

LISBURN AND CASTLEREAGH CITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Public Meeting of Lisburn and Castlereagh Policing and Community Safety Partnership held in Cairnshill Primary School on 17 January 2017 at 7.00 pm

PRESENT: Alderman M Henderson MBE (Chairman)
Alderman G Rice MBE
Councillor U Mackin
Councillor J Palmer
Councillor A McIntyre
Councillor B Hanvey
Councillor S Carson
Mr M Busch
Mr P Dean
Ms D Hancock
Ms P Leeson
Ms R Orr

IN ATTENDANCE: Head of Central Support Services
PCSP Officer (SA)
PCSP Officer (JB)
Committee Secretary
Senior Enforcement Officer

Designated Organisations
Chief Inspector L Dobson (PSNI)
Station Commander Roy Purvis (NIFRS)
Ms M Meehan (EA)

Commencement of the Meeting

At the commencement of the meeting, the Chairman, Alderman M Henderson, welcomed those present to the meeting expressing his thanks, on behalf of the Partnership, to the school Principal, Mrs Joanne Currie, for allowing the hall to be used for the meeting.

He outlined that this meeting would be taking place in a more informal format than meetings which had taken place in the past and he hoped those attending would find this to be a positive change.

1. Apologies

It was agreed to accept an apology for non-attendance at the meeting on behalf of Alderman D Drysdale, Councillor M Tolerton, Mrs Y Craig, Mrs D Guy, Mrs C McCullough and Mr A Hannaway (NIHE), Paul Thompson (PBNI).

2. Declarations of Interest

The following Declarations of Interest were made:

- Alderman G Rice stated that she had in the past been on Committees which had approved funding applications from Dreamscheme.

3. Updates from Statutory Agencies and Projects

The Chairman, Alderman M Henderson, welcomed everyone to the meeting, advising that representatives of Statutory Agencies and one of the funded projects would be providing an update during the meeting.

The following updates were provided:

Ms M Meehan – Education Authority Youth Provision

Ms Meehan provided those attending with an outline of the Youth provision in the area, highlighting the following:

- There was a mix of full time and part time provision.
- Around 4,000 youths participate.
- In the Cairnshill area there were 12 registered groups which would include Guides, Youth clubs, Community based groups, Boys and Girls Brigade, Dreamscheme etc).
- Belvoir and Dunseverick Youth Clubs were nearby.
- In addition to core funding, there was additional funding received to work with targeted detached groups.
- In recent months two youth workers had been appointed, one for 20 hours per week and one for 9 hours per week. They have engaged with young people in Killynure and Colby Park and this work would continue into the summer months offering a range of positive diversionary activity.

Senior Enforcement Officer, Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council.

The Senior Enforcement Officer updated on partnership working with the PCSP as follows:

A mural painting project had been organised in the past at Colby Park to address anti-social behaviour and graffiti. Other users of the park had been involved as had Dogs Trust. Local college students had involved themselves by coming up with a suitable design and in addition, the project had been environmentally friendly and re-cycled paints had been used.

She stated that, due to the passage of time, the mural was now ready for an update and work was ongoing with Dreamscheme to update and refresh it. Plans were in place to liaise with local shop owners to include the painting over of graffiti at the back of their buildings. The project has been named 'Calling all Bankys' and it is hoped that participation will deter young people from getting involved in graffiti. She advised that Council Officers were logging graffiti and fly posting incidents and using this information to target their efforts.

In response to a question from the floor, the Senior Enforcement Officer outlined how the Council dealt with dog fouling stating that identified offenders would be

progressed and she undertook to speak to the person who raised the question after the meeting about specific incidents.

Mr S Mullan, Project Manager, Dreamscheme

Mr Mullan provided those attending with some information on the work of Dreamscheme projects in the surrounding area as follows:

- Dreamscheme was currently working in Braniel, Milltown, Breda and Four Winds and took a targeted approach working with PSNI, Council, YJANI (Youth Justice Agency NI) amongst others.
- They operated from a centre on the Saintfield Road.
- The aim was to bring young people on a positive life journey.
- He outlined a specific response to an issue at The Glen area where drug abuse had led to other anti-social behaviour issues. He stated that this was challenging work.
- Young people were offered various projects to address this including drug awareness workshops, team building events, leadership development courses, liaison and information from local homeless shelters.
- He stated that in the Breda area there had been fireworks issues which had been addressed in conjunction with the PSNI. Arrangements had been made for this group of young people to be involved in a diversionary project at the Oh Yeah Centre in Belfast.
- He encouraged those present to view the Dreamscheme website if they wished to find out more about the organisation and stated that he would be available after the meeting should anyone wish to speak to him.

