

## DEVON AND CORNWALL POLICE AUTHORITY

Notes of the **POLICE AUTHORITY LIAISON MEETING for Carrick** held at the Gerrans Memorial Hall, Portscatho on Tuesday 15 April 2008 at 19.30 hours

### Present:

#### Police Authority

Mr C Wallin ..... (Chairman)

Mrs K Olver (PALM Administrator)

#### Constabulary

Inspector M Richards (Sector Inspector), Sergeant C Manuell (Neighbourhood Team Sergeant), PC D Hargreaves, PC N Duckworth, PC I Blackie, PCSO J Eagles

21 people attended the meeting of whom 18 had 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 drew attention to the document produced by the Police Authority which was available at the meeting.

#### 3. Local Policing Summary 2007-2008

The Chairman commented on the low crime rate in the area.

#### 4. Presentation on Neighbourhood Policing

Inspector Richards reported on the high standard of the local team covering the area. A presentation on Neighbourhood Policing was then given by Sergeant Manuell. During the presentation, Sergeant Manuell outlined the Partners And Communities Together (PACT) process and how communities could become involved in neighbourhood policing. He informed those present that there would be a new web-site launched the following week to enable better local feedback. There had been a recent 'door-knock' in Truro as part of the PACT process and it was clear from this that customer satisfaction had improved over the previous twelve months since the introduction of PACT. He commented that there were 61 neighbourhoods identified within Cornwall and that these had been graded according to crime levels within them. Gradings had been made from levels 1 with the highest level of crime, to grade 4 with the lowest levels of crime, the local neighbourhood was graded as a level 4 area.

The Chairman thanked Sergeant Manuell for his interesting and informative presentation.

The following matters were raised in response to the presentation:-

- It was noted that feedback was available by writing, visiting or telephoning the Police, in addition to looking on the website.
- The local Police were aware that additional resources were required throughout the summer period in Newquay when the population increased significantly. This was being addressed by ensuring that no planned training sessions took place through July or August ensuring that maximum numbers of staff were available, and through changes in shift patterns during this period of time
- Comment was made that a lot of crimes took place on Saturday evenings and it was noted that staffing levels were adjusted to ensure additional cover during this period, with double shifts during these periods. As at March 2008 there were 3500 Police Officers in the force, with 356

Police Community Support Officers which was the most uniformed officers the force had ever had. Additional officers are to be released from back office functions during the current financial year to further increase the number of officers on the streets. The very large geographical area of the force was noted and compared to forces in other areas.

- The huge numbers of people in the Newquay area on a Saturday night had recently been seen at first hand by the Chairman who had been very impressed with the management of these numbers by the local constabulary.
- The Police were trying to increase accessibility and, therefore, maximum use was being made of the website and local press to try to ensure that residents were able to access their local officers. The local officers were noted to be very pro-active in the area and attended a number of local meetings and events.
- The Police Authority was asked to pressure politicians and the Home Office to reduce bureaucracy and paperwork within the force to enable officers to spend more time out and about on the streets. The targets placed by the Home Office on the Police Authority were noted and the need to report these back.
- A bid had currently been placed for new information technology systems for the force, including portable units for use by officers on the street. It was hoped that, should the bid be successful, this might reduce the amount of paperwork required to be completed.
- The very accurate work of the Police Authority Treasurer and his department was commented upon. It was noted that the Treasurer was able to balance the books each year with very little underspend, enabling maximum use of the budget through very careful expenditure control.
- The unpaid hours worked by officers through goodwill were noted and officers were, quite rightly, proud of the work that they carried out, were very dedicated and committed to their roles.
- The change in the management of traffic warden functions from the Police to the local authority was discussed and clarified. The change would take place on 5<sup>th</sup> May 2008 with staff currently undergoing training in anticipation of the new roles. It was noted that a number of the existing traffic wardens had transferred through to PCSO roles. It was suggested that organisers of any large-scale local events ensure that they arrange for traffic warden cover through the local authority as the Police only had powers to move vehicles which were causing obstructions.
- The increased problem with theft of metal throughout the county was noted. Meetings were being held to discuss crime patterns and to target areas experiencing theft where possible. The theft of metal had been raised to a higher priority level within the force as a result of the levels of theft being experienced.

**5. Police Report**

The Police Report was received as circulated at the meeting and there were no further questions.

**6. General Questions**

Questions had been raised following the report on Neighbourhood Policing and there were no further questions raised.

**7. Independent Custody Visiting Report**

There was no Custody Visitor was present to give a report.

**8. Dates and Venues of Future Meetings**

Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2008 at The Memorial Hall, Wheal Leisure, Perranporth at 19.30 pm.

The meeting finished at 20.55 pm.