

DEVON AND CORNWALL POLICE AUTHORITY

Notes of the **POLICE AUTHORITY LIAISON MEETING – CARRICK** held in Falmouth School Hall, Falmouth on Thursday 6 September 2007 at 19.30hrs.

PRESENT

Authority

Mr M Hicks Chairman

Mrs C Horton (Administrator), Miss J Norris (Assistant Chief Executive), Mr B Preston (Member), Mr T Riddle (Independent Custody Visitor), Mr J Rowe (Member)

Constabulary

Sergeant G Claybourn (Neighbourhood Beat Manager), Inspector D Scott (Sector Inspector)

39 people attended the meeting as recorded in the attendance register

1. Welcome & Housekeeping

The Chairman welcomed everyone and thanked them for their attendance. He introduced himself as a Member of Devon & Cornwall Police Authority and explained that there are 18 further members comprising 10 Councillors, 3 Lay Justices and 6 Independent Members. The Chairman then introduced Inspector David Scott and Sergeant Graham Claybourn, both of whom are based at Falmouth Police Station, and went on to explain that issues raised at the meeting would be reported back to the next full meeting of the Police Authority.

2. Police Report

Inspector Scott provided a report on the crime statistics for the Falmouth area, from April to August 2007.

- Vehicle Crime was down by 16%. This figure includes marine crime and 3 Males and 3 juveniles were recently detained by a PCSO for marine theft on the Penryn River as a result of her good knowledge of the local community.
- Domestic Burglary was up by 2.5%
- Other Burglary was up by 9.9%, due to a spate of laptop thefts from schools and industrial premises. Four youths had now been arrested. Smartwater, which has its own unique DNA and shows up under UV light, had been used in schools as a preventative measure over the summer holidays and there had been no further burglaries as a result.
- Common Assault was down by 17.5% and Other Assault was down by 9.8%, which was partially due to late night food take-aways now closing at 01:00hrs to avoid the congregation of people after leaving the town centre nightclubs. The Police intend to make full use of the new policies within the Violent Crime Reduction Act 2006 which will enable groups of young people to be moved on without the need for a Dispersal Order.
- Drug Offences were up by 58.3%.
- Criminal Damage was up by 17.4% and is of concern in Falmouth. It is often difficult to detect due to the speed and nature of the damage, for example damage to car wing mirrors and bodywork, and that it mainly occurs late at night.
- Total Crime was up by 3%.

Inspector Scott reported that all the Neighbourhood Beat Managers are now in place which is ahead of the target set for April 2008. The Neighbourhood Beat Team use locally gathered intelligence to tackle local issues and work with local partners through Partners and Communities Together (PACT). PACT

meetings take place quarterly and enable members of the local community to meet with the police and identify local issues. Issues raised to date in Falmouth include:

- Speeding and Parking - The entrance to Gyllingvase Car Park has been altered and a barrier will soon be installed to avoid miss-use by 'Boy Racers'. The Highways Department has also drafted plans to slow the speed of traffic along the sea front and at Swanpool. Action has also been taken regarding modified exhausts and a number of fixed penalty notices have been issued.
- Public Disorder - The Dispersal Order for Gyllingvase finishes at the end of October and will be reviewed, but may not be required in future, due to the new powers available under the Violent Crime Reduction Act. The recent firework event at Swanpool went smoothly due to additional officers being drafted in to avoid the public disorder that occurred after a similar event last year.
- Litter

Inspector Scott also highlighted two other issues of concern to the public:

- Taser – This device will only be used by trained officers across Devon and Cornwall and the only patrol officers who will have it are in a trial area of Torbay. Tactical Aid Group officers and Armed Response Officers will also have Taser, but must obtain permission from the Control Room before it can be used.
- Call Handling – Inspector Scott gave some statistics to demonstrate the volume of calls being handled on a day to day basis. There had been over 117,600 emergency 999 calls so far this year and in August alone there were almost 26,000 calls of which 91% were answered in less than 10 seconds beating the target of 90%. In addition there had been a further 390,000 non-emergency calls of which 91.7% were answered within the target time of 30 seconds. The call centre is currently looking to take on agency staff in the evenings and at weekends and to streamline the recruitment and training procedure for permanent staff in order to improve the system further. Inspector Scott apologised for the failings in the system, but stressed that the few problems that do occur need to be considered in relation to the high volume of calls handled.