On behalf of the Partnership, the Chairman, Alderman M Henderson, thanked those who had provided updates.

At this stage in proceedings, the Chairman stated that, as most people present would be aware, there were traffic issues in the vicinity of the school and that meetings with statutory agencies had been ongoing in an attempt to find a satisfactory solution. He advised that agencies involved had been invited to attend tonight's meeting, but unfortunately TransportNI had been in contact to say that no-one would be available to attend. They had, however, provided some information by e-mail which was read out by the PCSP Officer (SA) as follows:

'If any issues are raised for TransportNI, please forward these to me and I will have them investigated.'

I can also advise that I attended a meeting about parking around Cairnshill Primary School on Monday last the 9th January. A series of meetings have been ongoing through last year.

I updated that as agreed at previous meeting in September 2016, TransportNI has carried out the following:

- *Provided advisory one way signing erected around Beechill Park North, East and South*
- *Provided tactile paving and associated footway bollards on the entrance to Cairnshill Drive and Cairnshill Gardens*
- *Legislation is under way to provide a length of double yellow line on rhs of Cairnshill Drive and school zig zag markings on lhs on the corner at no 6 and immediate approach to the school entrance.'*

The Chairman invited any Questions

Ms G Boyd

Responsibility for monitoring parking

Ms Boyd asked where the responsibility lay for monitoring parking on yellow lines.

Chief Inspector Dobson responded that TransportNI now had responsibility for most parking restrictions however police had retained some responsibility. The issues at the school probably covered both instances.

Ms Boyd responded that parents ignored the restrictions in place and she then went on to outline the serious safety issues at the school.

The Chairman stated that school staff were going out of their way to protect the safety of pupils, including writing to all parents.

Chief Inspector Dobson stated that it was parking by parents which was causing problems and that meetings with appropriate agencies were ongoing. She stated that the issue was not confined to this school but was replicated across the district. She outlined that resources had to be spread and that police could not be present at every school.

At this stage Mrs Joanne Currie, Principal at Cairnshill Primary School advised that the next parking meeting at the school would be held on 22 May 2017 at 2.00 pm. She reassured that teachers were working hard to ensure that road safety was adhered to by parents and children. She outlined other considerations which could be put in place which might be effective and which included moving a grit box and a school sign in an attempt to provide a barrier to parking in a specific place and she suggested the introduction of waiting time restrictions.

She advised that she could be contacted directly in respect of any other issues.

Alderman G Rice

Joint School Parking Campaign

Alderman G Rice asked if it would be possible for PSNI, TransportNI and DRD to have a joint school parking campaign?

Chief Inspector Dobson responded that the PSNI would be happy to get involved in any campaign which would promote safety, however this would be subject to agreement from other agencies but she would be happy to progress it.

A Member of the Public
Dedicated Crossing Zone

A member of the public advised that he had two children at the school and was frightened to let them walk to school alone. He asked whether a dedicated crossing zone would be an option.

Chief Inspector Dobson said that she was unaware of this consideration and after some further discussion she said that PSNI could put this on the table for discussion and test the appetite for it.

A Member of the Public
Historic issues unaddressed in the Saintfield Road area.

A Member of the Public said that for the past four years he had campaigned regarding speeding in the area however nothing has ever been done. He had attended many meetings before and had not received updates. He outlined his frustration at this and at the lack of action stating that his ultimate concern was that there would be a fatal accident.

He went on to say that five set traffic light sequencing was predominantly green on the Saintfield Road and was unrealistic. He emphasised the importance of addressing the speeding issues on the road and stated that he was totally disillusioned by the engagement he has had to date with statutory agencies.

The Chairman, Alderman M Henderson said it was important to find out why these issues around feedback and engagement had occurred so that they could be addressed.

