

## DEVON AND CORNWALL POLICE AUTHORITY

Notes of the **POLICE AUTHORITY LIAISON MEETING for the Penzance Policing Sector** held at Cape Cornwall School, St Just, on Wednesday 24 March 2010 at 19.30hrs.

### Present:

#### Police Authority

Mr M Hicks (Chairman)

Mrs C Horton (Administrator)

#### Constabulary

Superintendent M Orpe (LPA Commander – West Cornwall), Sergeant P Rowland (Neighbourhood Team Leader - Penzance), PC D Care (St Just Neighbourhood Team)

11 people attended the meeting, 10 of whom had signed the attendance register.

### 1. Welcome, Introduction and Housekeeping

The Chairman welcomed all those present at the meeting and introduced himself as the Devon & Cornwall Police Authority (DCPA) Member representing the Isles of Scilly. He also introduced the Police Officers in attendance and reported that the minutes of the meeting will be presented to the next full meeting of the Police Authority and will be available to view on the DCPA website.

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

The Chairman reported that significant progress had been made towards achieving the Chief Constable's goal to become one of the top ten performing Forces in the country, however, public confidence had recently fallen and therefore there is a Force-wide focus on improving this situation. Although the DCPA is not responsible for operational policing, it holds the Chief Constable to account and monitors the spending of the police budget of £287m. The DCPA recently set the precept at 4.95% which equates to 14 pence per week on a Band D property and is one of the lowest in the UK.

The DCPA are currently working with all Community Safety Partnerships in Devon, Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly to agree a Minimum Standards Pledge for tackling Antisocial Behaviour, to which all partners will sign up by 1 April 2010. This will then be widely distributed and circulated to all households in due course.

The Chairman explained the Community Messaging system which enables the police to contact members of the public to ask for their help to prevent or solve a crime in the local area. He requested that all those present complete a form with their contact details so that they can be added to the Community Messaging system.

### 3. Police Report

Sergeant Phil Rowland introduced himself and explained that he is currently covering the Neighbourhood Team Leader role at Penzance. He gave the following report on progress within the Penzance and St Ives Sectors:

- Performance – Both sectors have recorded significant reductions in crime over the past 12 months and St Ives is the top performing sector within the Cornwall area.
- Anti-social behaviour – The Force has made changes in the way that reports are followed up. They are now targeted by the Neighbourhood Teams who work closely with the Anti-Social Behaviour Team at Cornwall Council.
- Public Confidence & Satisfaction – It is recognised that improvements need to be made and therefore the local teams are looking at different ways to publicise the positive work that is going on in the area. This includes working with the local media, improving the neighbourhood sections of the

website and ensuring that officers are out on the beat in areas that maximise their contact with the public.

- Finance & Staffing – the Force is working in a challenging financial climate and is currently aiming to improve services whilst dealing with limited resources. However, all posts within the area are currently filled and there are no vacancies.

Sgt Rowland reported on the following success stories in Penzance:

- Streetsafe – there have been increased patrols and high visibility policing in Penzance Town Centre on Friday and Saturday nights and officers have been working closely with the council's licensing department. This has had a positive effect on the number of alcohol related crimes.
- Domestic Burglaries – there had been a recent spate of 3-6 burglaries per week in Penzance but this has been resolved since the apprehension of several offenders.
- Controlled Drugs – a number of warrants have been issued and stop-checks carried out which have had positive results.

PC Dan Care introduced himself and explained that he had moved to Cornwall two years ago to join the Neighbourhood Team in St Just having previously been a response officer in another Force. He noted the success of the new police office in St Just which has been popular with local residents and has helped to improve the visibility of the police in the area. The current PACT priorities for the area are:

- Dog fouling – work is on-going with partner agencies to tackle this issue.
- Traffic offences – funding has been secured for an advertising trailer which has been placed in strategic locations to highlight the danger of speeding and using a mobile phone when driving. The neighbourhood team have also been working with the traffic unit to target problem areas.
- Parking – this has been a long-term issue in St Just so the police are trying to encourage the Civil Enforcement Officers to visit the area more frequently.
- Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) – Officers have been working closely with the Cornwall Council ASB Team and have been implementing the ASB process to improve the behaviour of individuals who cause persistent problems. The recent La Frouder Festival was a great success with fewer ASB incidents than in previous years.
- Pubwatch – a new scheme has been set up covering Sennen, St Just and Pendeen which is working well to date.

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

The Police Officers and Members of the Authority responded to a number of questions from the public and a summary of the discussion is given below:

- Police involvement in PACT meetings – the arrangements for meetings vary from area to area. The police were originally instrumental in setting them up, but they are intended to be one of many partners rather than the lead organisation. Attendance at the meetings in Penzance and St Just is usually very good and they tend to be both positive and productive. It was noted that the PACT meetings in Camborne and Redruth are run by the Town Councils and chaired by the Mayor/Mayoress which works well.
- The Neighbourhood Team in St Just were praised for their work in the area. The new Police Office helps to reassure people and lowers their fear of crime.
- Effectiveness of Police Authority Liaison Meetings – the Community Engagement Committee at the DCPA is currently reviewing the effectiveness of the meetings and discussing alternative ways of engaging with the public. It was suggested that they could be linked with the Cornwall Council Community Network meetings, although transport to these may be difficult for those without access to a car.

- Publicity material – it was noted that the West Penwith area suffers from some of the lowest levels of computer usage in Cornwall and therefore information needs to be produced in a variety of formats in order to reach the widest possible audience.
- Firearms Team – this is a very professional and highly trained team, which includes a number of women, and they are deployed as required.

The Chairman thanked the audience for their participation and also thanked the Police Officers in attendance for their input.

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

There was no Independent Custody Visitor (ICV) present to give a report.

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

Dates and venues to be advised.

There being no further business, the Meeting closed at 20.50hrs.