

DEVON AND CORNWALL POLICE AUTHORITY

Notes of the **POLICE AUTHORITY LIAISON MEETING – KERRIER** held at Helston Methodist Church, Helston on Tuesday 31 March 2009 at 19.30hrs.

Present:

Police Authority

Mr G Hicks Chairman

Mrs C Horton (Administrator)

Constabulary

Sergeant P Marchant (Helston)

9 people attended the meeting, all of whom had signed the attendance register.

1. Welcome & Housekeeping

The Chairman welcomed everyone and outlined the role and responsibilities of the Police Authority. He introduced Sgt Paul Marchant who has been based at Helston Police Station for the past 6 months, having previously been based at Camborne.

2. Matters of Interest from the Police Authority

The Chairman reported that the Authority had agreed an increase in the precept to 4.94% for 2009/10 at its meeting in February, bringing the total budget for Devon & Cornwall to £277million. This budget will not be affected by the imminent changes to the organisation of local government in Cornwall.

3. Consultation Questions

The Chairman asked those present to answer a number of consultation questions designed to assess the visibility of the local Neighbourhood Policing Teams. A show of hands was given by the 9 people present in response to each of the following questions:

- How many of you know your local Neighbourhood Policing Team? 4 People
- How many of you know how to contact your local Neighbourhood Policing Team? 6 people
- How many of you have seen a Police Officer patrolling your neighbourhood in the last month? 2 people

Sgt Marchant commented on the poor response to the third question and explained that the team cover a vast area and the fact that people haven't seen them on patrol does not mean that their area is not being covered. The focus of the workload tends to be in Helston, but the PCSOs and Neighbourhood Team Managers patrol the outlying areas on a regular basis.

4. Police Report

Sgt Marchant explained that he was attending the meeting on behalf of Superintendent Martin Orpe and Sector Inspector Caroline Coad, both of whom had prior commitments. He gave the following report on performance in the area:

- Total crime in the area has reduced by just under 5% and the detection rate over the past 12 months has been 28%.
- The Helston team has recently been boosted by the addition of two new patrol officers, allowing the number of frontline officers to be maintained at all times and in particular during periods of sickness or leave.
- There have been changes within the Neighbourhood Policing Team with the Neighbourhood Beat Managers swapping areas to ensure that they do not become stale within their role and to give the

opportunity for new ideas to be injected into each area. The PCSOs have remained within their posts to ensure continuity and no further changes are planned.

- The Neighbourhood Team has been involved in some excellent partnership work, such as the Street Games initiative in Ponsonooth area which attracted between 40 and 50 young people to take part in a range of activities with the aim of reducing and preventing anti-social behaviour. In Mullion the Team worked with the local primary school children to tackle the issue of speeding by recording the speed of motorists and giving letters written by the children to those who broke the speed limit.
- Operation Sobers has been implemented on the Lizard, in partnership with officers from the traffic department, to tackle the perceived problem of drinking and driving. No arrests have been necessary to date from the numerous stop checks that have been carried out.
- Problem solving plans are currently being implemented to tackle anti-social behaviour, underage drinking and criminal damage at the Boating Lake and Bowling Club in Helston and at Leedstown Village Hall. Patrols are being targeted in these areas and officers are working closely with the local authority anti-social behaviour team.

Sgt Marchant ended by explaining that the aims and objectives for 2009/10 are centred on improving the level of service provided to the local community and in particular improving public satisfaction. He requested residents to report any concerns as they arise through the police call centre, rather than waiting to attend a meeting, but also encouraged people to become involved in the Police and Communities Together (PACT) process.

5. **Open Session – General Questions on Policing Issues**

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

- Lack of police attendance at Parish and Town Council meetings – Sgt Marchant explained that there are a large number of local councils in the area and therefore it is not feasible for officers to attend all meetings, however a written report should always be provided by the local PCSO or Neighbourhood Beat Manager. It was noted that this does not always happen and Sgt Marchant agreed to look into this matter. He also agreed to circulate his report from this meeting to the Cornwall Association for Local Councils (CALC) for distribution.
- Officers' time wasted completing paperwork – this issue is being partially tackled by the Chief Constable's commitment to bring 200 officers to frontline duties with certain back-room roles being replaced by civilians in order to minimise the quantity of paperwork completed by officers.
- Anti-social behaviour around Meneage House – there is currently a group of 9 or 10 young people who cause the majority of problems in the town. It is important that all incidences of anti-social behaviour are reported as they happen in order that the area can be identified as a hotspot and treated accordingly. Sgt Marchant agreed to bring this issue to the attention of the Neighbourhood Team and suggested that it may be useful to arrange a meeting with local residents and carry out house-to-house enquiries to establish the extent of the problem. The PCSOs can then go to the other partners involved in the area, such as the housing association, with this information and identify a suitable way forward.
- Parking problems in Coverack – the lack of coverage of the rural areas by the Civil Enforcement Officers needs to be taken up with the local council as parking has now been de-criminalised. However, if parked cars are deemed to be causing an obstruction the police can and will deal with it.
- Neighbourhood Watch – the local representative reported that new road signs with the Neighbourhood Watch logo are now available, thanks to funding from the County Councillors' delegated budget. These should be requested through the Neighbourhood Watch office.
- Community Messaging System – thanks were given for the regular and useful information updates provided via this system.
- Lack of feedback about reported crimes – the police work within the terms of the Victims' Code of Practice, therefore the victim receives updates on how the crime is being tackled and, where appropriate, information is also fed back to the public through the local press.

- Low level of attendance at Police Authority Liaison Meetings – it was suggested that this could be due to a lack of publicity or maybe due to the low levels of crime in the area.

The Chairman thanked the audience for their participation and also thanked Sgt Marchant for his input.

6. Independent Custody Visiting Report

There was no Independent Custody Visitor (ICV) present to give a report, but the Chairman drew attention to a new leaflet which gives details of the role of ICVs and encouraged members of the public to become volunteers.

7. Dates and Venues of Future Meetings

Dates and venues to be advised.

There being no further business, the Meeting closed at 20.30hrs.