

DEVON AND CORNWALL POLICE AUTHORITY

Notes of the **POLICE AUTHORITY LIAISON MEETING** for the **CARRICK** area held in The Memorial Hall, Perranporth on Wednesday 3rd September 2008 at 19.30hrs.

Present:

Police Authority

Mr B Preston Chairman

Mrs C Horton (Administrator)

Constabulary

Superintendent J Whitmarsh (Mid-Cornwall), Inspector M Richards (Sector Inspector - Truro), Sergeant S Tonkin (Perranporth & St Agnes), PC S Pinder (Neighbourhood Beat Manager - Perranporth)

17 people attended the meeting all of whom signed the attendance register

1. Welcome & Housekeeping

The Chairman welcomed everyone and thanked them for their attendance, then introduced the officers present at the meeting.

2. Matters of Interest from the Police Authority

The Chairman drew attention to the Police Authority Newsletter and highlighted the dates of the next full Police Authority meetings which can be attended by members of the public at Police HQ at Middlemoor or can be viewed online via a live web-cast.

The Chairman also highlighted the financial out-turn for 2007-08 which showed a very slight underspend of £47,000, which was a significant achievement. He also noted that crime levels had dropped and public confidence levels had increased, both of which are key targets within the Local Policing Plan.

3. Local Policing Summary 2008/2009

The Chairman explained that the Police Authority has a legal obligation to produce and distribute the Local Policing Summary. There had been problems with the distribution of this document last year, but it was hoped that these issues would be resolved this year.

4. Consultation Questions

The Chairman asked for a show of hands to assess how many people had received the Local Policing Summary. Four of the 17 people present recalled receiving it and all of them had read the information provided and found it to be both interesting and informative.

5. Police Report

Inspector Richards explained that there are two Neighbourhood Teams in the local area, one covering Perranporth, Cubert, St Newlyn East and Goonhavern; and the other covering St Agnes, Porthtowan and Mount Hawke. Partners and Communities Together (PACT) priorities have been identified in each area and there are common themes that occur across the area, including anti-social behaviour, youth issues, speeding and parking. He was very proud to report that there had been a 23.8% reduction in crime in the Perranporth area over the past 12 months which is one of the best improvements in the area, and that crime was also down by 13% in the St Agnes area. He felt that it was important to highlight the fact that total crime in the area is very low, but added that there is still room for improvement over the next five years.

Superintendent Whitmarsh has responsibility for the Mid-Cornwall area which covers Truro, St Austell, Newquay and Falmouth and she also has 3 countywide areas of responsibility: Anti-social behaviour, young people and customer satisfaction. She praised the phenomenal reduction of crime in the local area

and felt that Neighbourhood Policing had been key to this success. However, she recognised that customer satisfaction was still poor in some areas and encouraged the public to identify areas of service that had not been to a satisfactory standard in order that improvements can be made.

Sergeant Tonkin explained that the following priorities were currently being tackled in the local area:

- There had been some success in reducing anti-social behaviour on one of the local housing estates following a well-attended public meeting which involved representatives from a number of local agencies.
- Planning permission has been obtained, along with a grant from Carrick District Council, for a youth drop-in centre.
- A suitable area has been identified for a skateboard park, but there has been a disappointing response from the local young people who were due to survey other local facilities to identify what equipment they would like included.
- The Neighbourhood Team is working with the Parish Council to look into the introduction of CCTV in the centre of Perranporth, by the Tywarnhayle Inn, where there is a problem with anti-social behaviour and underage drinking.
- Speed checks have been carried out in the Goonhavern and Budnic Hill area.

Sergeant Tonkin urged people to report any concerns that they have regarding their local area, either by using the PACT cards, visiting or phoning the police station or by approaching the officers direct. The Chairman re-emphasised the change of focus for the Force and the way in which they now operate. He explained that PACT meetings take place very regularly throughout the area and are a good opportunity for local people to help improve their community.

6. Open Session – General Questions on Policing Issues

The Police Officers and Members of the Authority responded to the following questions from the public:

- Lack of cover for sick/annual leave within the Neighbourhood teams – It is recognised that this can be a problem within small teams, but there will be a full review of the summer policing in the autumn when specific staffing will be discussed prior to the planning being carried out for next year. It is positive that the absence of these officers has been noticed and indicates the high profile of the neighbourhood teams. A new team, comprising 1 sergeant, 4 PCs and a number of Special Police Officers, is due to be set up to cover the whole of mid-Cornwall to support Neighbourhood Teams in dealing with anti-social behaviour and other PACT issues. This may also help alleviate the problems caused by staff leave.
- Recruitment of Special Constables – The Force is responsible for this, rather than the Police Authority, and it is possible that they may use the Neighbourhood Watch network as a channel of communication to publicise recruitment drives.
- Meetings between Neighbourhood Watch and the Neighbourhood Teams – Although these have not taken place recently, the system is currently being reviewed in Carrick and will hopefully be reinstated in due course.
- Local officers, and in particular Sergeant C Manuell, were praised for their successful dealings with a large group of Travellers in Chacewater.
- Anti-social behaviour in Threemilestone – The local officers are aware that there is a problem in this area and have tried to tackle it in a number of different ways. A partnership approach is required and Sergeant Manuell is due to be focussing on this and working with the playground committee, local schools, the college and young people in the area.
- Month of Action on Anti-social behaviour – This will take place throughout October in the mid-Cornwall area. The Neighbourhood Teams will be working with the Community Safety Officer and Anti-social Behaviour Officer at Carrick District Council and each team will have a £400 'Seed for Change' fund which can be used as match funding for local projects.
- Restorative Justice – This can be used as an alternative to prosecution for less serious crimes. 75% of first time entrants to the criminal justice system do not commit any further offences, therefore they

will be given an opportunity, by working with their victims, to understand the real impact of what they've done and to do something to repair the harm rather than go through the Court process.

- Anti-social behaviour by the bus-shelter in British Road and Speeding in Beacon Road – Sergeant Tonkin agreed to look into these matters.
- Additional police vehicle required in Perranporth – It is unlikely that this will be possible as the Force is aiming to reduce its vehicle fleet. The Vehicle User Group monitors vehicle usage and is aware that the mileage on the Perranporth vehicle is particularly high, but they are introducing the pooling of vehicles in the Truro area in order to make better use of the cars that are available.
- Speeding in Goonhavern – Although speed checks have shown that the 'average' speed through the village is not a problem, there are exceptions that need to be targeted in the early mornings and late evenings.
- Parking in Beach Road, Perranporth – The Parish Council, County Highways and the Police are working together to tackle the problems that have arisen during the summer months due to the limited presence of the Parking Enforcement Officer.
- The local officers were congratulated for their hard work and praised for the improvements that have been made in the level of communication.

The Chairman thanked the audience for their participation and positive feedback and also thanked Inspector Richards and his team for all their hard work in the local community.

7. Independent Custody Visiting Report

There was no Independent Custody Visitor present.

8. Date and Venues of Future Meetings

The next Police Authority Liaison Meeting to be held in Carrick will take place on Wednesday 4th March 2009 at 19.30 hrs in the Town Hall, Truro City Council, Truro.

The Chairman also encouraged participation at future PACT meetings in the interim.

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