

DEVON AND CORNWALL POLICE AUTHORITY

Notes of the **POLICE AUTHORITY LIAISON MEETING – PENWITH** held at the Passmore Edwards Institute, Hayle, on Tuesday 20 October 2009 at 19.30hrs.

PRESENT

Authority

Mr M Hicks Chairman
Mrs C Horton (Administrator)

Constabulary

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

14 people attended the meeting, 13 of whom had signed the attendance register.

1. Welcome, Introduction & Housekeeping

The Chairman welcomed all those present at the meeting and introduced himself as the Police Authority Member representing the Isles of Scilly. He also introduced Inspector Jean Phillips who is the Sector Inspector for St Ives, Hayle and the Isles of Scilly.

2. Matters of Interest from the Police Authority

The Chairman explained that the Police Authority comprises 19 members, 10 of whom are elected representatives from the local councils and 9 are independent individuals who have been appointed following a rigorous selection procedure. The Police Authority has recently appointed a new Chairman, Mike Bull who is an independent member, and a new Vice Chairman, County Councillor Bryan Preston. The Authority has an annual budget of £277million and the members are currently in the process of setting the police precept for the forthcoming year.

The Chairman drew attention to the latest edition of the Police Authority newsletter which contained additional information about the work of the Authority. He also explained that one of the primary functions of the Police Authority is consultation with the public. He therefore requested that all those in attendance complete a 'consultation daisy' and give their response to the statement "I am confident that the police in my area deal with anti social behaviour and crime". The results of the consultation will be compiled and reported back to the Community Engagement Committee.

3. Police Report

Inspector Phillips introduced herself and explained that policing targets for the area are set in April each year and gave the following report on progress to date against these targets:

- Dwelling Burglaries – currently meeting the target to achieve a reduction of 2%, although there were only 35 burglaries in the area during the past year so levels are already very low.
- Violent Crime – on target to achieve a 3% reduction. These incidents are very often related to excessive drinking and although the later licensing hours haven't increased violent crime, they have made it happen later in the evening which often has an even greater impact on residents.
- Vehicle Crime – not currently meeting the target to reduce this by 2% as a result of a recent spate of thefts of diesel from lorries parked overnight in local industrial estates.
- Total Crime – on target to achieve a reduction of 2%.

- Shoplifting – there has been an increase in St Ives over the summer but this is being tackled through the introduction of a Shopwatch radio scheme. Hayle Retail Park has also suffered some problems, but this has reduced since the introduction of high visibility security patrols.
- Criminal Damage – the number of incidents have fallen in Hayle and across the whole of Cornwall.
- Drug Offences – there has been a reduction in the number of incidents despite there being some displacement of activity from Penzance to the Hayle area. The team are actively working to tackle this to ensure that the problem doesn't escalate.

Inspector Phillips gave an update on a number of other areas of work:

- Customer satisfaction and public confidence – officers are focussing on 'going the extra mile' in order to improve public satisfaction. This includes providing feedback, being honest and realistic about expectations, and keeping appointments. The call centre now has access to the local PACT priorities which will enable them to prioritise calls according to local need.
- Insight Patrols – a number of local town, parish and county councillors have each attended a late shift to experience the police in action and witness issues as they happen.
- Community Engagement – the Neighbourhood Team Sergeants have been tasked with establishing the views of all residents rather than just the vocal minority. They are currently reviewing their engagement strategies and ensuring that Red Zones are in the right place.
- Managing the media – bad news is always given more prominence in the press than good news, therefore there is a need to provide positive feedback and reduce the impact of national media stories on the local area.
- Increased staff – there are now 3 additional officers working in the area, one of whom is based in Hayle, as a result of the Chief Constable's aim to bring 200 officers back to frontline duties.
- Antisocial Behaviour – officers are aware that there are still problems late at night at Hayle Recreation Ground, Reawla, Millpond and St Erth and they are dealing with this as the top priority in the area.

4. Open Session – General Questions on Policing Issues

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

- Effectiveness of the CCTV system – the cameras are invaluable and are frequently instrumental in securing a conviction. The proposed new camera for Hayle Recreation Ground will be very useful.
- Impact on police resources of 3000 new houses in Hayle – a proposed population increase of this size will be taken into account when resources for the area are agreed, however it is inappropriate to raise expectations and promise additional resources at present.
- Withdrawal of private security at Hayle Harbour – the removal of this service has been disappointing but the police are now covering this area as part of their patrol.
- Late night disturbances in Bodriggy Street – it is important that all incidents are reported in order to identify the area as a priority. Inspector Phillips agreed to organise a house-to-house survey in the area to establish the views of local people who haven't been reporting issues to date.
- Caravan parked on public highway for 3 months – Inspector Phillips agreed to look into this matter.
- Translators for the Polish community – there are 3 levels of translation service that officers can access. The 'Buddy' system provides business cards for voluntary translators to give to their friends so that they can be contacted should the need arise. Qualified translators can be called into the police station if required or the Language Line can be used which is a phone based translation service. Inspector Phillips agreed to provide some Buddy Cards for a voluntary translator.
- Anti-social behaviour in St Erth – this area is receiving priority attention each evening and the police are working with the Parish Council to introduce a No Alcohol Zone in the play area which will enable alcohol to be seized from over 18s as well as underage drinkers.

The Chairman thanked the audience for their participation and also thanked Inspector Phillips for her input.

5. Independent Custody Visiting Report

There was no Independent Custody Visitor (ICV) present to give a report.

6. Date and Venues of Future Meetings

Dates and venues to be advised.

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