



Carrickfergus

***District Policing
Partnership***

Local people shaping local policing

**REPORT OF THE MEETING HELD IN PUBLIC ON THURSDAY
22nd September 2005
In the Castlevew Pavilion Whitehead**

Summary

This was the second meeting in public held by the Partnership in the financial year 2005/6 and in keeping with normal policy, the meetings continue to be rotated throughout venues in the Borough.

Attendance at the meeting was low with five members of the public present along with members of the local press.

No written questions had been submitted in advance of the meeting, however a paper prepared by the Manager on the status of the DPP calling for legislative clarity was adopted and two press releases, one from the Mayor and one from the Partnership were approved.

Open questions were dominated by concerns over the recent public order problems in the Borough and following on from contact with the Manager, a resident of the Borough raised the issue of establishing a neighbourhood watch scheme in their area with the Commander and Operations Manager.

Assessment of Police performance over the six month period.

Members generally expressed their satisfaction with Police performance in the period however concerns were raised about the increases in traffic collisions, violent crime and drug offences. Members asked that the Commander should pay particular attention to these issues in the coming months.

**Minutes of the Meeting in public of Carrickfergus DPP held on 22nd
September 2005 in the Castleview Pavilion Whitehead at 7.00pm**

Private Session

- Present:** Cllr E Ferguson, Cllr Beggs, Mrs S Maxwell, Mrs V Reynolds, Mrs A Melville Mrs A Crawford, Mrs M Hawkins,.
Supt J Fenton, Chief Inspector R McCune, Insp. D Gillis, Sgt P Morris, Cons George Graham, N McClean Mr D Sweeney
- Apologies** Cllr Dickson (Chair), Ald D Hilditch, Cllr Hamilton, C Howarth, Ald M Beattie, Ald W Ashe, Mr P Luney,

Cllr Ferguson, Vice Chair of the Partnership, took the Chair for the evening and opened the meeting at 6.30 for private business

Paper on review of legislation: proposal for adoption of recommendations

Mr Sweeney referred to a paper which had been circulated to members who had attended the strategic planning meeting in early September on the legal status of DPPs. He had spoken to the Chairman the previous day and asked if he could place the paper for adoption by the partnership as the issues were not being addressed by NIPB. He gave a brief synopsis of the issues and recommendations and Cllr Ferguson asked if there was a proposal to adopt/amend or reject the paper.

**A Melville :Proposed adoption of the paper
V Reynolds :Seconded
Agreed**

Approval of press release on public disorder

A phrase was amended at members suggestion and the release was approved

**Members private business
None Raised**

7.00 Public Session

Cllr Ferguson opened the meeting to the public at 7.00pm and commented that the turn out was encouraging, thanking people for turning out. He announced that he was taking the chair for the evening in light of the apology from Cllr Dickson.

1.0 Apologies

As noted above

2.0 Minutes of previous meeting

Proposed: V Reynolds

Seconded: Marjorie Hawkins

Agreed

3.0 Matters Arising

None

4.0 DCU Commanders Report

Supt Fenton delivered his six monthly report to the partnership, highlighting areas of success and other areas where targets had not been met and where more work was required (See attached Report). Areas of particular concern included the increase in traffic collisions, violent crime and drug offences

Inspector Gillis and Sgt Morris updated the meeting on various initiatives and Joint operations that had been running over the previous six months for example Police activity in relation to Cullen's Fair and the Annual Pageant.

5.0 Questions /Issues raised by members of the Partnership

5.1 The Vice Chairman thanked Supt Fenton for his report, and the use of real numbers in the categories as well as percentages. He noted the overall reduction in crime but was concerned about the reduction in detections over the period.

5.2 Cllr Beggs noted the change in format of the report, observing that the specific incidents of interest appeared to have been dropped. He referred to the rise in violent crime and the reduction in detections and asked what measures could be adopted to address anti social behaviour in the Borough.

Supt Fenton gave a breakdown of incidents associated with the recent public order problems and appealed for assistance from the public in catching people involved with these and other crimes. He noted that Carrickfergus had been progressing in recent years and the Borough wanted to be remembered for the right reasons, and to move on from this type of disruptive behaviour. In relation to violent crime, the clearance rate had fallen in the reporting period however a large number of cases were still under consideration by the Public Prosecution Service. The results of

their decisions would affect the clearance rates. In general terms, assaults had risen and Police were targeting resources on areas that were showing a higher incidence of assaults.

- 5.3 Cllr Ferguson read two agreed press releases to the meeting, one from the Mayor (in absentia) and one prepared by the Partnership. (see attached) . As vice chair of the Partnership he wished to state that he appreciated the efforts of the Police over the last few weeks in controlling the disturbances and dealing with the perpetrators.

6.0 Questions from the Floor

- 6.1 A member of the press asked Supt Fenton about progress in the investigation into the disturbances. Supt Fenton replied that the investigation was ongoing using video and forensic evidence. It was a complex investigation and was making progress.
- 6.2 A resident asked if the targets in the Local Policing Plan were consistent across the Northern Ireland. Supt Fenton pointed out that there were local targets and national ones in the Plan. Generalised common themes could be used for comparison. Sgt Morris pointed out that the PSNI website published statistics across the DCUs in Northern Ireland and comparisons could be made from this information. Cllr Ferguson pointed out that local consultation had fed into the development of the local themes and targets.
- 6.3 A member of the press referred the Supt to recent figures from the Police ombudsman indicating that complaints against officers in Carrickfergus had increased. Supt Fenton pointed out that he couldn't comment on individual cases under investigation, however he would continue to monitor the situation and take appropriate action where necessary.
- 6.4 A member of the public asked the Supt if he was generally pleased with Police performance in the period. Supt Fenton said it was always a good thing if crime went down. The DCU was operating within resource constraints and had to focus on intelligence led Policing apart from normal operational duties. In general he was pleased, and commented on the good levels of cooperation from the public that were assisting the Police in carrying out their work. In response to a comment that clearance rates were problematic, the Supt noted that the criminals were also getting smarter. Over the previous years the Police had made some great improvements in reducing crime and increasing detection rates but as the force had learned its lessons, the criminal element had as well. The challenge was to keep one step ahead of them, working with limited resources.
- 6.5 A member of the public representing a group of residents who were present raised an issue of ongoing Anti Social Behaviour. Chief Inspector McCune had been made aware of the matter previously and the resident discussed this with her and the Command team and community officers. He informed the Partnership that the Police had been 'first rate' in how they had approached the problem, however he was concerned that incidents would

flare up again in the holiday period over Halloween. Chief Inspector McCune said that a number of measures were in place including enhanced patrolling, and a multi agency approach was being adopted to deal with the cause of the problem. She encouraged the residents to continue to work with the Police and to develop a Neighbourhood Watch scheme in the area.

7.0 AOB
None Raised

8.0 Confirmation of next business meeting

The next Business meeting will be held on Thursday 20th October at 7.00pm. Venue to be confirmed due to closure of Town Hall.

Carrickfergus District Policing Partnership 5 Month Brief
April – August 2005



Tackling Crime

Carrickfergus District Command Unit

District Policing Partnerships

5 Month Brief

Figures Extracted 05 & 06/09/2005

Carrickfergus District Policing Partnership 5 Month Brief
April – August 2005

