

## DEVON AND CORNWALL POLICE AUTHORITY

Notes of the **POLICE AUTHORITY LIAISON MEETING – KERRIER** held in The Wesley Centre, Chapel Street, Camborne on Wednesday 13 September 2006 at 7-30pm.

### **Present**

#### **Police Authority**

Mrs. Aurora Talbot, Chairman

Mr Jim Currie, Mr Graeme Hicks and Mr Ian Thompson (Administrator)

#### **Constabulary**

Inspector Lyn Gooding, Sector Inspector.

34 people attended the meeting as recorded in the Attendance Register.

### **Welcome and Introduction**

The Chairman welcomed everyone and introduced the Members of the Authority and Inspector Gooding.

#### **1. Police Report**

The report was given by Inspector Gooding: -

Currently there are 12 Police and Community Support Officers (PCSOs). This was now to be increased by a further 18 giving Kerrier a total of 30 PCSOs. 21 officers will be assigned to Camborne, Pool and Redruth and 9 to the Helston area.

At present PCSOs only have some 10 powers but this is being reviewed with the possibility of the number of powers being increased to 42. These increased powers will include the issuing of fixed penalty tickets for traffic offences, dog fouling, drunk and disorderly conduct etc.

PCSOs act as a conduit between the force and the general public, gathering information from the community whilst working with local community groups; attending local meetings within the community and addressing issues of anti-social behaviour, youth truancy, along with victim support and other similar tasks. The uniforms worn by PCSOs are different from that of a Police Officer; this is to assist recognition.

The training programme for PCSOs has been enhanced to take into consideration the review of powers.

Some of the original PCSOs have now joined the Force as Police Officers and replacements were now being recruited. It was anticipated that by March 2008 all posts should be filled. The Force is actively recruiting PCSOs now.

#### **Questions generated by the PCSO presentation: -**

- PCSOs were employed by the Devon and Cornwall Constabulary. In some other areas PCSOs were employed by the local councils.

- At present PCSOs can only work between the hours of 8am to 10pm. The team set up to monitor and advise the Force on PCSOs was expected to seek to extend their working hours. PCSOs cannot be deployed to dangerous situations as they do not have the same powers and/or training nor do they carry the same amount of protective equipment as police officers.
- Special Constables have the same powers as full time Police Officers and carry full police warrant cards.
- The first wave of the new PCSOs is expected in Kerrier from 28 December 2006.

The work of PCSOs can include:

- Work in the local community
- High visibility patrol
- Working with the local Neighbourhood Beat Manager
- Building contacts with community groups
- Attending local community group meetings
- Attending Neighbourhood Watch group meetings
- Working with local young people; organising youth projects i.e. football matches, skateboarding competitions, and the dance group at the Corn Exchange, Camborne
- Attending youth groups

### **Anti-Social Behaviour Team (ASBO)**

Penwith and Kerrier District Councils have set up a joint ASBO team. At present there is one ASBO officer. The intention is to fund 2 case workers plus 2 PCSOs. It is hoped that this new team will be up and running by October 2006. A new web-site will be available to enable members of the public to report issues of anti-social behaviour. The web-site is not to be used for seeking a police response to an urgent matter; this has to be done through the normal telephone system.

Related Questions: -

- i. First the ASBO officer engages with the person try to sort out the problem. If no agreement can be reached, then the process is started. Two letters are sent to the perpetrator and if the outcome is not positive then the magistrate's court are involved. The conditions and criteria of an ASBO will be set by the court taking into account information given by the ASBO officer and other statutory authorities such as the Youth Offending Team, Social Workers etc.
- ii. The Youth Offending Team monitors compliance with the order if it is made in respect of a young person. Representatives from the police, district council and housing officers meet and review information received. This team then manages the case load.
- iii. Parents were engaged with the process and could be part of the order.
- iv. Residents/neighbours were given logbooks to fill in which in turn informed the team of what was happening in the local area and were used as evidence should the person be returned to court.
- v. Residents then voiced their concerns and feelings saying they felt the system did not work and no one, police/PCSO, ASBO officer, was around at 10pm at night when the young people were behaving badly.

- vi. "Evidence must be gathered" to ensure a successful conviction on the person's return to court.
- vii. The evidence provided must prove to the court non compliance of the order.
- viii. Local retailers requested information on how they could contact the police for a faster response. Inspector Gooding will speak to the Chamber of Commerce about this matter.
- ix. From a show of hands the majority of those present have had problems contacting the police by telephone.
- x. Mr G Hicks (Police Authority Member) explained that he has the portfolio for Citizen Focus and ways of improving the call-handling accommodation were being considered, which in turn would assist with improving performance.
- xi. A grading system was in operation which prioritises the urgency of a report made by a member of the public. There have been issues regarding use of the Force Enquiry Centre; these have been recognised and are being addressed.
- xii. It was noted that Inspector Gooding's predecessor hosted local meetings with parish councils which were extremely effective in addressing local problems. Inspector Gooding informed members that these meetings will be reintroduced and will include reps from Neighbourhood Watch and Chamber of Commerce.
- xiii. Details of reported crime taken over the telephone were screened and prioritised.
- xiv. The public was tired of trying to report crime but having no success with the central telephone system.
- xv. The Chair requested that every effort be made to encourage more young people to attend these meetings so they could be involved in the discussions.
- xvi. There was a project which would bring young people and older people together to discuss their problems, this was to take place shortly
- xvii. Police Officers do go into local schools and discuss citizenship/roles and responsibilities to and in the community.

