



Cookstown

***District Policing
Partnership***

Local people shaping local policing

Report

on

Meeting in Public Session

held on

Thursday 20 October 2005

in

The Forestry School, Pomeroy

*In accordance with Section 6 of the District Policing Partnerships
Code of Practice on Functions and Responsibilities*

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1. Attendance

1.1 List of DPP Members & Secretariat Present

Present: J McGarvey Esq. Chairman

Members: Baker, Baxter, Cassidy, Doyle, Eastwood, Glasgow, Marshall, McCrea, Pickering, Laughlin, Wilson

Other Representatives **Cookstown District Council**
DPP Secretary
Director of Corporate Services
DPP Manager
PA

PSNI
Superintendent Ivan Johnston
Inspector Ewan Anderson

Apologies McGlone

1.2 Approximate number in public gallery

5

1. Agenda

1. Apologies
2. To receive and adopt minutes of Business Meeting held on 26 September 2005
3. Matters Arising

Meeting in Public Report – 18 August 2005

4. To receive report of DPP meeting in public held on Thursday 18 August in the McNeece Hall, Stewartstown
5. To consider correspondence from Inspector Jennifer Cartmill in respect of the DCU actions from the meeting in public held on Thursday 18 August

Correspondence & Publications

6. To consider attendance of one independent member at an event being organised by the Criminal Justice Inspectorate to discuss an inspection of the PSNI HR Function on Monday 21 November
7. To receive a copy of DPP News, Autumn 2005
8. To confirm amendments made to Standing Orders on the *Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman* agreed at meeting held on 26 September

Monitoring Police Performance

9. District Commander's Report for the period April – September 2005
10. Questions from DPP Members on District Commander's Report and general questions on the policing of the district
11. Questions on the report from the public - **at Chairman's discretion**
12. Oral answers to questions submitted by the public
13. Any Other Business

3. Minutes of Previous Meeting – 26 September 2005

Adoption of Minutes

Councillor McGarvey noted his opening Chairman's Business remarks did not record fully his comments and that he would forward an amendment for inclusion in a future minute.

Subject to the above amendments the minutes of the meeting held on 26 September 2005, a copy of which had been previously circulated, were ADOPTED on the proposal of Councillor Cassidy and seconded by Mrs Pickering.

4. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

5. District Commander's Report

Please see **Appendix 2** for a copy of the District Command Units report and presentation. (The report is attached as a separate document in the form of a Power Point file when this report is sent by e-mail).

5.1 General Policing Issues from DCU Report

The Chairman welcomed District Commander, Superintendent Ivan Johnston and his team to the meeting in public session.

Superintendent Johnston delivered the District Command Unit's six month brief on the policing of the district for the period April - September 2005, which reflected steps being taken by the District Command Unit to progress regional and local policing plan targets and a summary of recorded crime/ clearance rates within the district. The report was delivered using Microsoft Power Point. The District Commander also produced the 'traffic light performance system' used by Cookstown District Command Unit to illustrate performance against associated targets referred to above.

The Report for the period April – September 2005 is set out in **Appendix 2**

5.2 Questions Arising from District Commanders Report

Questions asked and answers given during the meeting, including those arising from the District Commanders Report are detailed at section 6.3.

6. Questions and Oral Answers from District Commander

6.1 Questions received from public by theme

Drug Abuse <i>(drug dealing, drug use)</i>	Alcohol Abuse <i>(drunken driving, underage drinking, public drunkenness)</i>	Theft <i>(vehicle crime, domestic burglary)</i>	Public Nuisance <i>(Vandalism, Young people causing a nuisance, road traffic issues, public disorder, bogus callers)</i>	Violence <i>(assaults, child abuse, domestic violence, sexual attacks, paramilitary activity, hate [racial/homophobic] crimes)</i>	Operational Matters <i>(police resources, deployment of officers, response to calls)</i>	Other
0	0	0	2	1	0	1

All questions submitted by the deadline received an oral answer by the District Commander based on the policy of Cookstown District Policing Partnership on the submission and answering of questions at meetings in public. Those who submitted a question received a written response within five working days of the meeting taking place (this policy is detailed at **appendix 3**).