Chief Inspector Dobson said that there were many issues in the area and that she was aware that road stops were taking place. She advised that engagement crews were put out into the community, divided into areas and were looking at all of the problems raised by local people – parking, speeding, suspicious behaviour etc. She stated that a communication system was in place to log activity however she acceded that it may well be the case that gentleman had not been updated.

She stated that police could not be at every location all of the time and undertook to speak to the gentleman after the meeting and hoped that he would be willing to work with her.

The gentleman responded that a 50 mph speed limit was much too fast for the Saintfield Road, however he did want to thank Chief Inspector Dobson for her efforts.

Mr J Power
Speeding on Saintfield Road

Mr Power stated that he regularly sees speeding cars and lorries driving at excess speed. He suggested reducing the limit to 40 mph and saw no reason for not doing this.

Chief Inspector Dobson responded that PSNI were not the authority responsible for setting speed limits. Evidence could be gathered and Transport NI approached to request a change to the speed limit. She stated that if there was no evidence available then monitoring would have to take place to support the request.

A member of the public, who had asked the previous question, suggested that if police were on the Saintfield Road at 6.00 am they would be able to gather as much evidence as they would need and he went on to outline some hazardous driving practices which he had witnessed on the Saintfield Road. He suggested that the static camera should also be able to provide evidence.

Chief Inspector Dobson undertook to feedback on this.

Councillor N Anderson
Designation as an Area of Community Concern

Councillor N Anderson, who was present at the meeting, referred to traffic issues on the Saintfield Road, Killynure Road, Ballynahinch Road, Hillsborough Road and at the roundabout all of which have been highlighted to him by members of the community. He asked whether this general area could be designated an Area of Community Concern. He wanted to pay tribute to the local Neighbourhood Team however stated that he had been experiencing issues with the 101 number which was often not responded to. He said that he had also experienced rudeness from police officers on the number and, in his experience, the previous mode of contact through mobile phone, had been preferable.

Alderman G Rice concurred with all of the previous speakers regarding traffic issues and the 101 number. She said that traffic problems were made worse by a lack of co-ordinated planning, there had been no infrastructure upgrades for many years and something urgently needed to be done. She said however, that the PSNI could not address all of these issues on their own and that there would have to be a concerted effort by all concerned.

Mr Tom Hutchinson
Parking at Schools

Mr Hutchinson stated that cars parking on both sides of the road at Cairnshill Green caused visibility issues at the school. He provided information on a practical solution at a school in Whiteabbey where a one way system at designated hours was in place with parking available only on one side of the road.

Chief Inspector Dobson responded that there were a number of actions which could be considered and that these would be tried and tested before looking at the issue again.

Regarding the 101 number and the use of mobile phones there were positives and negatives with both options and comments on each are varied and being monitored.

Ms G Boyd
Parking at Commons Brae

Ms Boyd drew attention to parking issues at the corner of Commons Brae where there was a blind corner. This information was noted by police.

Ms K Gibney
TransportNI

Ms Gibney said that she thought it was shameful that TransportNI had not attended this meeting. She said that her children could not walk to school due to the poor standard of driving in the school's vicinity. She said that she thought they should have been represented to hear the issues raised.

At this stage the PCSP Officer (SA) advised that responses to questions would be provided through the School Principal's Office.

5. PSNI Overview on Crime

Chief Inspector L Dobson made a verbal report in respect of crime statistics for the Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council area, a copy of which had been circulated at the meeting. She also advised that a burglary team headed by Superintendent Wright comprising of 10 Officers until the end of May and covering the South area had been established to address burglary.

The Chairman, Alderman M Henderson, thanked her for her report and invited questions from Members of the Policing and Community Safety Partnership.

Questions from PCSP Members

5.1 Councillor S Carson
Designation of an Area of Community Concern

Councillor S Carson wondered how often one of the 8 mobile speed detection devices was operational in the area, bearing in mind that they had to cover 90 locations. He also asked whether the Chief Inspector was made aware that they were operational in the area.

Regarding the locality being designated as an Area of Community Concern, he expressed his reservations that the PCSP was being referred to without having the above information however, the mood of tonight's meeting would indicate support for the suggestion.

Chief Inspector Dobson outlined the process required to designate an area as one of Community Concern stating that she had experienced this in the past and would see if the process could be repeated for this area.

She said that she would not be made aware when the detection vehicle was in the area – they came and went freely.