## 2. Open Session

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

- Chiverton roundabout - after the changes made by County Highways, the signage was now unlawful; this was being addressed by the County Highways department.
- Traffic management issues would be addressed by the new intake of PCSOs who would have the relevant powers.
- A Member of the public having a complaint against a police officer was asked to speak with a member after the meeting.
- It was noted that there could be some unreported crime due to the problems identified when trying to contact the police by telephone.
- Young people who were being stopped and searched and asked to account for their movements do have rights. There was publicity material available on this matter on the information table at tonight's meeting.
- Parking in Trelowarren Street Camborne was causing a great deal of concern. Car users were misusing the parking spaces, parking on double yellow lines and the zigzags at zebra crossings, as well as in marked loading bays. Some people were driving the wrong way down a one way street. Inspector Gooding assured the meeting that these issues would be addressed.
- Traffic wardens / police officers cannot park where they like except in an emergency.

- Congratulations were extended to PC Dan Roberts who after being informed of vehicles parking dangerously in a local village promptly took the appropriate action.
- Note was made of the recent article in the Western Morning News regarding Police Officer secondments to other areas and parts of the world. The costs of salary and travel were totally reimbursed to the Devon and Cornwall Constabulary by the Home Office.
- Under new legislation from 18 September 2006, children under a certain height will not be allowed to sit in the front passenger seat of a vehicle without a booster seat. Some local schools were giving this information in class to the pupils so that they could inform their parents.
- A Parish Councillor from Ponsanooth reported that elderly members of the community were frightened to go out at night because of the behaviour of local young people. Inspector Gooding assured the speaker that she would take this to the local beat manager responsible for the area.
- Boundary changes (District Councils) have taken place with regard to this village which has caused frustrations. The policing of this area was being realigned to the local council boundaries.
- The Trevithick Day committee supplies persons to manage/marshall the traffic during the celebration. No parking was agreed for disabled drivers during 2006. Note has been taken and will be passed to the Trevithick Day Committee.
- Carn Brea Parish Council had provided tables and chairs for residents which unfortunately have been vandalised. Compensation could only be obtained if the offender was taken to court and the court ordered the parents to pay.
- A Camborne resident's son was being bullied by local youths. Why were there special arrangements to take offenders away on trips and why are we rewarding bad behaviour when well behaved young people were being victimised?
- When will we see a police officer on the beat at night in Camborne?
- There was a problem today with the public not trusting police officers any more and therefore not giving information to the police.
- The Lyn Bryant murder investigations were still ongoing and would continue until the perpetrator was found.
- 6 windows were broken in the town centre of Camborne. This was a regular occurrence; does the CCTV system bring any results in prosecution?
- Drugs in schools would appear to be a problem; how are these issues addressed and with whom. A number of schools have asked that the police "sniffer" dogs be brought in to do a sweep. Police work with other partners such as the Drug and Alcohol Team, social services, health etc.
- Jim Currie, County Councillor and member of the Police Authority, related his experiences as a Governor at Penair School which operated a zero tolerance on drugs and alcohol.
- Note was made of the low opinion of the force held by the public of Devon and Cornwall. The Police Authority was now addressing this issue.

The Authority website was open and members of the public were encouraged to enter their comments on all issues relating to the policing of the community.

### **3. Matters of Interest from the Police Authority**

There was no report.

#### 4. Neighbourhood Watch Schemes

Gill Gillvrey, Kerrier Representative, gave the report: -

- There were now some 312 schemes in Kerrier covering over 11,000 properties.
- The Watch has attended local events this year including Stithians Show, Culdrose Air Day, and Mawnan Smith Country Fair.
- Visits to local Car Parks with car crime leaflets.
- Meetings taking place with local Co-ordinators and Neighbourhood Beat Managers.
- Community Action Day for Illogan in November 2006.
- N.H.W. schemes also support caring for the elderly and working with youth groups within their own communities.
- Two Kerrier Schemes have this year received awards for their work.
- Four Lanes Scheme received the "Respect Award" which came with a £1,000 cheque.
- Three Co-ordinators have been nominated for Devon and Cornwall Neighbourhood Watch Association Awards.
- PCSOs were now taking a more active part in local Watch Schemes.

A special vote of thanks was then extended to Inspector Gooding for her continued help and support of the Neighbourhood Watch programme.

#### 5. Date and Venue of Future Meetings

Thursday, 1 March 2007 at 7.30pm	School Hall, Redruth Community School, Tolgus Vean, Redruth
Tuesday, 25 September 2007 at 7.30pm	Wesley Hall, Methodist Church, Coinagehall Street, Helston

There being no further discussions the Chairman thanked all for their very robust contributions to the evening's debate and closed the meeting at 21:40hrs.