

DEVON AND CORNWALL POLICE AUTHORITY

Notes of the **POLICE AUTHORITY LIAISON MEETING – KERRIER** held at Redruth School, Tolgus Vean, Redruth on Monday 3 March 2008 at 19.30hrs.

PRESENT

Police Authority

Mr G Hicks Chairman
Mrs C Horton (Administrator)

Constabulary

Inspector M Bolt (Sector Inspector – Camborne, Pool & Redruth), Chief Inspector M Ward (Local Policing Area Commander)

18 people attended the meeting, 17 of whom had signed the attendance register.

1. Welcome & Housekeeping

The Chairman welcomed everyone and thanked them for their attendance. He introduced himself, then introduced Chief Inspector Mike Ward and Inspector Mark Bolt who is one of 12 Sector Inspectors within the Cornwall Basic Command Unit (BCU) and is responsible for the Camborne, Pool and Redruth area.

2. Matters of Interest from the Police Authority

The Chairman reported that the past three Police Authority meetings had been web-cast live and were still available to view on-line on the DCPA website. He also outlined the composition and responsibilities of the Police Authority and reported that Members had recently agreed the budget for the next financial year which would result in an increase in the precept of 7.94% (the equivalent of 20p per week on a Band D property).

3. Local Policing Summary 2007-2008

The Chairman explained that the Local Policing Summary 2007-2008 was a statutory document produced by the Police Authority which was due to have been distributed to all households in Devon and Cornwall either via Royal Mail or with a free newspaper. However, there had been problems with the distribution and therefore the Chairman asked how many of those present remembered receiving a copy. 7 people received the document and 11 people did not receive it. Those who received it felt that the information was rather generalised and would prefer to see more detailed information, such as an analysis of the number and distribution of police officers in each area (sector by sector). They would also like contact telephone numbers for the local police stations to be included. Chief Inspector Ward explained that each Neighbourhood Team now has a direct dial number with voice mail facilities and this could perhaps be included in future editions.

4. Neighbourhood Policing and the local Police Report

Chief Inspector Ward explained that the aim of Neighbourhood Policing is to deliver, to a National standard which will be monitored and graded, what the community wants rather than imposing Force-led priorities. The police now have a duty to consult the public to identify, prioritise and act on local issues.

Inspector Bolt explained that Neighbourhood Policing is the day-to-day face of policing and incorporates the work of the two Neighbourhood Teams along with the Crime Investigation Team and 35 patrol officers, all covering a population of 55,000 in the Camborne-Pool-Redruth area.

The two Neighbourhood Teams comprise the following officers:

Camborne Team

Camborne West	1 Neighbourhood Beat Officer (NBO) & 1 Police Community Support Officer (PCSO)
Camborne North	1 NBO & 1 PCSO
Camborne South	1 NBO & 3 PCSOs (Super Output Area – due to the inclusion of Pengeggon Estate) + 1 PCSO attached to West Cornwall Anti Social Behaviour Team

Redruth Team

Redruth North	1 NBO & 3 PCSOs (1 funded by Redruth Town Council)
Redruth South	1 NBO & 2 PCSOs
Illogan North	1 NBO & 1 PCSO
Illogan South	1 NBO & 1 PCSO + 1 NBO & 1 PCSO dealing with Gypsies and Travellers

Each area has at least one Police and Communities Together (PACT) panel which is responsible for identifying local priorities and the current priorities for each area are as follows:

Camborne

- Vagrants in the Town Centre
- Anti-social driving in Trelowarren Street
- Anti-social behaviour of young people

Redruth

- Anti-social behaviour
- Speeding
- Off-road motorcycles

There is also a team of 15 active Special Police Officers who are currently working on an area wide project to tackle speeding in rural areas. Further area-wide work includes the TAG project which is tackling graffiti by working with local young people; and tackling anti-social behaviour by using legislation to influence the behaviour of persistent offenders.

The Police Officers present responded to the following questions from the public about Neighbourhood Policing:

- PCSOs are having a positive impact in the area, but need to work later into the evening when most problems occur – currently all PCSO contracts end at 22:00, but this is being reviewed and may change in future.
- Lack of police cover in the Mining Villages due to being part of the Redruth South Neighbourhood Team – although the resources are shared across the area, there is a greater number of officers in total who can work as a team to tackle specific issues as they arise. Patrol officers also work towards PACT priorities when they are not attending other incidents and therefore boost the number of officers available.
- Availability of money for the police to put into partnership working at a local level – all finance is channelled through the Local Area Agreement at a County level and therefore there are no individual budgets available at a local level.
- Disproportionately high number of officers allocated to deal with Gypsies and Travellers – the effect of the targeted work with this specific community has been dramatic in terms of preventing problems, building trust and working with other partners to solve a wide range of issues. As priorities change, these resources can be moved elsewhere in future.
- Assessment and monitoring the benefits of 'preventative policing' – it is very difficult to measure how much crime is prevented by the Neighbourhood Teams apart from looking at overall crime statistics and trends.