5.2 Alderman G Rice
Speeding on Saintfield Road at the Ivanhoe Inn

Alderman G Rice said she had identified serious issues at the bend in the road at the Ivanhoe Inn and wondered if it could be used as a suitable location in which to place the speed detection van.

Chief Inspector Dobson responded that this could be considered but that safety and technical considerations had to be borne in mind.

5.3 Councillor J Palmer
Trailer towed speed indicators

Councillor J Palmer said that PSNI had mobile speed indicator devices which could be moved around areas by trailer, he wondered if these were still available.

Chief Inspector Dobson said that they were and could be used as a temporary measure to ascertain the effectiveness of changes.

5.4 Member of the Public
Speeding and thanks

A member of the public said that on one occasion he had spoken with one of the operators of the mobile detection van who had conveyed to him its effectiveness. He wished to thank police at the meeting for their assistance but wished to emphasise his earlier comments that 50 mph was much too fast a speed for the Saintfield Road.

5.5 Councillor J Gallen
Burglary / car crime

Councillor J Gallen referred to a Meeting in Public of the PCSP which he had attended a number of months previously in St Joseph's Parish at which car crime was highlighted as an issue. In light of a recent high-jacking incident there was renewed concern at car crime and he wanted to know what was being done in to address it.

Chief Inspector Dobson advised that the dedicated burglary team referred to earlier would help with this as car crime as burglary were closely linked. She went on to provide information on a recent success where a perpetrator was apprehended close to the vehicle and as a result car crime figures had already started to fall. She said that high-jacking was unusual and hoped that this was not the start of a trend. Due to the location of this high-jacking she was hopeful that CCTV would assist due to the vehicle having been abandoned on the Boucher Road.

5.6 Ms K Gibney
Police time spent looking for missing children

Ms Gibney referred to facebook posts and the increasing number of matters currently dealt with by police and the reducing number of resources available to deal with it. She asked whether it was the case that considerable time was spent looking for missing children and in particular children who go missing frequently.

Chief Inspector Dobson outlined the process in place when someone goes missing and stated that, if risk factors dictate, then resources would be required. She said that the management of risk regarding those who frequently go missing did impact on resources. She said that this was something which had been raised through Community Planning where assistance might be available from another agency through a joint initiative, consideration of the matter is ongoing.

6. Any Other Business

Mr G Fletcher
Fixed Penalty Notices regarding Dog Fouling

Mr Fletcher wished to ask a question from the Council's Senior Enforcement Officer. He wished to know how many fixed penalty notices had been issued in respect of dog fouling.

The Senior Enforcement Officer responded that she did not have that information to hand but would be happy to provide it if required. She said that the problem was one of detection, as offenders do tend to be compliant if they see the Enforcement Officer in the area. She said that reporting can be very helpful when targeting enforcement operations. She further advised that it was important to provide as much information as possible when reporting dog fouling and that unfortunately darker evenings made enforcement more difficult.

Mr Fletcher suggested that the Enforcement Officer should operate 'incognito', he advised that he had, on occasion reported incidents of dog fouling but had been asked very specific questions about the breed of dog which he would not necessarily know.

The Senior Enforcement Officer advised that there were regulations in place which dictated that only overt and not covert surveillance could be used and therefore working 'incognito' was not an option. She concluded that failure to pay a Fixed Penalty Notice can result in the offender ending up in a Criminal Court.

Councillor J Palmer
Council Dog Fouling Cleaning Machine / perpetrators of theft

Councillor J Palmer wished to make those present aware that the Council had a machine for cleaning up dog mess. Regarding theft he advised that it had come to his attention that thieves from Athlone had recently been arrested in Lisburn.

At this stage the PCSP Officer (SA) asked that anyone who wished to receive a response to questions asked at the meeting, should leave their details with him

after the meeting. He also advised that information was routinely placed on the PCSP Facebook page and he encouraged people to use it as it was worthwhile.

Conclusion of the Meeting

At the conclusion of the meeting, the Chairman, Alderman M Henderson, thanked those present for attending. He extended particular thanks to those who had made presentations and told those present that all of the local representatives for the area had attended the meeting should anyone wish to engage with them afterwards.

There being no further business, the meeting was terminated at 8.30 pm.

Chairman