

DEVON AND CORNWALL POLICE AUTHORITY

Notes of the **POLICE AUTHORITY LIAISON MEETING – PENWITH** held in the Passmore Edwards Institute, Hayle on Monday 3 September 2007 at 19.30hrs

Present:

Police Authority

Mr M Hicks Chairman

Mrs C Horton (Administrator), Ms S James (Independent Custody Visitor), Mr R Martin (Policy Officer)

Constabulary

Inspector J Phillips (Sector Inspector - St Ives, Hayle & Isles of Scilly), Chief Inspector M Ward (Local Policing Area Commander)

22 people attended the meeting, 21 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. The Chairman explained that he had been appointed to the Police Authority in 2003.

2. Police Report

Chief Inspector Ward explained that Cornwall is one of four Basic Command Units (BCUs) within the Devon and Cornwall Area and explained that he is responsible for Penwith, Kerrier and the Isles of Scilly within the Cornwall BCU. Chief Inspector Ward assured all those present that he was very keen to receive both positive and negative feedback and would aim to answer any questions either at the meeting or afterwards.

Inspector Phillips explained that she had been in post for one year and had seen many changes during that time, mainly through the introduction of neighbourhood policing as well as through some boundary changes – the area now includes Zennor and Nancledra but no longer includes Goldsithney. Inspector Phillips was pleased to report that staffing in the area is now up to full strength which ensures more effective deployment of officers across the area.

Inspector Phillips gave the following report on performance from April 2007 to date:

- Violent Crime was down by 19.1%
- Domestic Burglary was down by 20.8%
- Criminal Damage was down by 25.7%
- Total Crime was down by 16%
- The only increase was Vehicle Crime which had gone up by 6.8% due to a recent spate of fuel theft and theft of car stereos. The Covert Capture Car had been used to try and catch thieves in action, as well as the use of Mobile Number Plate Recognition to identify stolen vehicles and those with no tax, insurance, etc. Operation Awning had been carried out in conjunction with local holiday parks to help minimise the risk of visitors becoming victims of crime.
- The Detection Rate was 28.4% which is higher than any of the other BCU areas

Inspector Phillips explained that 'Partners and Communities Together' had been introduced throughout the area to identify issues at a very local level, through door to door surveys, meetings, questionnaires in the local press, etc and emphasised that the police has an obligation to tackle the issues identified and provide feedback on progress.

The following issues had been identified in St Ives:

- Antisocial behaviour
- Parking
- Criminal damage and graffiti
- Speeding

The following issues had been identified in Hayle:

- Speeding
- Antisocial behaviour
- Road safety around the schools
- Nuisance motor cycles

The following actions had been taken so far to tackle the above issues:

- Parking – Although there had been a reduction in the number of Traffic Wardens, PCSOs now have the power to issue parking tickets where appropriate
- Speeding – Monitoring equipment had been used throughout the area and, in particular, in Connor Downs. A speed Visor had also been used to identify and record speeding problems and Community Speed Watch is due to be piloted in Connor Downs soon, whereby volunteers will be trained to monitor speeding in the area.
- Antisocial Behaviour – Improvements had been made in the level of underage drinking in both St Ives and the Millpond area of Hayle. There is still a some problem in Reawla where headcams had been used to record antisocial behaviour and a Dispersal Order is currently being considered.

3. Open Session – General Questions on Policing Issues

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

- Market and Coastal Towns Initiative Neighbourhood Policing Panels - it had been decided that the whole of Hayle is too large for a single panel to be effective and therefore it had been suggested that 'mini panels' are formed, as required, to look at policing in smaller more specific areas, such as Loggans Area and Pathway Fields Area.
- Sale of alcohol to minors - Operation Viking, which used children to buy alcohol from non-diligent licensees is due to be re-introduced shortly. This should help to tackle the problem, as should the use of CCTV footage from licensed premises.
- Unruly behaviour of children on the Gwarvas Estate - Inspector Phillips agreed to follow-up the matter with Penwith Area Crime Prevention Group.
- Persistent late night breaches of licences in Penzance - Inspector Phillips is attending a meeting with the Licensing Officers on 21st September at Penwith District Council to look at ways to deal with this matter.
- Reduction of 5 Police Officers in Penzance - the area has been overstaffed for the past 12 months whilst other areas have been understaffed, therefore posts are being moved to make the staffing fairer across the area.
- Police Cadets – The Chief Constable would like to see the programme rolled out across the force area. Funding has been secured for Helston, so the next group is likely to be set up there.

- Budget for local police staffing levels - The budget setting process is complicated There is an additional problem in Cornwall due to the huge influx of visitors. It is hoped that a more accurate picture of crime at a local level will be established through the Partners and Communities Together research and this will inform future budget setting.
- Parking enforcement – this should be better resourced and managed when local councils have taken over responsibility, however, Police Officers and PCSOs still have the power to deal with parking offences
- Introduction of a single Unitary Council for Cornwall – there may be an impact on the management of policing in the county and in particular it would be necessary to work out how best to engage with the local community.
- Bicycle Security Marking - the recent spate of Bicycle thefts in St Ives and Penzance has now dropped. Inspector Phillips agreed that further open days would be held after the holiday season to offer free Micro-dot marking.
- Use of 'shock' videos in schools showing the consequences of speeding to impressionable teenagers - This is already done in some areas in conjunction with the County Council Road Safety Unit.
- Crime
s involving drugs, guns, knives and violence - This is generally a very safe area, but there is a slight increase in the number of firearms incidents

4. Independent Custody Visiting Report

Sue James, an Independent Custody Visitor, explained that the Police Authority recruits volunteers to go into Custody Suites to observe and report on conditions. The aim is to ensure that they are 'fit for purpose' and that people are detained in accordance with the Police and Criminal Evidence Act. Each Custody Suite has an average of 1 visit per week. Recent issues that had been raised are regarding access to the 'Exercise Yard' for detainees and the lack of local control over the temperature in the suites.

5. Matters of Interest from the Police Authority

The Chairman explained that there has always been a difficulty in reaching all members of the community, but in order to combat this, the next three Police Authority meetings will be web-cast. The first of these meetings will be held on Friday 5th October.

John Smith was elected as the new Chairman of the Police Authority in May.

The Local Policing Summary 2007-08 has recently been published and will soon be delivered to all homes in the area. The leaflet includes information and contact details for the local area.

6. Date and Venues of Future Meetings

The next Police Authority Liaison Meeting to be held in Penwith will take place in March/April 2008 at a date and venue to be advised.

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

Action List

POLICE AUTHORITY LIAISON MEETING – PENWITH

Passmore Edwards Institute, Hayle on Monday 3 September 2007 at 19.30hrs

Notes Reference Number	Agenda Item	Issues Discussed	Action Required	Action by Whom	Action Update	Complete
3	Open Session	Unruly behaviour of children on the Gwarvas Estate	Follow-up the matter with Penwith Area Crime Prevention Group	Inspector J Phillips		
3	Open Session	Bicycle Security Marking in St Ives and Penzance	Offer additional Micro-dot marking open days after the holiday season	Inspector J Phillips		