

**MINUTES OF THE DISTRICT POLICING PARTNERSHIP PUBLIC MEETING
HELD ON MONDAY 7 AUGUST 2006 AT 7.30PM
IN MAGHERA LEISURE CENTRE, COLERAINE ROAD, MAGHERA**

PRESENT Cllr P McLean, Chairman
Cllr Rev Dr R T Wm McCrea, MLA
Cllr K Lagan
Mr J Conlon
Mrs M Donnelly
Cllr T J Catherwood
Cllr J Campbell
Mrs B Foster
Mrs Sue Chada
Cllr G Shiels
Dr Shortall
Mrs M McCormack
Mr J O'Doherty
Cllr J Crawford
Cllr Mrs E A Forde

Also present Mr M McCrory, DPP Manager
Ms P Shaw, Secretary

1 Apologies

Ms F Symington, Vice-Chairperson.

2 Declarations of Interest

No member had any interest to declare.

3 Confirmation of Minutes

Cllr Campbell asked that the minutes be changed to reflect that he had asked the PSNI to be extra vigilant over the summer months.

PROPOSED by Mr J O'Doherty,
Seconded by Cllr Mrs E A Forde, and

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that subject to the foregoing amendment, the minutes were an accurate record of the meeting.

4 Matters Arising

The Chairman, Cllr McLean asked the DPP Manager, Mr Michael McCrory if all the issues raised at the Subgroup meeting has been actioned.

Mr McCrory replied that all but one had been actioned. The item outstanding was the Vice Chairperson's introduction to the website which he had not yet received.

Cllr McLean stated that the PSNI website still had not been undated to reflect the current staff.

Chief Inspector Douglas replied that he had sent the information for update.

5 Report by the District Commander

Chief Inspector Douglas presented the District Policing Partnership Report for the period April - June 2006. He highlighted that the most significant features were:

- (a) Domestic Burglary - Not on target.
- (b) Violent Crime - Not on target.
- (c) Vehicle Crime - Not on target.
- (d) Criminal Damage - Not on target.

In summary Chief Inspector Douglas stated that overall crime had increased by 15% compared to the same period last year.

Chief Inspector Douglas stated that he hoped to establish a neighbourhood watch scheme in Tobermore.

The DPP Manager, Mr Michael McCrory stated that funding of up to £3,000 would be available from the Community safety unit in September to establish Neighbourhood watch schemes. This funding would cover the cost of room hire, posters, and general administration.

It was highlighted by Cllrs Shiels and Campbell that there had been two recent bogus callers on elderly couples and that there was need for an initiative to help to elderly people

Mr McCrory stated that the Community Safety Partnership has established the Good Morning Project which currently has 46 people as members. The project's aim is to address their fear of crime and also to provide them with home security devices.

Chief Inspector Douglas stated that vehicle crime for April was a bad month as we had 14 incidents in the district but the numbers have been falling steadily since April and the PSNI have arrested two people.

Mr J O'Doherty stated that he had asked the previous District Commander, Tom Wiggins for statistics on accident black spots and he had not received them.

Violent crime was currently the same as last year and showing no decrease however the police will be actively working on this over the next 9 months.

Cllr McLean highlighted a high level of vandalism for the past week with trees and flowerbeds being damaged in the town centre.

Chief Inspector Douglas responded that he was very disappointed as he lives in the town to see the senseless vandalism. He added that the PSNI has had great success with the CCTV system in apprehending offenders.

Dr Shortall stated that he thought it was a small element involved and he asked if there were figures for drunk and disorderly behaviour.

Chief Inspector Douglas responded that there weren't.

Cllr Campbell highlighted that two police officers were hurt over the holiday period and that drunk offenders were probably the cause.

Mrs M Donnelly highlighted that drunkenness was wider problem than the police alone can cope with and that other bodies need to be involved e.g. schools, community groups, council, etc.

Cllr Catherwood asked what was the age group involved.

Chief Inspector Douglas stated that 18-25 year olds both as victims and perpetrators

The Chief Inspector reported that there were 55 incidents over the last period with this just two away from the target and he stated that he putting every available resource on this.

Chief Inspector Douglas highlighted the recent case of 10 year old children being involved in the recent damage to schools.

Cllr Lagan highlighted that she was holding an interagency meeting with regard to the problem in Draperstown of boy racers and vandalism.

The DPP Manager, Mr Michael McCrory proposed that the DPP fund the drama project for schools which will help educate school children on issues such as criminal damage and assaults. This would cost approximately £3,000. The DPP agreed to do this.

Cllr Shiels stated that the Arts Trust would like to be involved.

The Chairman, Cllr McLean highlighted the good policing he saw at a recent parade in which a police officer confiscated drink but gave it back at end of night. This removed any disruption or aggravation.

Mrs M McCormack highlighted the problem in Draperstown recently with water bombs being thrown at cars which could lead to a nasty accident.

Chief Inspector Douglas said that they had recently prosecuted a person for throwing a water bomb from a car onto a passing pedestrian.

Dr Shortall stated that he thought the problem was a lack of proper parenting.

It was raised about the recent murder in Tobermore, however the Chairman, Cllr McLean stated that this could not be discussed as it was a live investigation.

6 Questions from the Public

A letter had been received (copy enclosed) questioning the disabled parking legislation and police awareness of it.

Chief Inspector Douglas replied that the local police will receive refresher training on this.

7 Future Meeting Dates

The DPP Manager, Michael McCrory highlighted that the structure of public meetings are to change. There will be four ordinary public meeting and two open themed meetings per year. The four public meetings will take place on the second Monday of that month.

This ties in better with the availability of statistics from the PSNI.

The two open meetings, the first to take place in October 2006 will be youth themed and the second will take place in February 2007, the theme to be decided.

Mr J O'Doherty asked if there could be a Subgroup meeting held in September.

8 DPP Leaflet

A sample leaflet was distributed to the members who approved of the design. The leaflet would incorporate a business card with the text number for the public to ask questions.

PROPOSED by Mr J O'Doherty,
Seconded by Mrs B Foster, and

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the final draft of the DPP Leaflet be approved.

9 Any Other Business

Mrs M McCormack raised the issue of the PSNI Station in Draperstown and the hopes for a community centre.

Chief Inspector Douglas said it was currently in the consultation period, however, he would have no control over the land if the station was demolished. This will be left up to the PSNI Estate Services.

Cllr Forde enquired about the letter circulated on 11 July asking for illegal blocking of the 12 July march.

Chief Inspector Douglas said that this was a live investigation and he could not comment any further.

Mrs M Donnelly asked about possibility of ramps for the Hillhead residents.

Chief Inspector Douglas replied that analysis has been done and he will bring to next meeting.

Cllr Rev Dr McCrea asked if the Commander was satisfied with the number of police officers he has to work at night.

Chief Inspector Douglas reported that he had no control over the numbers, that this was decided centrally. He added that he had just added eight to the weekend shift.

Inspector Johnston added that they prioritise their resources.

Date of Next Meeting

It was agreed that the next meeting of the DPP should be held in The Rural College, Derrynoid Road, Draperstown on Monday 9 October 2006 at 7.30pm.

A Subgroup meeting will be held on Wednesday 20 September 2006 at 7.00pm in the Council Offices.

The meeting concluded at 9.10pm.

J A McLaughlin

The foregoing Minutes are hereby Confirmed.

_____ (Chairman)

_____ (Date)