

NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE HELD ON 28 MAY 2009 AT 2:00PM IN WATERSIDE TOWER, BELFAST

PRESENT:

MEMBERS:

Mr Alex Maskey (Chairperson)
Mr Gearóid Ó hÉara
(1) Mr Trevor Ringland
Mr David Rose
Mr Suneil Sharma
Mr Peter Weir

GAELIC ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION IN ATTENDANCE:

(2) Mr Danny Murphy, Provincial Director and
Secretary
(2) Mr Ryan Feeney, Community Development
& Public Affairs Manager
(2) Ms Aileen Tohill, Health & Wellbeing
Manager

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:

Dr Debbie Donnelly, Deputy Chief Executive
Mr David Jackson, Director of Community
Engagement
4 Board Officials

- (1) Item numbers 5 and 10
- (2) Item number 5 only

1. APOLOGIES, ETC

Apologies were received on behalf of Mr Barry Gilligan (Vice Chairperson) Mr Tom Buchanan, Mr Leslie Cree and Ms Mary McKee. NOTED.

2. MINUTES OF MEETINGS OF THE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE

2.1 Minutes Of The Community Engagement Committee Meeting Held On 26 March 2009

The Board considered the draft minutes of the previous meeting.

It was:-

AGREED:

That the draft minutes of the Community Engagement meeting held on 26 March 2009 be approved.

2.2 Minutes Of The Community Engagement Committee Meeting Held On 23 April 2009

It was:-

AGREED:

That the minutes of the meeting of the Community Engagement meeting held on 23 April 2009 be agreed.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETINGS

3.1 Minutes Of The Community Engagement Committee Held On 26 March 2009

3.1.1 PSNI Report On Promoting Community Safety (Item 8 Of Minutes Refers)

The Committee was advised that officials would bring a response to the June Meeting of the committee. NOTED.

3.1.2 Antrim District Policing Partnership Member's Attendance (Item 10 Of Minutes Refers)

The Committee was advised that, the Board, at its meeting on 7 May 2009, had removed the member from Antrim District Policing Partnership. NOTED.

3.1.3 Briefing – Minority Ethnic Group (Item 11.2 Of Minutes Refers)

The Committee was advised that work was underway in linking the Ethnic Minority Group's recommendations with the various Committees and business areas within the Board, and that a full report would follow. NOTED.

3.1.4 Community Engagement Public Meetings And Engagement With Loyalist And Republican Communities (Item 12 Of Minutes Refers)

This matter was dealt with under item number 10.

3.2 Minutes Of The Community Engagement Committee Held On 23 April 2009

3.2.1 Ministerial Review Of Community Safety Partnerships And District Policing Partnerships (Item 2 Of Minutes Refers)

This matter was dealt with under item number 7.

3.2.2 Future Business (Item 4.2 Of Minutes Refers)

The Committee was advised of a proposed date for the half day workshop, however, the date was unsuitable for all Committee Members.

It was:-

AGREED:

That officials would look at alternative dates and contact Committee Members accordingly.

4. CHAIRPERSON'S BUSINESS

4.1 Westminster Briefing – Implementing The Councillor Call For Action And Crime And Disorder Overview And Scrutiny Committees

The Committee was advised that any Member wishing to attend the Westminster Briefing should contact Secretariat Branch.

4.2 Conference – Improving Public Confidence In The Police

The Committee was advised, that any Member wishing to attend this conference should contact Secretariat Branch.

4.3 Policing With The Community Steering Group Meeting Held On 13 May 2009

An update was provided under agenda item 7.

4.4 Consultation Event With District Policing Partnerships On the Proposals For The Future Of District Policing Partnerships (DPPs) And Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) Held On 13 May 2009

An update was provided under agenda item 7.

5. MEETING WITH GAELIC ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION (GAA) OFFICIALS

The Chairperson welcomed the representatives from the GAA, Mr Danny Murphy, Ryan Feeney and Aileen Tohill to the meeting.

The GAA representatives provided the Committee with a comprehensive presentation on the work of the GAA which included:-

- **What the GAA Controls**
 - Gaelic football;
 - Hurling;
 - Handball;
 - Rounders.

- **Delivering on Government Agenda**
 - Neighbourhood renewal;
 - Active lifestyles and wellbeing;
 - Community cohesion & social capital urban regeneration.

- **Strategic Themes**
 - Governance;
 - Games;
 - Infrastructure;
 - Culture and heritage;
 - Community development and inclusion.

- **Community Outreach**
 - Promoting integration.
 - Celebrating diversity.

A copy of the slides used in the presentation is attached at Appendix 'A'.

Members welcomed the presentation and congratulated the GAA on their progressive approach.

Following the presentation, members asked several questions on the following:-

- How the GAA was dealing with race and homophobic problems;
- How could the NIPB help the GAA;
- PSNI officers now having membership of the GAA;
- GAA role in Policing with the Community.

The Chairperson of the Committee welcomed the ongoing work with the GAA and also recognised the mutual benefits of an ongoing engagement.

The Chairperson thanked the GAA for their presentation and they left the meeting.

6. UPDATE FROM PSNI ON THE REFRESH OF THE POLICING WITH THE COMMUNITY STRATEGY

The Committee received an update from members participating on the PSNI Policing with the Community (PWC) Steering Group and Challenge Panels on progress in refreshing the Policing with the Community strategy.

