

## DEVON AND CORNWALL POLICE AUTHORITY

Notes of the **POLICE AUTHORITY LIAISON MEETING** for the **RESTORMEL** area held at the Penrice Community College, St Austell on Monday 5 October 2009 at 1930hrs.

**Present:**

### **Police Authority**

Mr Bryan Preston - (Chairman)

Mrs Pauline Ward PALM - Administrator

### **Constabulary**

Inspector Stuart Gibbons - Sector Inspector St Austell

19 people attended the meeting 16 of whom signed the Attendance Sheet.

#### **1. Welcome & Housekeeping**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting, asked those present to introduce themselves and advised attendees of the housekeeping relating to the venue and meeting. The Chairman asked those present to complete the 'daisy' questionnaire that was being undertaken to look at diversity.

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

Interviews to appoint the new Chief Executive have been scheduled for the end of the month. A new treasurer will be appointed as soon as possible. The budget for 2008/09 was within 0.05% of allocated expenditure.

Mike Bull has been appointed as the new Chairman of the Authority and Bryan Preston the Vice-Chairman. Two new independent members have been appointed, Lady Jan Stanhope and David Percival. Due to the council re-organisation in Cornwall Mike Clayton and William Jenkin have been appointed.

The public can attend Police Authority meetings which are held at Exeter. They are also broadcast live via the website and meetings are also archived so can be watched at a later date.

The Chairman then opened the meeting to questions following the Police Authority report, a summary of which are listed below:

- It was confirmed that Pat Lamshead had resigned from the Police Authority and is being replaced by William Jenkin.
- Mayor of Fowey asked that if possible could the next meeting be held in Fowey.
- Clarification was given how members of the Police Authority were appointed. The independent members are appointed by application and interview with the Council members appointed by political groups.

#### **3. Police Report**

Inspector Gibbons distributed his report for St Austell and Newquay during the Period April 2009 – August 2009. He also included a comparison by providing the statistics for the same period in the previous year.

	St Austell		Newquay	
	Apr-Aug 2009	Apr-Aug 2008	Apr-Aug 2009	Apr-Aug 2008
Total No. of Crimes	1434	1432	1254	1268
Detection Rate	28.2%	24.60%	27.10%	21.9%

The detection rate is set at 33% and work is being completed to achieve this objective. Fixed penalties, restorative justice and cautions are being used more often to deal with offenders and this was having a positive effect. The crime trends for St Austell were going down however, Newquay had seen a rapid increase during the summer but this is due to the number of visitors.

The crime tables covering the period September 2008 – August 2009 were discussed some of the statistics are listed as follows:

	St Austell	Newquay
	Sept 08 - Aug 09	Sept 08 - Aug 09
Total Violent Crime	639	502
Total Vehicle Crime	327	215
Theft/burglary/shoplifting	1109	855
Criminal Damage	962	467
Drug Offences	128	181

There has been a change in how the figures are recorded for serious assault and this had resulted in an increase. Additional work was being completed to reduce criminal damage. Drug offences had increased but this was due to an increase in intelligence and targeting those responsible. Where possible Drugs Dogs were also being used more frequently for drug operations and searches. There had been a rise in some statistics and this was in line with the national trend being seen, however, detection rates have risen.

Questions were invited on the statistics/crime report from those attending. A summary of the discussions is given below:

- Clarification on the annual targets was given with the aim to reduce crime and increase detection rates. These targets were based on the previous year's performance and those given by the Home Office.
- Confirmation was given that if a crime is reported then it will be recorded and given a crime number and used in the statistics. Anti-social behaviour orders (ASBOs) are not recorded. Every Police Force is given different targets.
- The detection rate for this year is 33% and 31% last year. Comparisons are made between similar police forces. It was requested that this information be presented at future meetings.
- Investigation leads times were given. For a routine enquiry most people are visited within 48 hours. An appointments system has been running from 1 June 2009, with a dedicated officer available to attend a routine call from a member of the public within 48 hours. For other, more urgent problems,

these would be allocated to the duty officer to deal with. There is a Policing Commitment pledge, which is a national policy and sets out what you should expect when dealing with the Police. A leaflet for this was available at the meeting.

- The Police Station at St Austell is manned 24 hours a day but has restricted opening hours to the public. There have been staffing issues on the front desk, which are being resolved. It would be desirable to have additional officers available for the long term but due to resource and budget restrictions this may not be possible. Police Authority are keen to have as many officers as possible on the front line and 250 officers have returned to it. This is one of the few forces that have not seen their numbers reduced due to budget restrictions.
- Newquay was the designated custody centre for the area even though St Austell is the largest residential town in Cornwall. It was felt that this could not be cost effective and tied up Police Officers for longer periods. The Police Authority had looked at custody centres but they were expensive to run which was why there had been no cells built at the new station in Bodmin. St Austell Police Station can hold offenders for up to 6 hours if necessary. A request was made for the Police Authority to report to the next meeting on the cost of moving offenders from St Austell to Newquay.

There being no further questions on the statistics Inspector Gibbons updated the meeting on the Sector's initiatives. These include PACT (Police and Communities Together) initiatives. There are 3 priorities for St Austell speeding vehicles, anti-social behaviour and parking. On 14 October Operation Everest will take place, which will look at speeding and uninsured motor vehicles.

There are 16 Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) in the sector who support their Neighbourhood Beat Managers. Both run surgeries locally. The neighbourhood website contains lots of information on the Neighbourhood team.

The fear of crime is still a problem although crime rates are low. Street Pastors are due to start shortly. They work independently to help vulnerable people.

Pub watch initiatives are working well.

In response to a question on the purchase of alcohol it was confirmed that Trading Standards run test purchase operations supported by the police. These operations would appear to be working as the premises, such as large supermarkets, are being found to be more robust with the selling of alcohol. One of the biggest problems is older people buying alcohol for young people. The Police are taking action by way of prosecution where possible.

#### **4. Open Session – General Questions on Policing Issues**

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

- The issue of the lack of police presence in the town centre was causing concern for traders. There are increased Police numbers and anti-social behaviour is a priority. Police Officers and PCSOs do patrol the town centre daily and other Police Officers can be called upon if necessary. PCSOs are not fully trained to deal with confrontation but do have powers to detain where necessary. Special Constables are also used especially in the evenings. Inspector Gibbons advised that he would look at the problems with vehicles using Fore Street.

- PCSOs have been given all the powers they can have. They work locally with schools and engage with young people on a daily basis. They collect a lot of intelligence that can be used when investigating crimes. The PCSO for the St Blazey area has been given use of an office on the old Par Docks site, this in addition to the existing St Blazey police station. This extra facility will give more flexibility to their role.
- With the proposals for a further 5000 new houses in the area there were no plans to increase police numbers although this would be reviewed locally and monitored by the Police Authority.
- Following the formation of the new Cornwall Council it was felt that Police Officers from the whole area covered should be attending along with members of Town and Parish Councils. The Community Network Manager for East Cornwall offered assistance to publicise meetings. Clarification was given on what happened to the notes taken at the meeting.
- A request for a PACT meeting to be held in St Austell was received. Local area priorities were publicised on the website.

#### **5. Independent Custody Visiting Report**

The Chairman outlined the role of an Independent Custody Visitor and advised that the Police Authority were looking for volunteers. A leaflet was available at the meeting for those interested.

#### **6. Neighbourhood Watch Schemes**

The Chairman thanked the co-ordinators for the work that they do.

#### **7. Dates and Venues of Future Meetings**

To be advised

The Chairman thanked the speakers and everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 2115hrs.