

**MINUTES OF THE DISTRICT POLICING PARTNERSHIP PUBLIC MEETING
HELD ON MONDAY 8 JANUARY 2007 AT 7.00PM
IN THE COUNCIL OFFICES, 50 BALLYRONAN ROAD, MAGHERAFELT**

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

Also present Mr J A McLaughlin, Chief Executive, MDC
Mr M McCrory, DPP Manager
Ms P Shaw, Secretary

1 Welcome

The Chairperson, Cllr K Lagan, welcomed everyone to the meeting and welcomed Mr John Conlon as the Vice-Chairperson.

2 Apologies

Cllr Rev Dr R T Wm McCrea MLA, Cllr T J Catherwood, Mrs M Donnelly, and Mr J O'Doherty.

3 Declarations of Interest

No member had any interest to declare.

4 Confirmation of Minutes

PROPOSED by Ms F Symington,
Seconded by Mrs B Foster, and

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

5 Matters Arising

Cllr Campbell asked that the minutes be amended to show that he had enquired about halloween and criminal damage and had the police planned any operations.

The Chief Inspector had replied that he was working jointly with Cookstown DCU on a media campaign with 6FM to raise awareness.

Cllr McLean asked had the Independent Members Appraisals been completed. Ms F Symington replied that they were in progress.

6 Report by the District Commander

Chief Inspector Douglas presented the nine month brief on achieving targets in the local Policing Plan to the District Policing Partnership for the period April - December 2006. He highlighted that the most significant features were:

- (a) To reduce the number of offences of criminal damage - this was on target with a 2.2% drop.
- (b) To increase the number of persons summonsed or charged for drugs offences by 10% - this was on target and showed a 166.7% increase.
- (c) To increase the number of detections for careless and dangerous driving offences by 7% - this was on target with a 60% increase.

Chief Inspector Douglas also highlighted that there was a decrease in the number of assaults recorded.

He also reported on the following:

- (a) a "Get Home Safe" media campaign being undertaken by the PSNI
- (b) Information stand in the shopping centre
- (c) £50,000 cannabis seizure
- (d) pro active drink driving campaign

Cllr McLean highlighted that it appeared that the local press were not carrying stories presented to them by the PSNI and the DPP. He added that the Manager had written to the Mid-Ulster Mail highlighting this problem.

The DPP were unanimous in their support for the PSNI's drink driving campaign.

Mrs S Chada asked what areas suffered most from theft from cars.

Inspector Johnston replied that areas such as the shopping centre car parks were susceptible and Chief Inspector Douglas highlighted that Maghera was a hot spot. Some of the items stolen were spoilers, hub caps, badges, number plates, etc.

Chief Inspector Douglas reported that overall crime had dropped by 5.3%

Mrs S Chada asked where neighbourhood watch was operating within the district.

Chief Inspector Douglas replied that it had been operating in Beechland for two years and that a scheme was soon to be launched in Tobermore.

Cllr Campbell asked about "boy racers" especially around the Elk.

Inspector Johnston replied that they were monitoring the situation closely.

Cllr McLean said that the area was used as a rally track every weekend.

Chief Inspector Douglas replied that there had been four detections over the last few weekends.

At this stage Inspector Johnston presented footage from Maghera CCTV showing an assault.

The members were most impressed with the quality of the footage and also that the footage had led to the conviction of the offender. Overall they thought that the CCTV system was very worthwhile and necessary for the town especially at the weekend.

The Chairperson, Cllr Lagan stated that CCTV was helping prosecution and catching offenders who may otherwise escape justice.

Chief Inspector Douglas had stated that they had submitted photos to the Belfast Telegraph to help identify culprits in ongoing cases.

Cllr Shiels asked about any unrest in Maghera on New Year's eve.

Inspector Johnston reported that it has been quiet and that overall they were 20 assaults down compared to last year.

Cllr Crawford asked about the police motorbike.

Chief Inspector Douglas said that an officer was earmarked for training.

Cllr McLean asked about the begging in the street on Union Road.

Chief Inspector Douglas replied that this was against the law and that he would be following it up.

Ms F Symington stated that the recent youth event held by the DPP had been a great success and that she would like to thank Cllr McLean and Michael McCrory for organising the event. Chief Inspector Douglas stated that he had received very positive comments from teachers in the district.

The DPP Manager, Michael McCrory highlighted that the next themed event would be for the elderly and would take place in March. He hoped to invite organisations that work with the elderly to take part in this.

Mrs S Chada highlighted that the youth event would be a great submission for the DPP News in order to publicise the work of Magherafelt DPP.

7 Local Policing Plan

Inspector Harry Johnston facilitated the development of the Local Policing Plan with the DPP. He presented what needed to be done, current figures and then worked jointly with the DPP in developing the new Policing Plan.

The following was agreed for the local Policing Plan:

Roads Policing - Maintain
Criminal Damage - Reduce number of incidents (4)
Drugs Offences - To increase arrests and seizures
Anti-Social Behaviour -

8 Questions from the Public

There were no questions from the public.

9 Any Other Business

Mrs S Chada asked about the upcoming Consultation of the DPP. It was agreed at the meeting that members submit their opinion to Michael McCrory who would then collate them and submit them to the NIPB.

Date of Next Meeting

It was agreed that the next meeting of the DPP should be held in Maghera Leisure Centre, Coleraine Road, Maghera on Monday 16 April 2007 at 7.30pm.

The meeting concluded at 9.30pm.

J A McLaughlin

The foregoing Minutes are hereby Confirmed.

_____ (Chairman)

_____ (Date)