3. Open Session – General Questions on Policing Issues

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

- Firework displays – It is not legal to set off fireworks after midnight and most private displays, e.g. for wedding receptions, take place no later than 22.00hrs.
- Lack of feedback to Neighbourhood Watch Groups – Detailed crime statistics can no longer be sent to Neighbourhood Watch groups and therefore local officers will inform the groups of local crime trends. Sergeant Claybourn agreed to follow this up with a visit to Kimberley Park Neighbourhood Watch Group.
- Youth Disorder in the Boslowick area – Groups of young people have been specifically targeted by the local Neighbourhood Beat Officer and action has been taken where appropriate. One of the ringleaders is currently awaiting sentencing and as a result the problems have reduced.
- Impact of students on policing in the Falmouth/Penryn area – Local police officers have worked very closely with Carrick District Council to employ Community Wardens to tackle specific student related problems. There is concern that as the student population grows as planned the appropriate policing resources will not be available. The Chairman agreed to raise the matter at the next Police Authority meeting on 5th October.
- Bosvale Community Centre – Following a break-in during June the committee had a very positive response from the police and wished for their thanks to be recorded.
- Parking and Road Safety – Road safety and design is the responsibility of Cornwall County Council, but the community can highlight areas of concern and the police report on 'Causation Factors' when an accident occurs so that problem areas can be tackled. All Police Community Support Officers have traffic powers and are able to issue fixed penalty tickets and warnings to people who are driving

inappropriately. Traffic obstructions can be reported on 08452 777444. Sergeant Claybourn agreed to follow up specific issues raised regarding the Seaview Road area.

- Call Handling – A call log number should be given for each call as a matter of course.
- Graffiti – The problem in the town earlier this year was caused largely by two rival gangs and has reduced since one of the culprits was arrested through his work being seen on 'Facebook'.
- Police Officers on long-term sick – This matter is taken very seriously and is constantly monitored. The HR committee has recently met to discuss the overtime issues that have arisen due to officers being on long-term sick.

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

4. Independent Custody Visiting Report

Tom Riddle, an Independent Custody Visitor (ICV) since 1999 who lives in the Restormel area, explained that the Police Authority recruits volunteers to go into custody suites to observe, comment and report on conditions. They visit the suites in Camborne, Newquay and Launceston in pairs, unannounced, and the report they produce is circulated to the Custody Officer and the Police Authority so that any problems can be identified and dealt with. Anyone interested in becoming a volunteer should contact the Police Authority Office.

5. Matters of Interest from the Police Authority

The Chairman explained that the Local Policing Summary 2007-08 had recently been published and would soon be delivered to all homes in the area. The leaflet includes information and contact details for the local area.

The next three Police Authority meetings will be web-cast live from Devon County Council's offices in order to try and make them more accessible to all members of the community. The first of these meetings will be held on Friday 5th October.

6. Date and Venues of Future Meetings

The next Police Authority Liaison Meeting to be held in Carrick will take place in March/April 2008 at a date and venue to be advised.

There being no further business, the Meeting closed at 21.00hrs.

Action List

POLICE AUTHORITY LIAISON MEETING – CARRICK

Falmouth School Hall, Falmouth on Thursday 6 September 2007 at 19.30hrs

Notes Reference Number	Agenda Item	Issues Discussed	Action Required	Action by Whom	Action Update	Complete
3	Open Session	Lack of feedback to Neighbourhood Watch Groups	Visit Kimberley Park Neighbourhood Watch Group	Sergeant G Claybourn		
3	Open Session	Impact of students on policing in the Falmouth/Penryn area	Discuss at the next meeting with the BCU Commander Report the matter at the next Police Authority meeting on 5th October	Ms J Norris Mr M Hicks - Chairman		
3	Open Session	Parking and Road Safety	Follow up the specific issues raised regarding the Seaview Road area	Sergeant G Claybourn		
3	Open Session	Call Handling – A call log number should be given for each call as a matter of course	Follow up why this doesn't always happen	Ms J Norris	Email sent 20.09.07 to Supt CMCD requesting info on procedure for allocating crime number	
3	Open Session	Police Officers on long-term sick	Discuss further after the meeting	Ms J Norris	Email sent to questioner 20.09.07 with sickness report that was presented to HR Committee on 19.09.07	Complete