The Chairman informed any member of the public at the meeting, if they had submitted a question and wished to ask it of the District Commander they could do so. As a consequence some members of the public did. The Chairman also informed those members of the public who were in attendance and had submitted a written question that they could make supplementary comments based on the answer given by the District Commander.

The Chairman also informed members of the public present that they could ask a question(s) of either the District Commander if they so wished. He did however, stress that this should be directed through the Chair.

6.2 Questions submitted by the public dealt with orally

<p>Q. 1 What is Cookstown PSNI doing about the occurrence of anti-social behaviour in the Sullenboy Park area of Cookstown?</p> <p>As a long time resident/homeowner of the Sullenboy Park area and current victim of this aberrant behaviour, I wish to get some answers concerning (i) the number of incidents and (ii) the plans being implemented to combat these situations.</p>	<p>Action by (if applicable)</p>
<p>A. Since 1 April 2005 police have received 8 reports of anti-social behaviour type incidents in Sullenboy Park.</p> <p>We have increased our patrols in area. Since 5 October 2005 there has been two dedicated neighbourhood police officers dedicated to the Sullenboy, Ratheen/Greenvale Avenue/Cemetery Road to reassure and increase public confidence. I am aware there are two recent incidents in this area being presently investigated and a file will be submitted to the Public Prosecution Service.</p>	<p>DPP Manager to forward written response to questioner</p>

Mr Doyle inquired as to how calls to the police regarding anti-social behaviour were dealt with?

Superintendent Johnston indicated that if an offence was being committed at the time of the call then police would respond as a matter of priority.

<p>Q.2 Is it the policy or remit of Cookstown PSNI officers to harass and verbally abuse young children especially those under five years of age?</p>	<p>Action by (if applicable)</p>
<p>A. It is clearly not the policy or remit of Cookstown PSNI officers to harass and verbally abuse young children especially those under five years of age. The Code of Ethics for the Police Service of Northern Ireland makes it clear what behaviours are acceptable for officers. Officers must work within this Code of Ethics so that confidence in the Police Service is secured and maintained. If a member of the community believes he/she has been unfairly dealt with or treated by a Police Officer they have right to recourse through the Police Ombudsman Office, or if they wish they can request a meeting to discuss with the District Commander.</p>	<p>DPP Manager to forward a written response to questioner</p>

A member of the public referred to an incident in which his daughters were allegedly verbally harassed by PSNI officers.

Superintendent Johnston informed the gentleman that he could not comment on individual cases but could discuss the issue with him after the meeting, or he could contact the Police Ombudsman on the matter.

<p>Q.3 Has any action been taken against the 'hoods' of the Oldtown and Stewart Avenue areas who were engaged in riotous behaviour following the All Ireland success of the Tyrone GAA team in September? If not, why not?</p>	<p>Action by (if applicable)</p>
<p>A. Police are in the process of investigating incidents which occurred on the evening of 25 September 2005. An evidence gathering team is collating evidence available and an Enquiry Team has been set up. To date a number of persons have been arrested and interviewed for public order related offences. A file will be forwarded to the Public Prosecution Service.</p> <p>The investigation is "live" and police are not at liberty to discuss further pending the outcome of investigations and direction of the P.P.S</p>	<p>DPP Manager to forward a written response to questioner</p>

<p>Q.4 What measures are being planned by Cookstown PSNI to tackle the 'hoods' involved in anti-social behaviour in the Sullenboy, Ratheen and Greenvale areas of Cookstown?</p>	<p>Action by (if applicable)</p>
<p>A. Two dedicated Neighbourhood Policing Team officers have been allocated to Greenvale/Ratheen Sullenboy, Cemetery Road, Westland Road/Drum Road area. Our Service Analyst is presently carrying out a problem profile of the area. We are willing to work with community groups in area and other statutory/voluntary agencies to improve the quality of life in area. My officers will be in consultation with Youth Officer for Education and Library Board to assist in diversion of the youth from anti social behaviour. I would encourage residents to report incidents of anti social behaviour at the time of occurrence.</p> <p>I have no doubt this DPP will join with me in appealing to young persons to show consideration for all persons in the neighbourhood and refrain from causing annoyance and damage to property particularly over the Halloween period. I would also appeal to parents to encourage their children to exercise restraint and demonstrate good citizenship.</p>	<p>DPP Manager to forward a written response to questioner</p>

It was AGREED that the District Policing Partnership Manager compile a joint press release with the District Command Unit encouraging those engaged in anti-social behaviour, especially in the lead up to Halloween, to refrain from such activity.

