue to reduce crime and a lot of work had been done in partnership with other local bodies. She was very pleased with the continued reduction in the crime figures. A lot of work had been done around restorative justice and she was pleased to report that there were fewer young people involved in the criminal justice system as a result of this work. This was good for both the victims and for the young people involved. The work undertaken by the PCSOs and the neighbourhood teams was also important in engaging with these young people through activities.

The Newquay Safe project had been extremely successful and had resulted in very strong partnerships and a number of projects. A leaflet had been developed for accommodation providers which had been recognised nationally and work had been done in the schools regarding beach and cliff safety. The partnership were looking at a strategy for Newquay and were working together towards this. The work undertaken throughout the summer in Newquay would be a partnership approach with weekly meetings to deal with events encountered in the previous week. There would be a Street Safe portacabin put in place and more signage of the designated place order which now covered the whole of Newquay. The partnership was now linked with Drink Aware who would be carrying out work in Newquay during the summer. The partnership would be looking at issues as they arose during the coming year and building on these for the future.

Operation Everest would be taking place on 23 June 2010 and would be focusing on antisocial behaviour. This activity would be linked closely with the council.

## **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:

- A resident reported concern that there had recently been a group of youngsters who had booked into a local accommodation provider. When walking up the street, they had been drinking from cans and had been very rowdy and had behaved similarly when coming out of their accommodation some time later. Residents were encouraged to report such events to the Police to enable them to speak with the accommodation providers and deal with such issues.
- It was noted that the Home Office provide strict regulations regarding the reporting of crimes. The recording of crimes was continually audited and it was noted that the number of crimes recorded was reducing nationally.
- Request was made for a written Police report to be made available to attendees at such meetings to allow figures and statistics to be taken back to local meetings for reporting.
- A resident commented that he considered that Newquay residents knew where they wanted to be in ten years time already and that they definitely did not want the events of the past few years to continue. It was considered that the partnership was working much better since the advent of the new Cornwall Council and that it had been helpful having the new Community Network Manager in place. A positive attitude had started to percolate around the town and it was noted that the local neighbourhood team were committed to high visibility work around the town. There was now a need to determine short-term, medium-term and long-term strategies for the future of the town as well as dealing with the immediate problems.
- Work was being undertaken to make the management of Police logs more effective and neighbourhood teams would be asked to make figures more available on the website.

- The action list from the previous meeting was reviewed. It was noted that there were only a few custody centres in existence due to the extremely high building and management costs for these units in what was a very low crime area. All teams were using local custody for up to 6 hours except in Newquay.
- It was noted that local crime figures were given at the local Parish Council meetings each month and that there were some crime statistics available on the crime mapping site.
- The problems with skateboarding in Manor Road had been brought up at the last town council meeting, however, nothing appeared to be done about this. Inspector Folland agreed to raise this with the local team.
- A resident reported concern that a neighbour had been stopped whilst using his mobile phone when driving, when the Police appeared to be doing the same themselves. It was noted that the Police radios were not hand held and that remote sets were available in most vehicles. The individual radios were only used when driving in emergency situations.
- Cornwall Council had issued a leaflet informing readers of the actions to be taken when noting cars for sale on the highway.

#### **6. Independent Custody Visitor**

In the absence of an Independent Custody Visitor, the Chairman outlined the role and reported that there had been a recent successful recruiting drive. Some of the visitors also operated the dog welfare scheme and inspected the dog handling units.

#### **7. Neighbourhood Watch Schemes**

John Adams, Chair of the local area scheme reported that there were 179 schemes in the old Restormel area covering over 8000 households. The involvement of local schemes in a recent house fire incident was noted. Involvement in the scheme was considered to have a very positive effect on local neighbourhoods with significantly less crimes reported in areas covered by Neighbourhood Watch Schemes.

#### **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 pm.