

DEVON AND CORNWALL POLICE AUTHORITY

Notes of the **POLICE AUTHORITY LIAISON MEETING – PENWITH** held in The Guildhall, St Ives on Tuesday 19 February 2008 at 19.30hrs

Present:

Police Authority

Mr M Hicks Chairman

Mrs C Horton (Administrator), Miss J Norris (Assistant Chief Executive)

Constabulary

Chief Inspector M Ward (Local Policing Area Commander)

Inspector J Phillips (Sector Inspector - St Ives, Hayle & Isles of Scilly),

14 people attended the meeting, 11 of whom had signed the attendance register

1. Welcome & Housekeeping

The Chairman welcomed everyone and thanked them for their attendance then introduced Chief Inspector Mike Ward and Inspector Jean Phillips.

2. Matters of Interest from the Police Authority

The Chairman explained that the Police Authority comprises 19 Members in total, of whom 10 are Councillors, 6 are Independent and 3 are Lay Justices. There will be a recruitment process for new Independent Members later in the year and anyone interested in becoming a member should contact Joy Norris at the Police Authority office.

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 had 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. 2 people received the document and 12 people did not receive it. Those who received it remembered reading the document and found the information to be both useful and relevant.

4. Neighbourhood Policing and the local Police Report

Chief Inspector Ward explained that he is responsible for Penwith, Kerrier and the Isles of Scilly within the Cornwall Basic Command Unit (BCU) and Inspector Phillips is the Sector Inspector for St Ives, Hayle and the Isles of Scilly.

Chief Inspector Ward outlined that there had been many changes in the delivery of Policing in recent years - some driven by Central Government; some driven by changes in Local Government such as the introduction of a single unitary authority for Cornwall; and some driven by budgetary restrictions. The Force is currently working towards the implementation of Chief Constable Stephen Otter's 5 year vision which recognises the inefficiencies that have developed in the past and aims to reduce and remove duplication; move 200 more officers to the 'front line'; ensure all calls are dealt with effectively the first time. He explained that the implementation of 'One Cornwall' will provide good opportunities to develop a more joined up service, in particular regarding public consultation and identifying local priorities, resulting in a saving in public expenditure. The overall aim is to achieve the best possible communities for people to live and work in.

Inspector Phillips explained that Neighbourhood Policing is a Government initiative, which will be fully implemented in all Police Forces across England and Wales by April 2008. She then outlined the following four key areas of Neighbourhood Policing:

- **Access** – improved opportunities for the public to access and communicate issues to the Police, for example each Neighbourhood Team has a dedicated email address and telephone number which are checked throughout the day. There is also a new website for the Force which identifies the local police officers and priorities for each area.
- **Influence** – improved focus on local priorities by encouraging public involvement in identifying and prioritising local issues through the Partners and Communities Together (PACT) process. This involves the Police working with a range of partners, including the Health Authority and schools, and a variety of methods of engaging the public are used, including PACT postcards, house-to-house surveys, local press, street briefings and surgeries (e.g. at local supermarkets), in addition to public meetings.
- **Interventions** – improved partnership working to tackle local issues. For example in tackling Graffiti, working with the schools to educate the young people who may be involved in causing the problem, working with shopkeepers to prevent the sale of paints and working with the local council to identify and clean up problem areas.
- **Answers** – improved feedback, by all partners, of what has been achieved in the local area.

The current PACT priorities for the local area are as follows:

St Ives:

- Underage Drinking
- Graffiti
- Speeding (Lelant & St Ives)
- Community Engagement – encouraging greater public attendance and involvement in PACT

Hayle

- Speeding
- Antisocial Behaviour
- Parking in school areas

Copperhouse/Gwinear/Gwithian

- Speeding
- Antisocial Behaviour (Reawla & Loggans)

6. Open Session – General Questions on Policing Issues

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

- Fall in crime statistics is due to police reluctance to receive reports of crimes – the Police have to comply with national guidance on receiving reports of crimes and if a member of the public believes a crime has been committed it has to be recorded.
- The Police were praised for their invaluable monthly report presented to St Ives Town Council meetings and for their involvement in trying to engage with local young people and businesses.
- Speeding scooters/motorbikes in St Ives – speeding is one of the PACT priorities for the town and the neighbourhood team has now been trained to use speeding equipment to try and target problem areas.

- Will issues be dealt with more locally or at a higher level under the 'One Cornwall' proposals – strategically, policing will be handled at a Countywide level, but operationally the aim is to deliver policing at the lowest possible level, linking in with the proposed 16/18 Local Network Areas.
- Lack of confidence in CCTV system – the CCTV management company should be providing quarterly reports to Town Councils to help demonstrate the benefits and justify the funding required.
- Confusion about how crime should be reported and whether the public should intervene in incidents – if life or property is in immediate danger, crimes should be reported using 999. Always assess the risk before intervening and bear in mind that there is safety in numbers - try to avoid intervening on your own. The law allows for the use of 'reasonable force' to restrain an individual, but what is considered 'reasonable' is determined by the circumstances. Concerns regarding general problem areas, such as Penzance seafront, can be reported to the Neighbourhood Team.
- Lack of public understanding of what is received in return for the increased precept levied by the police – the primary aim is to increase the number of officers on the front line which requires their current office duties to be replaced by civilians. The Treasurer has therefore produced a 3 year strategy to fund this, with an increase in the precept of 7.94% this year, then an increase of less than 5% in the following two years. This will enable the police to deliver on local priorities which would not have been possible if the increase had remained below 5% this year. 7.94% equates to an increase of approximately 20p per week on a Band D property.
- A large amount of crime appears to be alcohol related – the police are working closely with Trading Standards and the licensing committee to remove some licenses and to monitor the sale of alcohol to underage drinkers. There is also a need to further support licensees against antisocial behaviour created as a result of their enforcement of the 'Challenge 21' policy.
- Tramp sleeping in Play Area at Carbis Bay – report to be followed up.
- Increased opening hours of St Ives Police Station – the station is now open on bank holidays and will hopefully be open 7 days a week in future now that staff sickness problems have been resolved.

7. Independent Custody Visiting Report

There was no Independent Custody Visitor present.

8. Date and Venues of Future Meetings

Tuesday 14 October 2008	Cape Cornwall School, St Just, Penzance
Tuesday 17 February 2009	The Guildhall, Street an Pol, St Ives

There being no further business, the Meeting closed at 21.05hrs.