6.3 Questions asked and answers given during the meeting

The following questions were asked of the District Command Unit on the policing of the District.

Q. <i>Councillor Cassidy inquired if there was any indication as to how many burglars there were in the District.</i>	Action by (if applicable)
A. Superintendent Johnston replied that most of the burglaries could be allocated to a small number of burglars from the District but that on occasions outsiders from other districts would commit offences.	District commander to provide figures

Q. <i>Mrs Marshall inquired how long the dedicated Domestic Violence Officer had been in place.</i>	Action by (if applicable)
A. Superintendent Johnston replied that the officer had been in place since September and had received training.	No further action required

Q. <i>Mrs Marshall asked that the Domestic Violence Policy for the District be circulated to all members.</i>	Action by (if applicable)
A. Superintendent Johnston agreed to undertake this.	DCU to forward policy

Q. <i>Councillor Cassidy referred to the large number of anti social behaviour offences recorded and asked for a breakdown of these figures in future reports? Councillor Cassidy also inquired as to how many of these offences would be prosecuted?</i>	Action by (if applicable)
A. Superintendent Johnston replied that anti social behaviour covered a wide spectrum of offences such as breaches of the peace, assaults, criminal damage, violence etc. He also stated that the 887 figure would include offences recorded under other categories. Superintendent Johnston stated that he did not have to hand the number of prosecutions in process relating to this category but would forward these details to the District Policing Partnership Manager.	No further action required

Councillor Cassidy welcomed decrease in number of detections for careless & dangerous driving.

Councillor Baker commended the reduction in sickness levels for police officers.

Q. <i>Councillor Glasgow inquired as to what offences would be recorded under Other Notifiable Offences?</i>	Action by (if applicable)
A. Superintendent Johnston replied that these would include Custom and Excise Offences where police are not regarded as the lead agency.	No further action required

Q. <i>Councillor McCrea commented that when officers are stopping cars the fact that one officer is actually stopping the car and two officers are standing looking on gives a misleading impression to the public with respect the use of resources.</i>	Action by (if applicable)
A. Superintendent Johnston replied that health and safety policy dictated certain standards for officer deployment in the performance of duties.	No Further Action Required

6.4 Were all Members' questions satisfactorily answered at the meeting?

Yes No

7. Details of Next Meeting

Date:	Thursday 26 January 2006
Time:	7pm
Location:	Burnavon Arts Centre, Cookstown

Appendix List

- Appendix 1 Minutes of DPP Meeting in Business Session – Monday 26 September 2005
- Appendix 2 District Commanders Report
- Appendix 3 Policy on the Submission & Answering of Questions at meetings in Public

Appendix 1

Minutes of Meeting – 26 June 2005

COOKSTOWN DISTRICT POLICING PARTNERSHIP

Minutes of proceedings of **COOKSTOWN DISTRICT POLICING PARTNERSHIP** in business session held in Cookstown District Council offices on Monday 26 September 2005 at 5.30pm.

Chairman Cllr J McGarvey, Chairman

Present Baxter, Cassidy, Eastwood, Glasgow MBE, Laughlin, Marshall, McGlone, McCrea, Pickering, Wilson

Other Representatives

Cookstown District Council
DPP Secretary
DPP Manager
Director of Corporate Services

Chief Inspector Williamson
Inspector Anderson

1. CHAIRMAN'S BUSINESS

At the outset of the meeting the Chairman referred to injuries sustained by the Director of Development's son and a Mr Mullan from the town on the evening of the 25 September 2005 and wished them well.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received on behalf of Messrs Doyle and Quinn.

