

NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE
HELD ON 23 OCTOBER 2008 AT 3:00PM IN WATERSIDE TOWER, BELFAST**

PRESENT:

MEMBERS:

- Mr Alex Maskey (Chair)
- Mr Barry Gilligan (Vice Chair)
- (1) Mr Gearóid Ó hEára
- Mr David Rose
- Mr Peter Weir

**POLICE SERVICE OF
NORTHERN IRELAND IN
ATTENDANCE:**

- (2) Mr Duncan McCausland, (ACC Criminal
Justice Department
- (2) 3 PSNI Representatives

**OFFICIALS IN
ATTENDANCE:**

Mr David Jackson, Director of Community
Engagement
5 Board Officials

- (1) Item numbers 1 - 6
- (2) Item number 5

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received on behalf of Mr Leslie Cree and Ms Mary McKee. NOTED.

**2. MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD ON 25 SEPTEMBER 2008**

It was:

AGREED:

That the minutes of the meeting of the Community Engagement meeting held on
25 September 2008 be agreed.

**3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY
ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 25 SEPTEMBER 2008**

3.1 Belfast District Policing Partnership Effectiveness Framework 2008/2011
(Item 3.5 Of Minutes Refers)

The Committee was advised that a summary of Belfast DPP performance was detailed at agenda item 12.

The Committee was also advised that contact between Dublin JPC and Belfast DPP was established and that Dublin Joint Policing Committee (JPC) had invited the members of the Belfast DPP to visit. Officials will keep the Committee updated.

**3.2 Northern Ireland Policing Board Public Engagement Meeting –
18 September 2008** (Item 4.1 Of Minutes Refers)

This matter would be dealt with at agenda item 7.

3.3 Independent Research Into Crimes Against Businesses In Northern Ireland
(Item 5 Of Minutes Refers)

The Chair of the Committee deferred this matter to a future Committee meeting and asked that the Director of Planning attend the meeting. NOTED.

**3.4 PSNI Report To The Board On Policing With The Community And
Implementation Of The Neighbourhood Policing Framework** (Item 7 Of
Minutes Refers)

The Director of Community Engagement advised the Committee on the following:-

- **Lunney Framework** – work is ongoing with PSNI on the development of the framework and will be brought to a future Committee meeting for consideration;

- **‘Seeing is Believing’ Visits** – the Committee was advised of a visit to Lisburn Area Command Unit on 4 November 2008;
- **Questions for the Chief Constable** – the Committee was advised that written replies to the Committee’s questions had been received.

3.5 Policing With The Community – Proposed Study Visit (Item 10 Of Minutes Refers)

The Committee was advised that officials would be looking at dates during weeks commencing 17 and 24 November 2008, and that the study visit would be held in the West Midlands. NOTED.

3.6 District Policing Partnerships (DPPs) And Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) Ministerial Review (Item 11 Of Minutes Refers)

The Committee was updated on the Ministerial review of DPPs and CSPs. The Committee was advised that the Board Chairman had written to the Minister on progressing arrangements that would enable DPPs and CSPs to work more closely together in advance of 2011 and that representatives of the Review Working Group had welcomed this. NOTED.

The Committee also noted that the NIO are developing an initial consultation paper that will be issued for limited consultation to key stakeholders in the coming weeks. The Review Working Group are considering using the opportunity of the DPP conference on the 18 November to outline the progress on the review and the process for consultation with DPP and CSP members.

3.7 District Policing Partnership Members’ Attendance (Item 12 Of Minutes Refers)

The Committee was advised that officials had actioned the recommendations of the Committee regarding the attendances of the Armagh DPP members and the two Newtownabbey DPP members.

Following a discussion surrounding DPP members' attendance, and in particular the 75% threshold, it was:-

AGREED:

That officials would write to DPP managers requesting a return of DPP members' attendances for the first 6 months of the year.

4. CHAIR'S BUSINESS

The Chair updated the Committee on his attendance at the following DPP meetings:-

4.1 Meeting With Newtownabbey District Policing Partnership Held On 9 October 2008

The Chair briefed the Committee on the above meeting with representatives from Newtownabbey District Policing Partnership (DPP) and advised that DPP members had concerns surrounding:-

- a lack of engagement with DPPs in moving to 8 DCUs;
- difficulties with the new structure and relationship between DPPs and District Commanders;
- clarification on the Board's position relating to PSNI co-terminosity with the 11 councils in 2011.

5. UPDATE – PSNI SUMMER CAMPAIGN AGAINST UNDERAGE DRINKING

The Chair welcomed ACC Duncan McCausland and his colleagues to the meeting.

ACC McCausland updated the Committee on the outcomes of the summer campaign on underage drinking and on-street drinking.

ACC McCausland briefed the Committee on 'Operation Snapper' and provided statistics on the number of items of alcohol seized and the number of prosecutions. He then compared the figures to those for the same period last year and noted a reduction in alcohol related:-

- crime;
- anti social behaviour;
- youths causing annoyance; and
- criminal damage

ACC McCausland then spoke of the police actions which included:-

- support for Test Purchase Legislation;
- effective use of current legislation within multi agencies approach;
- work with the alcohol industry;
- support by CSPs and DPPs in developing local action plans;
- sharing of good practice on alcohol issues.

