

## DEVON AND CORNWALL POLICE AUTHORITY

Notes of the **POLICE AUTHORITY LIAISON MEETING** for **CARADON** held at the Guildhall, Saltash on Monday, 22 September 2008 at 19.30 hours

### Present:

#### Police Authority

Mr C Wallin ..... Chairman

Mrs K Olver (PALM Administrator)

#### Constabulary

Superintendent C Downham

Inspector M Williams (Sector Inspector for Saltash, Callington and Torpoint)

Inspector M Taylor (Traffic Inspector, Operations Traffic West)

PC D Trout (Road Casualty Reduction Officer, East Cornwall)

24 people attended the meeting, all of whom signed the Attendance Book.

### 1. Opening Remarks

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

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

The Chairman outlined the new Government system for appointment of Members of the Police Authority and explained that he would be ending his term of office at the end of September 2008. He explained that anyone was eligible to apply to be a Member of the Police Authority and that further information could be obtained from the Police Authority offices. He informed those present that the forthcoming meeting of the Police Authority would be available to the public via web-cast through the Internet.

The Chairman opened the meeting to those present with questions regarding the Police Authority:-

- Web-site - The commencement date of the new improved Internet site for the Police Authority was questioned. It was noted that the Constabulary web-site was currently being updated to include a feedback section and that it would shortly be moved to a new server. The new web-site would allow e-mails to be sent direct to neighbourhood teams but would not, at this stage, include the new traffic policing section. It was noted that e-mails received by neighbourhood teams referring to work not carried out by those sections would be forwarded on for action by other departments or the County Council as appropriate.

### 3. Local Policing Summary 2008-2009

The Chairman invited those present to collect a copy of the Local Policing Summary from the table at the end of the meeting if they had not already received one.

### 4. Consultation Questions

The Chairman asked those present if they had received copies of the summary document through the post. Of those present, 10 had received the document and all 10 had looked through the document. However, they had not felt the information included to be particularly relevant as it was not specific to their geographical area.

### 5. Police Report

Inspector Williams presented the report regarding the Saltash, Torpoint and Callington sector.

- There were currently 10 patrolling officers in Saltash and also at Torpoint, with 5 in Callington providing 24 hour Police cover for the three towns. There had been 1574 incident logs and 1131 crimes reported since April 2008 and this was the highest number of the four sectors. It had been a busy summer with

180 arrests and a number of local events taking place. The support from the Special Constabulary in relation to these events was very helpful. There had been a number of staffing issues in the sector during the period.

- The neighbourhood team had worked extremely hard to target anti-social behaviour within the town which occurred mainly on Friday nights with mostly youngsters involved. The number of crimes in the area had been above the target with detection rates slightly below force average.
- There had been 31 offences of vehicle crime and the sector had the best detection rate in Cornwall for this type of crime at the present time. There had been 8 offences of domestic burglary, however, a number of these could have been avoided if simple security measures had been undertaken by the householders concerned. There had been problems with numberplate theft in the area for which a young person had been charged.
- There had been a worrying trend of children throwing stones and smashing windows. In addition, a significant amount of officer time had been spent in looking after inebriated young people and dealing with antisocial behaviour on Friday nights. Use of Section 27 had been successful in dealing with such problems in the St Budeaux area and was now being used in Saltash.
- All three sections were engaging in partnership and neighbourhood policing activities. A bid had been placed for additional staffing in Callington as there were some significant issues both within the town and within the rural surrounding area. A successful 'On-Side' project had been held initiated by Pete May which engaged local youngsters in football activities. Other initiatives were being investigated, including boxing and funding was currently being sought to support these activities.
- The Partners and Communities Together (PACT) process had identified local priorities for action. The meeting held at Callington had been well attended by some 70 people but had not attracted similar audiences in Torpoint. 6700 cards had been distributed to households in Saltash and responses were being reviewed.

