

DEVON AND CORNWALL POLICE AUTHORITY

Notes of the **POLICE AUTHORITY LIAISON MEETING** for **KERRIER** held at The Wesley Centre, Chapel Street, Camborne on Thursday 16 October 2008 at 19.30hrs.

Present:

Police Authority

Mr G Hicks Chairman

Mrs C Horton (Administrator), Ms M Taylor (Independent Custody Visitor)

Constabulary

Superintendent M Orpe (Local Policing Area Commander – West Cornwall), Inspector C Strickland (Sector Inspector – Camborne, Pool & Redruth), Sergeant J Adams (Redruth), PC Marc Griffin (Redruth)

20 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 and the police officers present, then briefly outlined the role and responsibilities of both the Devon & Cornwall Police Authority and the Constabulary.

2. Matters of Interest from the Police Authority

The Chairman reported that the Authority has now adopted a Constitution which makes the organisation more transparent and accountable in undertaking its role and responsibilities. He also invited the public to attend the next meeting of the Police Authority which will be held on 5 December at Middlemoor, or alternatively the meeting can be watched via a web-cast on the Police Authority website.

3. Local Policing Summary 2008-2009

The Chairman explained that all households should have received a copy of the Local Policing Summary through the post in recent weeks. The Police Authority has a statutory duty to produce this document which outlines the role of the Authority and gives details of the Police performance in the past year along with targets for the forthcoming year.

4. Consultation Questions

There had been problems with the distribution of the Local Policing Summary last year, but it was hoped that these issues would be resolved this year, therefore the Chairman asked for a show of hands to assess how many people had received their copy. 5 of the 20 people present recalled receiving the document, most of whom had read it, but only some found the information to be useful and of interest.

5. Police Report

(Including an update on Operation Goodnight)

Inspector Strickland explained that he had been in post in Camborne, Pool and Redruth for the past three months and was very pleased to be working with such a committed policing team who have been doing some excellent work in the community. He gave the following report on performance in the area:

- Total crime in the area has reduced by 5.6%
- The current detection rate is 25.9%
- On average there are 2.5 burglaries per week.
- Criminal Damage has fallen by 24%, largely as a result of tackling this issue with other partners.
- Vehicle Crime remains stable.
- Violent Crime, which is often alcohol related, has increased by 15%, but this is being targeted by working with local licensees to develop a new alcohol sales policy and also by improving the existing Pub Watch scheme in Camborne to make it more effective.

The PACT priorities that have been identified for the area are as follows:

- Antisocial Behaviour – this is also high on the National agenda, but is being tackled locally through initiatives such as Operation Goodnight, the voluntary curfew scheme in Redruth, and Operation Luna which tackles drunkenness in Camborne. There are also 80 Police Cadets in the area who are currently helping to distribute leaflets to local households to encourage good behaviour over the Halloween period.
- Speeding
- Boy Racers
- Dog Fouling

Finally Inspector Strickland explained that the Redruth South Neighbourhood Team currently has a vacancy for one PCSO which should be filled within a month.

PC Griffin gave a brief presentation about Operation Goodnight which was a voluntary curfew scheme that operated in Redruth during the school summer holidays. The Operation arose as a result of on-going concerns in the North Close area of Redruth about antisocial behaviour and low level criminal activity carried out by young people. The aim of the Operation was to try something completely different to discourage young people from hanging around in the streets and to put the responsibility back onto parents to be aware of their children's activities. Children under 16 had to be home by 9pm unless accompanied by an adult or out for a specific purpose, e.g. returning from an organised activity such as Youth Club or Scouts. The Officers involved took an active role in talking to children who broke the curfew and encouraged them to take part in diversionary activities.

The Operation appeared to be very successful and is currently the subject of a major study by the West Cornwall Antisocial Behaviour Team which has carried out face-to face interviews with over 600 households. The feedback so far has been excellent and in particular there are reports that younger children and more vulnerable members of the community felt safer going out in the evenings. A model is currently being developed which can be rolled out in other areas, but it was emphasised that the system cannot be imposed on an area and would only work with the full support of the 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:

- Drug dealing – The police will always act on any information given regarding drug dealing and additional manpower can be drawn in from elsewhere to tackle the problem if necessary.
- Complaints that the Control Room does not take incident reports seriously – Superintendent Orpe was concerned to hear about the specific instances cited and explained that all calls should be taken seriously, regardless of the age of the caller. A log should always be created and a log number given if requested. He agreed to follow this up with the control room staff.
- Low crime statistics do not reflect true level of (un-reported) crime - it is important to report all incidents to the control room (08452 777444) or through the PACT process to ensure that patterns can be established and tackled as appropriate.
- Problems with young people in Connor Downs, Reawla and Gwinnear/Gwithian – It was suggested that PACT meetings should be requested by the Parish Council in order to identify and prioritise issues so that the Neighbourhood Beat Manager can allocate resources as necessary.
- PCSOs finish their shift at 10pm and problems often start at 11pm – The neighbourhood team has back-up from the Response Team at Camborne and they can be deployed if problems arise at night.
- Parked Cars for sale on verge in Eastern Lane – This problem has been tackled in the past and cars can be removed if they are un-taxed. Inspector Strickland agreed to follow this up again.

- Criticism of sentencing and amount of paperwork involved – Magistrates are unpaid volunteers who have to stick rigorously to the Attorney General's Guidelines on Sentencing and criminals can only be sent to prison for the most serious offences.
- Concern about knives on the streets and in schools – Statistically knife crime is not a major problem in the area, however it is taken very seriously. The Force is having a 'Week of Action' in Camborne in December and a knife amnesty/knife awareness can be incorporated in this.
- Changes in parking regulations – It is difficult to tell in only six months whether the changes have resulted in a reduction in parking offences, however there appears to be less congestion and better traffic flow in certain areas.
- Speeding in Connor Downs – Traffic Officers have a close working relationship with County Highways and therefore are able to strategically influence changes in road layout where there is a regular problem rather than just monitoring speeding. Superintendent Orpe will report issues in Connor Downs to Sergeant Grigg (Traffic).
- Alcoholics gathering outside New Connection Centre and Camborne Church – Operation Luna aims to tackle this issue by working closely in partnership with these facilities as well as working with the off licences to reduce sales to the culprits. In addition, the church is planning to introduce 'Pastor Patrols' which will pro-actively talk to those involved and offer help and support in dealing with their problems. This has worked well in other areas and can hopefully be replicated here.
- Problems in Cross Street with drinkers and 'boy racers' between 1am and 3am and also early morning delivery vehicles speeding – Inspector Strickland agreed to highlight these issues with the Duty Sergeant at Camborne Police Station.

The Chairman thanked the audience for their participation and also thanked the police officers in attendance for their input.

7. Independent Custody Visiting Report

Maggie Taylor explained that she had been an Independent Custody Visitor (ICV) for the past 4 years. ICVs are independent of the police and they visit custody centres in pairs to ensure that those in custody are treated correctly, have been given food, have received any necessary medication, etc. ICVs usually carry out 2-3 visits per month and each visit normally takes approximately 1½ hours. She explained that there is currently a shortage of ICVs and therefore there is a recruitment drive at present which will culminate in a training session for new recruits in January 2009. Ms Taylor suggested that anyone interested in becoming an ICV should contact the Police Authority or speak to her after the meeting. She also agreed to circulate recruitment information to the local parish councils for distribution.

8. Dates and Venues of Future Meetings

Thursday 31 March 2009 at 19:30hrs Methodist Church, Coinagehall Street, Helston

There being no further business, the Meeting closed at 20.45hrs.