Members considered progress to date and the timescale for completion of June 2009 as stated in the Policing Plan. Following discussion, it was:-

AGREED:

For the Committee to receive a 2 page strategic document in June 2009 with a detailed Implementation Plan to follow in September 2009.

7. RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION ON FUTURE OF COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIPS AND DISTRICT POLICING PARTNERSHIPS

The Committee considered a paper which detailed a model of a single partnership.

During discussion, Members raised a number of issues in relation to the detail of single partnership. The Committee was of the view that the partnerships should be democratically accountable in the way the current membership and composition of

DPPs is established. The Committee acknowledged however, that the overall number of members must be manageable.

It was:-

AGREED:

To recommend a response to the Board based on a democratically accountable single partnership incorporating the current functions of DPPs and CSPs operating within a Community Planning framework, with clear local arrangements in place, as the preferred model often Board.

8. DISTRICT POLICING PARTNERSHIP MEMBERS' ATTENDANCE FOR 2008/09

The Committee considered a paper which provide details of the level of attendances by DPP members at public and private meetings during the 2008/09 year.

One Member noted that Larne DPP has not yet provided the information. Officials advised the Committee that the member's attendance figures for Larne DPP had not been provided at the time the paper was prepared. Larne DPP is required to detail their figures in its annual report. NOTED.

9. FAIR EMPLOYMENT TRIBUNAL (FET) CASE

The Committee considered a paper which advised of a Fair Employment Tribunal case involving the Board, listed for hearing in October 2009.

The case arose out of the appointment process for independent members to the District Policing Partnerships.

A candidate who was unsuccessful had sought the support of the Equality Commission. NOTED.

10. FUTURE POLICING BOARD ENGAGEMENT WITH LOYALIST AND REPUBLICAN COMMUNITIES

The Committee considered a paper which provided Members with research carried out to assist the Committee plan future engagement with Loyalist and Republican communities. This information was welcomed by the Committee.

The Committee discussed various aspects of the ongoing work and agreed that it was useful to consider a background knowledge of a particular community before engaging with this community.

The Committee also used various anecdotal examples of particular hard to reach or deprived areas.

Following discussion, it was:-

AGREED:

- that officials should consider the appointment of a contract worker to enhance the resources available to undertake the Boards Community Engagement work;
- to focus on different levels of cross community engagement.

The Committee also discussed the subject of a further engagement meeting. The Chairperson stated that these meetings were useful, but he also felt that sectoral meetings and engagements were equally as useful.

It was:-

AGREED:

That a further three public meetings would be held in:-

- Enniskillen – September / October 2009;
- Criagavon or North Armagh – January 2010; and

- Ballymena or Coleraine – March 2010.

11. THE PREVENT STRATEGY AND VISIT FROM GREATER MANCHESTER POLICE AUTHORITY

The Committee noted a visit by a group of young people from Manchester as part of the “Preventing Violent Extremism” (PVE) agenda. The visit is planned for Monday, 22 June 2009.

Members were asked to notify the Director of Community Engagement should any Member be interested in meeting with this group of young people.

It was:-

AGREED:

That the Board would fund the minibus and lunch for this visit.

12. THE CONTEST STRATEGY AND WORK BEING UNDERTAKEN BY PSNI IN TAKING FORWARD THE PREVENT STRAND OF THIS STRATEGY

The Committee considered a paper which provided an update on the wide ranging revision to the PSNI Counter Terrorism Strategy known as CONTEST. Members were asked to note the work the PSNI were doing in taking this forward. NOTED.

13. PSNI PROPOSED BID UNDER PEACE III TO SUPPORT A POLICING WITH THE COMMUNITY STRATEGY

The Committee considered a paper which provided information on informed on the bid being submitted by PSNI for funding under PEACE III.

The Committee considered correspondence received from ACC Criminal Justice setting out details of the bid.

Following discussion, it was:-

AGREED:

That the Committee would endorse the bid.

14. HUMAN RIGHTS THEMATIC ON CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

The Committee considered a paper on the work being undertaken by the Human Rights and Professional Standards Committee by way of a Children and Young People Enquiry.

Members were asked to note the invite to Members of the Community Engagement Committee to meet with members of the Human Rights and Professional Standards Committee on 10 June. The important cross cutting nature of this project was noted and welcomed.

NOTED.

15. PROGRESS REPORT FROM COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT BRANCH

The Committee noted the progress report from Community Engagement Branch.

Members noted the positive reception that had been accorded to the Irish Language event held on 19 May 2009 and thanked Board officials for their work in organising this event.

Following discussion, it was:-

AGREED:

To hold a further Irish Language Public Engagement meeting in Belfast in the Autumn of 2009.

16. SCHEDULE OF PRESENTATIONS 2009

The Committee noted the Schedule of Presentations for 2009. NOTED.

17. QUESTIONS FOR THE CHIEF CONSTABLE

There were no matters arising.

18. COMMUNICATIONS ISSUES

It was:

AGREED:

That details of the Board's Community Engagement and Outreach should be referred to publically.

19. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

19.1 Crime And Disorder Reduction Partnerships/Community Safety Partnerships

The Committee considered a paper which provided them with information on the relevant aspect of Section 17 of the Crime Disorder Act 1998. NOTED.

20. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting was arranged for Thursday, 25 June 2009 at 5:00pm, Waterside Tower, Belfast.

Meeting closed (5:15pm)

Secretariat

May 2009

Chairperson