3. MINUTES OF DISTRICT POLICING PARTNERSHIP MEETING – 6 JUNE 2005

The minutes of the meeting held on 18 August 2005, a copy of which had been previously circulated, were adopted on the proposal of Councillor Glasgow and seconded by Mrs Pickering.

4. MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising that would not be dealt with under the agenda.

5. CORRESPONDENCE

- a. Members NOTED receipt of copy of letter forwarded to District Commander following on District Command Unit actions ensuing from meeting on Thursday 18 August 2005 in the McNeece Hall, Stewartstown.
- b. Members NOTED receipt of letter forwarded to Chief Executive, Northern Ireland Policing Board from the District Policing Partnership Manager concerning the re-constitution of District Policing Partnerships following an issue raised at meeting held on 20 August 2005.
- c. Members NOTED receipt of letter from District Commander and reply concerning the District Command Unit's application to the Policing with the Community Fund to acquire a wireless portable CCTV camera for use within the district.
- d. Members NOTED receipt of leaflet from the Northern Ireland Policing Board on the Custody Visiting Scheme.
- e. Members considered attendance of two representatives at the Youth Conferencing conference scheduled to take place in March 2006. It was AGREED to defer a decision on attendance at this conference to the January 2006 business meeting of the Partnership.

6. STANDING ORDERS

On the proposal of Councillor Cassidy, seconded by Councillor McCrea it was AGREED to adopt the amendments to the Standing Orders regarding the election of Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Partnership making provision for an independent member to be elected to the position of vice chairman following re-constitution of the District Policing Partnership on 1 December 2005.

The District Policing Partnership Manager informed members that guidance had been received as to the procedure for electing a new vice chairman and these would be taken into account during the process at the first business meeting in December.

It was AGREED that a reception be held in late November/ early December prior to the first meeting of the re-constituted District Policing Partnership to facilitate an opportunity for members to meet each other before the commencement of business of the newly constituted Partnership.

7. FEEDBACK FROM MEMBERS -TRAINING

Members NOTED receipt of a report from Councillor Cassidy and Mr Eastwood on a presentation skills seminar attended on Monday 19 September 2005.

Members NOTED receipt of a report from Mr Eastwood, Mrs Marshall and Mrs Pickering on the Urban Design Strategy consultation event attended on Monday 5 September 2005.

8. TWELFTH MEETING IN PUBLIC – 20 OCTOBER 2005

Members NOTED that the Twelfth Meeting in Public would take place on the 20 October 2005 in the Forestry School, Pomeroy.

Members gave consideration to advertising the public meeting by the use of a mail shot to each home in the Pomeroy District and display of posters in public places as opposed to newspapers advertisements.

It was AGREED that the District Policing Partnership Manager seek clarification on the matter and liaise with the Chairman and Secretary to agree upon final procedures for advertising the meeting.

9. DISTRICT COMMAND UNIT BRIEFING – 2006/07 LOCAL POLICING PLAN

a. Welcome

The Chairman welcomed Chief Inspector Brian Williamson and Inspector Euan Anderson to the meeting.

b. All Ireland Football Final

The Chairman asked Chief Inspector Williamson to give a recount of the disturbance after the All Ireland Football final in Cookstown on the evening of the 25 September 2005.

Chief Inspector Williamson gave a brief account of the trouble that had arisen and how the police had dealt with same. Chief Inspector Williamson answered a number of queries from members.

c. Local Policing Plan

Chief Inspector Williamson gave a presentation on the District Command Unit's

preliminary proposals for developing the 2006/07 local policing plan and requested comments from members.

Councillor McGlone entered the meeting at 6 pm.

- d. The Chairman informed the Chief Inspector that the District Policing Partnership Manager would circulate each member with a copy of his presentation and that the Partnership would then meet to prepare a response.

The District Policing Partnership Manager informed members that it was his intention to hold a meeting in late October to consider and agree upon issues which the Partnership feel should be contained within the 2006/ 2007 local policing plan. He also informed members that there would be an opportunity at this meeting to give further consideration to the proposals.