- Tackling anti-social behaviour in young people - the neighbourhood teams are making some progress and are now looking at introducing Parenting Orders alongside Anti-social Behaviour Orders (ASBOs) where necessary. The teams are also working with the Education Action Zone and the Youth Offending Team to steer young people away from crime. The overall aim is to change behaviour at the earliest stage rather than issuing ASBOs straight away and, where appropriate this can involve working with Housing Associations if there are breaches of individuals' tenancy agreements.
- Dispersal Order in Redruth North – this scheme was very successful due to there being good alternative provision of facilities for the young people to use when they were moved on, and has been used an example of the correct way to introduce Dispersal Orders.

6. Open Session – General Questions on Policing Issues

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

- Distribution between Devon and Cornwall of the 200 officers being bought to the 'front-line' – The Police Force will be responsible for the distribution of these officers and the strongest case possible will be made for them to be allocated to the West Cornwall area.
- Possible motorbike training at RAF Portreath – it is necessary to think creatively to engage young people and a scheme to train young people to ride safely would be beneficial, although there is some reticence by the RAF to use their property.
- Motorbikes and Quad Bikes on the Mineral Tramways – Operation Allay was successful last year and will be repeated this year. The Neighbourhood Teams are working with the Anti-social Behaviour Team to seize vehicles where appropriate.
- Cyclists travelling the wrong way in Trelowarren Street – officers are working hard to tackle this issue and have recently seized 9 bicycles to try and educate people and change behaviour. Riding on the pavements is illegal and a £30 fixed penalty fine can be issued to offenders.
- Fly-tipping at Tregajorran – this has been a problem for some considerable time and a meeting had been arranged for the following day. Inspector Bolt had been to look at the area to identify ways that the police can work with their partners to tackle the problem.
- Call Handling and prioritisation of 999 calls – the call centres are staffed by Police Staff who follow a procedure for prioritising all calls according to their urgency. The Chief Officer Group recognises that there have been problems with the call centre in the past and is constantly monitoring, and looking to improve, the service provided.
- Non-emergency phone number – the Central Government funding for the 101 non-emergency phone number has been withdrawn following a trial of the scheme.
- Need to improve feedback following reports of crimes – this is recognised as being an area for improvement and Station Officers are now tasked each day with providing feedback to callers, often through visits being made by PCSOs.
- Members of the public taking photographs to record crimes being committed – it is legal for individuals to take photographs and there have been many successful incidences of criminals being caught following public photographs being published in the press. However, it is worth being careful if taking photographs involving children and young people.
- Clash of meetings – the Police Authority will try to liaise with town and District Councils to avoid clashes in future where possible.
- Suggestion that young people should be able to visit the police station as a deterrent - this currently happens when young people receive their final warning; they are shown the cells and the procedure they would go through if their behaviour continues. The Police Cadet scheme has also been successful in changing the behaviour of some young people and has been recognised internationally for its success, with an exchange visit to Norway planned in the near future to promote the scheme.
- Suitability of sentencing to fit the crime – there are widely varying views on sentencing, in particular with regard to the current pressures on prisons.

- Parking overnight on pavement at Plain-an-Gwarry – parking offences are being decriminalised as of 1 April 2008 and will then be handled by Cornwall County Council who will be responsible for issuing fines as appropriate.

Chief Inspector Ward thanked the members of the local community for their work in support of the police in the local area. The Chairman thanked the audience for their participation and feedback and also thanked Chief Inspector Ward and Inspector Bolt for their input.

7. Independent Custody Visiting Report

Mike Eddowes reported that the Independent Custody Visitors are now treated very well when they visit the local police stations to carry out their checks and praised the police for their handling of those in custody.

8. Dates and Venues of Future Meetings

Thursday 16 October 2008 at 19:30	Wesley Centre, Chapel Street, Camborne
Thursday 31 March 2009 at 19:30	Methodist Church, Coinagehall Street, Helston

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