## 6. General Questions

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

- Information for Police – The information required by Police from the public was questioned in regard to nuisance parking. It was noted that a Section 59 notice could be issued with seizure of vehicles causing continued nuisance. Members of the public were asked to provide vehicle details and registration numbers when reporting nuisance vehicles.
- Underage drinking – The Pubwatch scheme was in place in all three towns and had resulted in a number of people being banned. There was also an Off-watch scheme in place, however, it had been noted that older youths were buying alcohol during the daytime for supply to younger underage persons. It was noted that the over 21 scheme was voluntary and not enforceable.
- Sector boundaries – St Mellion and St Dominick were identified as part of the Saltash area for Policing purposes.
- Cyclists on the pavement – This was noted to be a problem both with youngsters and older cyclists during the day and the evening. Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) would be asked to look out for and speak with those using the pavements in this way.
- Pilmere estate – Instances of anti-social behaviour on the estate were reported, also dangerous behaviour by younger children playing 'chicken' on the roads. Concern was raised whether the fact that the road had not been adopted to date would affect Policing on the estate. The roads appeared to be turning into a racetrack. In addition, children had been seen flattening the bollards on the estate by sitting on them in large groups. There had been screaming from the park area at 12.00 am and residents had been unsure whether to call the Police. Police had visited the area the previous Friday evening and found it to be quiet at the time of their visit. Inspector Williams agreed to ask the Neighbourhood Beat Manager and PCSOs to increase the number of visits to the area.
- Parish Council meetings – A request was made for Police attendance at local Parish Council meetings at least once annually to update councillors on local issues and progress. Unfortunately, it appeared

that, due to shortages of staff over previous months, this had not taken place and Inspector Williams agreed to address this matter with staff.

- Callington Road, Saltash – Concern was raised over increasing problems with speeding traffic along the road and also North Road. It was noted that speeding was an area of concern within the town, however, recent installation of a speed information sign had improved the matter slightly. Inspector Williams agreed to look into increasing traffic section cover for the area. It was suggested that use of unmarked vehicles in the area between 7.00 and 8.30 am would be helpful in reducing speeding. Inspector Williams commented that the Force was looking to improve visibility of vehicles to reassure the public and that increased numbers of unmarked vehicles were unlikely.
- Traffic Calming – A request was made for an alternative to speed bumps. It was noted that speeding was identified throughout Cornwall as one of the top three areas of concern. There were mobile speed cameras available to neighbourhood teams which were not to the same specification as those used by the traffic police, however, these had been found to be useful in reducing speeding.
- Parked vehicles – Problems were reported with inappropriate parking at Landulph School by parents. This matter would be raised with the neighbourhood team for action.
- Staffing – The force was commended for the stability of the local neighbourhood team in Saltash over past months. It was noted that there had been less abstraction of officers over recent months. A successful bid had been placed for additional staff and it was anticipated that a further 5 officers would shortly be released to work in the Saltash area. Comment was made regarding the role of PCSO staff and their working hours. PCSOs were on duty to 10.00 pm and their work was specifically within the community. Over the past ten years the number of Police officers had continually increased to 3500 uniformed officers with 356 PCSO staff appointed in addition to this number. These officers and PCSOs were also supported by a number of Special Constables.
- Custody Suites – Request was made for more local provision of custody suites to avoid officers having to travel to Launceston or Plymouth. It was noted that there were only three such suites within the County due to the specialist provisions required and that it was not considered feasible to increase this.
- Response Times – Average response times were questioned. For urgent matters rung through on 999 services, the response times were 20 minutes in rural locations and 15 minutes in cities. For prompt action calls, response times were approximately 45 minutes. There was no specific response time for routine matters.
- Call Centre – Complaints were received regarding lack of local knowledge by operators and delays in calls being dealt with. It was noted that the central call facility remained a problem and was currently being addressed.
- CATS Scheme – Officers were commended for their work with the Community Action Through Sports (CATS) scheme.

## **7. Independent Custody Visiting Report**

There was no Custody Visitor present to give a report. The Chairman outlined the role of Custody Officers to those present.

## **8. Neighbourhood Watch Schemes**

There were no Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinators present to give a report.

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

Wednesday, 18 March 2009 at Torpoint Community School, Torpoint at 7.30 pm.

The meeting finished at 9.25 pm.