It was AGREED that the Chief Inspector supply the District Policing Partnership with an updated list of specialised personnel so as to inform members of recent changes within the District Command Unit.

The meeting concluded at 6.20 pm

Chairman

DPP Manager/ Secretary

Date

Appendix 2

District Commanders Report

(attached as a separate Powerpoint file when this report is sent by an e-mail)

Appendix 3

Policy on the Submission & Answering of Questions at Meetings in Public



Cookstown

District Policing Partnership

Local people shaping local policing

Policy on Submission & Answering of Questions at Meetings in Public Session

Adopted May 2003

Amended & Adopted 24 May 2004

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6. Questioning of the District Commander by DPP Members

The purpose of this paper is to act as a guide on the areas surrounding the submission of questions by members of the public to be answered by the District Commander of Cookstown at meetings in public meetings of the District Policing Partnership.

This paper will be used by the DPP Manager, Members of Cookstown DPP, the District Commander and forwarded to members of the public on request. A digest on the submission of questions has been included on the form which can be used by the public when submitting a question to be answered.

1. Context

- 1.1 Paragraphs 4.2, 4.7, 4.13, 4.14 and 4.15 of the District Policing Partnerships Code of Practice on the Functions & Responsibilities set the context for the submission of questions to the DPP by the public to be considered for a response at a meeting in public by the District Commander.
- 1.2 **Paragraph 4.2** states “The DPP should also ask the police questions that may have been forwarded to them by members of the public”.
- 1.3 **Paragraph 4.7** states, “At least eight working days before the meeting of the DPP the police District Commander should be informed of any issues which have been raised in written questions where the police would be expected to provide an answer”.
- 1.4 **Paragraph 4.13** states “a written question will be accepted from any person living or working in the district or any person directly affected by the policing of the district. If a person wishes to have their question acknowledged, they need to include their name and address”.
- 1.5 **Paragraph 4.14** states “Any member of the public may choose to ask a member of the DPP to raise an issue or ask a question on their behalf. If the member of the DPP considers that the information being sought falls within the categories listed in 4.15, they should seek guidance from the Chairman of the DPP” (see Appendix 1).
- 1.6 **Paragraph 4.15** details the instances in which an answer may not be provided to a question submitted by the public or asked of the District Commander from a Member of the DPP (see appendix
- 1.7 It is therefore in this context which the following procedures have been developed by Cookstown District Policing Partnership for dealing with the submission and answering of questions at meetings in public.

2. Submission of Questions

- 2.1 On consulting the District Policing Partnership Code of Practice and Standing Orders the following paragraphs have been adopted.
- 2.2 Any one who resides or works in Cookstown District, or any person directly affected by the policing of the district may submit a question to the DPP Manager to be considered at the nearest available public meeting.
- 2.3 Question(s) should be submitted in writing to the DPP Manager 10 calendar days before the public meeting is due to take place. There is a text phone facility available through Cookstown District Council for those who may have difficulty in submitting a question in writing (Tel: 028 8676 5827). Should the question(s) arrive with the DPP Manager outside the 10 calendar day deadline, its inclusion at the public meeting will be at the discretion of the DPP and the District Commander. See paragraph 3.2.
- 2.4 If a question(s) arrives outside the deadline and it is not considered for inclusion at the meeting in public it will automatically be included on the list of questions for answering by the District Commander at the next available public meeting. In this instance the questioner(s) will be notified in writing stating this. In this case the questioner(s) will have the option of withdrawing the question at any time, and seek another avenue for receiving an answer to the question, see paragraph 6.1.
- 2.5 For a question to receive a written response to a question submitted for oral answer at a meeting in public the questioner(s) must supply the DPP Manager with his/ her name and address to which an answer may be forwarded. A written response will be forwarded within 5 working days of the meeting taking place.
- 2.6 If a question is on the list of questions to be answered by the District Commander at a meeting in public and time runs out for it to receive an oral answer the questioner will automatically receive a written response within 5 working days of the meeting taking place. This is subject to paragraph 2.5 above.
- 2.7 A person may only submit two questions at any one public meeting, unless otherwise determined by the DPP.
- 2.8 On the submission of a question(s) from a member of the public only the question(s) will be forwarded to the District Commander for his consideration at the meeting in public. At no time will questions be attributed to a member of the public, unless stated otherwise.