During the briefing the Committee raised various concerns surrounding the following:-

- low cost of alcohol compared to water/soft drinks;
- how to deal with people drinking in the street;
- prosecutions around drinking in public places.

Following the presentation on the summer underage drinking campaign, ACC McCausland updated Members on the following:-

- Knife Awareness campaign;
- PACT (Partners and Communities Together);
- Policing with the Community Fund;
- Policing with the Community (PWC) Awards Scheme;
- Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs); and
- PWC and Criminal Justice Inspectorate

Following a discussion, it was:-

AGREED:

That one Board Member and one Board official should be appointed to oversee the review of the PSNI Policing with the Community Strategy.

6. PROGRESS REPORT FROM COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT BRANCH

Officials updated the Committee on the Board's Community Engagement Strategy.

Following discussion, it was:-

AGREED:

- that the Committee would be provided with a consolidated list of all issues raised by the reference groups;
- that officials would progress work with the loyalist and republican single identity communities as a matter of priority and ensure that there were adequate resources available to develop this area of work.

7. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PUBLIC MEETING – DERRY/LONDONDERRY

The Committee considered a paper which invited them to consider options for the next Community Engagement Public meeting.

It was:-

AGREED:

That the next meeting would be held on 18 February 2009 at the Millennium Forum, Derry/Londonderry.

Members would continue to work on the focus of the meeting.

8. REQUEST FOR FUNDING – BELFAST BUTTERFLY CLUB

The Committee considered a paper which asked them to consider a request from the Belfast Butterfly Club for a contribution towards their conference scheduled for February 2009. Members were not opposed to this proposal, however, following a discussion, it was:-

AGREED:

- that further information would be required before a decision could be made;
- that a structure should be set in place to enable the Committee to consider funding such applications. Such a structure should be forwarded to the Corporate Policy, Planning and Performance Committee.

9. DISTRICT POLICING PARTNERSHIP NEIGHBOURHOOD BRIEFINGS

The Committee considered a paper which provided feedback from the District Policing Partnership (DPP) Neighbourhood Policing Briefings which had taken place on 30 September 2008 and 8 October 2008. NOTED.

10. DISTRICT POLICING PARTNERSHIP CONFERENCE – 18 NOVEMBER 2008

The Committee considered a paper which provided an update in relation to the preparation for the District Policing Partnership Conference that the Board is hosting on 18 November 2008 in the City Hotel, Armagh. NOTED.

11. REVIEW OF BOARD MEMBERS' SUPPORT FOR DISTRICT POLICING PARTNERSHIPS

The Committee was asked to consider proposals for a review of Board Members' support to District Policing Partnerships (DPPs).

The Committee agreed, that where the current 'buddy system' works, it should continue. In relation to specific issues, DPPs would write to Chairs of relevant committees requesting advice/guidance.

It was:-

AGREED:

That officials would write to DPPs clarifying arrangements for Board Members' links with DPPs.

12. DISTRICT POLICING PARTNERSHIP EFFECTIVENESS IN-YEAR MONITORING REPORT

The Committee considered a paper which provided them with a six month progress report on the effectiveness of DPPs.

Following discussion, it was:-

AGREED:

- that a schedule of meetings be arranged with DPP Managers, Chair and Vice Chair of the Committee and Board officials, to review the outcome of the DPP's performance against the effectiveness framework;
- the Board should acknowledge those DPPs who have performed well.

13. INFORMATION PAPERS

13.1 Policing With The Community Award

The Committee considered a letter from ACC McCausland, which provided details of an officer who was successful in the 'Problem Solving in Partnership' category.

It was:-

AGREED:

The Chair of the Committee would send a letter of congratulations to the officer.

14. SCHEDULE OF PRESENTATIONS

The Committee noted the schedule of presentations.

It was:-

AGREED:

To arrange a discussion with PSNI on Policing with the Community outside of the Committee meeting and to invite all Members.

15. QUESTIONS FOR THE CHIEF CONSTABLE

It was:-

AGREED:

That officials would draft questions for the Chief Constable on the following:-

- Policing with the Community;
- Neighbourhood Policing.

16. COMMUNICATION ISSUES

There were no matters arising.

17. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

17.1 Support For NI Alternatives 'Street By Street' Initiative

The Committee considered a request from NI Alternatives to support their 'Street by Street' initiative.

It was:-

AGREED:

That this request should be referred to the Corporate Policy, Planning and Performance Committee.

17.2 Arts Council Of Northern Ireland

It was:-

AGREED:

To invite the Chief Executive of the Arts Council of Northern Ireland to brief Members on the 'Re-imagining Communities Programme'.

17.3 Visit By Chief Executive, West Yorkshire Police Authority

The Committee was advised that a letter had been received from West Yorkshire Police Authority following a visit by their Chief Executive, Mr Fraser Sampson.

It was:-

AGREED:

That a letter would be sent to Mr Sampson inviting him to attend a future Board meeting.

18. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting was arranged for Thursday, 27 November 2008 at 2:00pm.

(Meeting closed at 5:25pm).

Secretariat

October 2008

Chair