

DEVON AND CORNWALL POLICE AUTHORITY

Notes of the **POLICE AUTHORITY LIAISON MEETING** for the Carrick area held at the Town Hall, Truro on Wednesday 4 March 2009 at 7.30 pm

Present:

Police Authority

Mr M Hicks (Chairman)

Ms J Zito (PA Member)

Mrs K Olver (Administrator)

Constabulary

Inspector M Richards (Sector inspector for Truro), Sergeant P Grigg (Motor Patrol),

Constable C Hawkins (Motor Patrol)

41 people attended as recorded on the Attendance Sheet.

1. Welcome

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced the Officers present. He introduced Ms Zito, a new Member of the Police Authority, and outlined the make-up and role of the Police Authority. The Chairman informed those present that vacancies on the Police Authority were advertised in the local press.

2. Matters of Interest from the Police Authority

The Chairman explained that the Police Authority had recently set the precept for the year at 4.94%, which equated to approximately 13.5 p each week for a Band D property. The Police Authority were supportive of the Chief Constable's vision to put officers back onto the streets. The Chief Constable wanted the Force to become one of the top Forces in the country by 2012; the aim was to maintain 3500 officers and 356 PCSOs on the street and to achieve Government targets in relation to policing. There had been some delay in releasing officers from desk duties due to staff recruitment, however, it was hoped that the promised 200 additional officers would all be in place by June 2009. Most people were now aware how to contact their local neighbourhood team.

The Chairman reported that the Policing Summary document produced in the autumn had been distributed to all households at a cost of 8p per household. Circulation of the document was a statutory duty each year. He considered that the document contained useful information and hoped that everyone had found it interesting and informative.

3. Consultation Questions

The Chairman asked those present three questions as part of a consultation exercise relating to neighbourhood policing, the responses were as follows:-

- 24 of those present knew their local policing team;
- 38 of those present knew how to contact their local policing team;
- 17 of those present had recently seen Police Officers patrolling in their local area.

4. Police Report

Inspector Richards circulated a leaflet giving contact details and crime figures for the local neighbourhood team. He reported that:-

- Cards to establish the local Partners and Communities Together (PACT) priorities were available to those present.

- The increased number of officers in the locality was starting to have a positive effect.
- A small team of officers and special constables had been created in mid Cornwall to deal specifically with neighbourhood issues identified through the PACT process.
- The Home Secretary had warned of the possibility of increasing crime figures due to the current national financial situation. Local forces were starting to see changes in local crime patterns, with increases in burglaries of dwellings, vehicle crime and drug abuse. Despite the changing pattern, overall crime figures were reduced compared to the previous year.
- The local team were working on building links with the local community and increasing accessibility. There were plans to move the local enquiry office into the town centre and also to move some neighbourhood officers into the town centre. It was hoped that this move would take place within the next six months if suitable premises could be identified.

The Chairman thanked Inspector Richards for his report. He encouraged those present to complete the PACT cards and also to attend any PACT meetings organised for their area.

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:

- Concern was raised regarding problems being experienced at the Poltisco Close play area. Local residents reported teenagers accessing the play area to play football and drink alcohol. The youths were throwing bottles and debris into residents' gardens, kicking footballs into residents' gardens and had been threatening in their behaviour when challenged by residents. It was noted that Penwith Housing Association (PHA) owned the play area but that they had not responded to residents' letters regarding their concerns. Inspector Richards reported that the Police had been called to the area and that they would continue to make patrols but that there needed to be a lasting solution achieved through designing away the problem. He commented that there were similar problems in other PHA play areas and suggested that it would be useful to engage with PHA to look at ways of addressing the issues. Local residents had found their local councillor to be most helpful and the Police had attended when requested, but concern was raised that calling the Police out frequently might exacerbate the situation. A resident of the Trelander area commented that there had recently been some vandalism of the fish and chip shop. He considered that there had not been such problems when the area had been visited regularly by the PCSO but that he had not seen the PCSO in the locality recently. Inspector Richards commented that the Police had finite resources and could not patrol every area. Unfortunately there had recently been some staff sickness issues and the team had also been dealing with a squat problem. A resident of Perranporth reported that there had been similar problems on two estates in Perranporth. A public meeting had been called which had been attended by a number of the youths involved. The meeting had led to a much improved relationship with the local youths and an increase in the number of activities available to local youths. The local neighbourhood beat manager had built up a good relationship with the local youths and thanks were expressed to the team for their hard work.
- Concern was raised regarding the speed of traffic around Truro roads. It was noted that speed checks were taking place on a regular basis.
- Concern was raised regarding enforcement of traffic systems within Truro. It was considered that traffic signs were being ignored by motorists within the town resulting in risk to pedestrians and other road users. A request was made for cameras to be used to enable greater enforcement of the traffic systems.
- Concern was raised regarding skateboarding in major roads in the town, particularly as the users did not wear high visibility or protective clothing. Inspector Richards commented that he was aware of a number of problem areas within the town but again, resourcing was an issue in dealing with these incidents.
- A resident of Park View commented on a current planning application regarding Newham Farm which included provision of a pedestrian footpath through Park View. He considered that the footpath would cause problems for the residents and requested that the Police review the planning application and forward objections if they considered this appropriate.

- A Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator reported his disappointment that the liaison officer contact had not been more successful. He requested that an officer contact him regarding Sunny Orchard Park and Inspector Richards agreed to make arrangements for this.
- Clarification was sought regarding priority of traffic at the conclusion of a bus lane. Sergeant Grigg informed those present that the traffic which was not required to deviate from its original path had the priority at the conclusion of a bus lane.
- Concern was raised regarding the new markings on the Threemilestone roundabout.
- Concern was raised regarding use of the pavement for parking by construction vehicles at Newbridge Lane. Inspector Richards agreed to review the situation.
- Thanks were expressed to the local Police for their hard work in the local area.

The Chairman thanked those attending for their questions and comments. He suggested that a number of the issues raised could be usefully brought to the attention of the next PACT meeting and requested that cards be filled in to allow them to be brought to the next meeting.

6. **Independent Custody Visiting Report**

No Independent Custody Visitor was available to report. The Chairman informed those present that leaflets giving more information on the role of Independent Custody Visitors were available.

7. **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 20.50 hours.