3. Cookstown DPP & Cookstown District Command Unit

- 3.1 The DPP Manager will forward all questions received by the deadline to the District Commander no later than eight working days before the public meeting is due to take place.
- 3.2 In the event of a question(s) being received by the DPP outside the deadline for submission, the DPP Manager with authority from DPP Chairman/ or Vice-Chairman will liaise with the District Commander on the possibility of its inclusion in the batch of questions being considered for oral

answer. If the question(s) are unable to be included then they will be dealt with in the manner set out in Paragraph 2.4.

3.3 In order to obtain the running order of questions being addressed at any meeting in public the DPP Manager shall obtain, when possible, a copy of the same from the District Commander in which questions will be dealt, 24 hours before the meeting is due to take place. In obtaining a copy of the questions being addressed and their running order, copies will be made for Members of the DPP and the attending public so they may follow the District Commander when answering the questions.

4. Answering of Questions

4.1 There may be circumstances in which the District Commander may decline to answer a question(s) forwarded by the DPP Manager. Circumstances in which this may occur are when the question(s) may fall under one of the categories in paragraph 4.15 of the District Policing Partnerships Code of Practice. If this is the case the District Commander should inform the DPP Manager, who will subsequently inform the questioner(s), if personal contact details were forwarded. In this instance the DPP Manager will encourage the questioner(s) to rephrase the question and resubmit it for answer at a future meeting in public. The DPP Manager will also inform the questioner(s) of the procedure for asking a question at a public meeting (see paragraph 5.1).

4.2 If the questioner(s) rephrases and resubmits the question(s) it will be added to the list of questions to be considered for answer at the next available meeting in public.

4.3 On reaching the agenda item for the answering of questions submitted by the public the Chairman will request the District Commander to work through the list of questions which has been supplied to the DPP Manager in advance of the meeting taking place (see paragraph 3.3).

4.4 There may be instances in which the District Commander may wish to only provide a written response to a question submitted through the DPP. In this instance the question will still be on the list of questions submitted prior to the meeting taking place. But on reaching this question on the list the District Commander will note the fact that a written answer will be forwarded to the questioner through the DPP Manager, and briefly state why it is not being dealt with orally.

5. Questions submitted beginning & during a meeting

5.1 Members of the public attending the meeting may ask a question of the District Commander by forwarding it to the DPP Manager or other nominated person, complete with a name and address.

5.2 A member of the public may also be allowed to ask the District Commander an oral question on the policing of the district at the discretion of the Chairman. In this instance, questions should be asked through the Chairman and be relevant to the policing of the district.

5.3 Questions at 5.1 and 5.2 will be dealt with when DPP Members questions, and those previously submitted by the public have been received.

5.4 At the meeting the District Commander may not have all the information to answer a question described at 5.1 and 5.2 on the night of the meeting. In this instance a written response will be

forwarded to the questioner within 10 working days of the meeting takes place, subject to a name and address being supplied.

5.5 Also see Section 16 of Cookstown District Policing Partnership Standing Orders.

6. Questioning of the District Commander by DPP Members

6.1 As set out in 4.14 in the District Policing Partnerships Code of Practice members of the public may approach a DPP Member to ask a question on their behalf. Once the District Commander has answered the questions on the list (see paragraph 4.3) the Chairman will then move to taking questions from Members of the DPP.

6.2 The Chairman may rule on such questions if they fall within the categories outlined in 4.15 of the District Policing Partnerships Code of Practice (**see appendix 1**)

Appendix 1

Section 4.15 states that there may be circumstances in which information cannot be provided to a question. This may occur if:

1. it is in the interests of national security
2. it would endanger the security of one or more individuals
3. it relates to an individual and is of a sensitive personal nature
4. it involves information that the police are holding in confidence from another agency
5. it would, or would be likely to, prejudice proceedings which have been commenced in a court of law
6. it would, or would be likely to, prejudice the prevention or detection of crime or the apprehension or prosecution of offenders

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