

**MINUTES OF THE DISTRICT POLICING PARTNERSHIP PUBLIC MEETING
HELD ON MONDAY 13 AUGUST 2007 AT 7.30PM
IN THE RURAL COLLEGE, DERRYNOID ROAD, DRAPERSTOWN**

PRESENT Cllr K Lagan, Chairperson
Mr J Conlon, Vice-Chairperson
Cllr P McLean
Ms F Symington
Mrs M Donnelly
Cllr T J Catherwood
Mrs Sue Chada
Cllr G Shiels
Dr Shortall
Mrs M McCormack
Cllr J Crawford
Cllr E A Forde

Also present Chief Superintendent R Russell
Chief Inspector P Douglas
Inspector B Blemmings
Mr M McCrory, DPP Manager
Ms P Shaw, Secretary

1 Welcome

The Chairperson, Cllr K Lagan, welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2 Apologies

Cllr Rev Dr R T Wm McCrea MLA, Cllr J Campbell, Mrs B Foster and Mr J O'Doherty.

3 Declarations of Interest

No member had any interest to declare.

4 Confirmation of Minutes

PROPOSED by Mrs M Donnelly,
Seconded by Mr J Conlon, and

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the minutes were an accurate record of the meeting.

5 Matters Arising

Ms F Symington stated that she had asked at the last meeting that she receive the figures for domestic violence from the Chief Inspector.

The Chief Inspector stated that he had emailed the figures after the last meeting and that there were approximately 300 -350 cases in total and that he would resend the email.

6 Report by the District Commander

Chief Inspector Douglas presented the three month report to the District Policing Partnership for the period April 2007 – June 2007. He highlighted that the most significant features were:

- To reduce the number of recorded crimes of criminal damage by 2% - this was not on target.
- To increase the number of arrests for drugs offences - this was not on target.
- To maintain current detection level for careless and dangerous driving - this was on target.

Chief Inspector Douglas highlighted that criminal damage was sporadic and difficult to deal with, however they were increasing the high visibility controls and starting other initiatives such as school watch. Friday and Saturday nights is when the majority of damage takes place.

(a) Cllr McLean asked was it groups of people on their way home from pubs doing damage and was the CCTV able to identify any of them.

The Chief Inspector stated that the police had great success with the use of CCTV.

He stated that for dangerous driving they had exceeded the detection rate with proactive operations, also the motor madness and car cruise events were valuable in highlighting the problem and communicating with the young drivers.

He also stated that they had made 4 arrests over the past weekend for drink driving.

(b) Cllr Crawford asked were they foreign nationals.

Chief Inspector Douglas said that foreign nationals made up the minority of the arrests for drink driving.

(c) Cllr McLean asked if the DPP can get involved in a joint campaign with the PSI to highlight drink driving in the press.

The Chief Inspector stated that there was not any particular age group associated with drink driving but that most detections occurred late night or early morning.

(d) Cllr Crawford asked if a burglar was in your home can you defend yourself and assault them.

The Chief Inspector advised not to put yourself in danger.

(e) Ms F Symington asked do violent crime figures include sexual assaults.

Chief Inspector Douglas replied yes but a very low percentage.

(f) Mrs S Chada asked about sex offenders in the district.

Inspector Blemmings replied that they had systems in place to manage sex offenders and the main agencies met regularly to discuss the cases.

Mr J Conlon stated that a national newspaper had provided statistics of numbers of sex offenders and that Magherafelt district had four.

(g) Cllr Shiels said he would like to give credit were credit was due, that his mother had recently been burgled and the local police had been exemplary in dealing with this. However he would like to raise that his local Orange Hall had been attacked twice in the last seven days.

The Chief Inspector highlighted some of the initiatives running in the district including the “Get Home Safe” campaign, the Grass Roots Development Sports Project and also that a local migrant workers project had secured funding from the police from “Policing with the Community” fund.

(h) Cllr Lagan was concerned with the number of on street drinking and asked if these have been prosecuted.

The Chief Inspector stated that the PSNI report all incidents to the Council where the no drinking signs are in place.

7 Questions from the Public

Robert Kelly asked, from the floor, about statistics for sectarian hate crime in the district.

The Chief Inspector stated that there had been a number of operations over the summer and police patterns had been based on last years figures.

Hate crime figures are low and not all are sectarian. There is a minority liaison officer in place, however Chief Superintendent Russell stated for hate crimes, witnesses are reluctant to come forward.

Robert Kelly further asked can threats from people from online sites such a BEBO be taken to task.

The DC replied that this was currently being looked at and was difficult to police.

With regard to the recent disturbances in Leckagh and Sperrin this was carried out by a small minority of people but it affects the quality of life for everyone. The police can react to the situation but local representatives can help with solutions.

8 Any Other Business

Date of Next Meeting

It was agreed that the next meeting of the DPP should be held in the Council Offices, 50 Ballyronan Road, Magherafelt on Monday 8 October 2007 at 7.30pm.

The meeting concluded at 8.45pm.

J A McLaughlin

The foregoing Minutes are hereby Confirmed.

_____ (Chairman)

_____ (Date)