

**MINUTES OF THE DISTRICT POLICING PARTNERSHIP PUBLIC MEETING
HELD ON MONDAY 9 OCTOBER 2006 AT 7.30PM
IN THE RURAL COLLEGE, DERRYNOID ROAD, DRAPERSTOWN**

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

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

1 Welcome

Cllr McLean welcomed everyone to the meeting, in particular Deirdre McBride, Independent member of the Policing Board.

2 Apologies

Cllr Rev Dr R T Wm McCrea, 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 Cllr Campbell,
Seconded by Dr Shortall, and

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

5 Matters Arising

There were no matter arising.

6 Report by the District Commander

Chief Inspector Douglas presented the District Policing Partnership Report for the period April - September 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 - On target.
- (e) Drug Offences - On target.
- (f) Driving Offences - Not on target.
- (g) Road Safety - On target.

Chief Inspector Douglas warned the DPP that crime associated with travelling criminals will probably peak around Christmas. He added that Halloween time lead to a peak on the number of assaults.

(a) Cllr McLean reminded the public that on frosty mornings not to start up cars and leave them as they would be prime targets for car thieves.

(b) Mrs Donnelly asked were these travelling criminal part of organised crime gangs.

The Chief Inspector said that they were mainly opportunists and the public needed to be aware of this type of problem.

The Chief Inspector also stated that vehicle crime also increased. We had an increase of theft from cars.

(c) Dr Shortall asked could stolen number plates from vehicles be used on another to which the Chief Inspector answered that they did not have any analysis of this.

The Chief Inspector stated that violent crime was on a downward trend after peaking in May.

(d) Ms Symington asked what the percentage was for sexual offences.

Chief Inspector Douglas replied that 28 out of 279 were sexual offences.

The Chief Inspector stated that criminal damage was down 2% below the target.

(e) Cllr Crawford highlighted the recent damage to flowerbeds and trees by vandals.

The Chief Inspector replied that 2 people had been caught on CCTV and were being prosecuted for the damage.

(f) Dr Shortall enquired if the road safety roadshow to be held on 19 October 2006 in St Patrick's College, Maghera will be of benefit.

Chief Inspector Douglas replied that this will be a very useful tool for getting the message across.

(g) Cllr Catherwood asked about speeding in Tamlaght O'Crilly. The Chief Inspector replied that traffic branch undertook those operations and that he does not have the figures for it. He added that the PSNI would appreciate any input on the hot spots in the district.

Inspector Blemmings highlighted the police surgery which had commenced in Upperlands on 5 September 2006, these will be held on the first and third Tuesday of each month. These provided an additional means of accessing police services.

(h) Ms Symington enquired about domestic violence.

Chief Inspector Douglas replied that over his 25 years service a lot had changed in that there was now an increase in reporting of this crime and people were seeing it as less and less stigmatised.

(i) Cllr McLean asked were there any protection rackets against Eastern Europeans taking place in the area.

Inspector Blemmings stated that he was nor aware of any and would be interested in any information.

Chief Inspector Douglas highlighted the recent consultation that took place on 27 September 2006 about the future of Draperstown Police Station. 14 members of the public attended. He highlighted that to bring it back into operation would cost £780,000. There was no demand at the meeting to keep the station open. Instead people wanted good policing.

7 Questions from the Public

There were no questions from the public.

Cllr Shiels highlighted that the protestant community leaders met with Chief Inspector Douglas to ask about the carparking at GAA matches, the recent fleadh in Bellaghy, memorials and Walsh's Hotel.

He added that they were not impressed with the answers they got.

Chief Inspector Douglas responded by saying that he had met with them and tried to give reassurances to them. He added that memorials lay with the planning department and not with the police. The PSNI are trying to police the community in a fair and impartial manner and are trying to build up relationships with both sides of the communities.

8 Drama Project

A meeting on the drama project is due to take place on 10 October 2006.

9 Road Safety Roadshow

This is due to take place on Thursday 19 October 2006 in St Patrick's College, Maghera from 10.00am to 2.00pm.

10 Local Policing Plan

The local policing plan will be on 8 January 2007 at 7.00pm with the public meeting to follow.

11 Independent Members Appraisals

Self appraisal forms will be sent out for Independent Members to fill out and return. The appraisals with the Vice-Chairperson will take place in January 2007.

12 Any Other Business

PROPOSED by Ms F Symington,
Seconded by Cllr Crawford, and

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the DPP send their good wishes to Inspector R Mains.

The DPP will be holding a themed Youth meeting with the schools on Wednesday 25 October 2006 at 1.00pm in the Council Offices. This meeting is one of the two required themed meetings for the year.

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 January 2007 at 7.30pm. Please note the private meeting to set the local policing plan will be held at 7.00pm.

The meeting concluded at 9.45pm.

J A McLaughlin

The foregoing Minutes are hereby Confirmed.

_____ (Chairman)

_____ (Date)