

## **NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD**

### **COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE**

#### **MINUTES OF THE 21<sup>st</sup> MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 27 JUNE 2005 AT 12:00 NOON IN WATERSIDE TOWER, BELFAST**

##### **PRESENT:**

##### **MEMBERS**

- Mr Denis Bradley (Chairman)
- (1) Viscount Alan Brookeborough (Vice-Chairman)
- Mr Alex Attwood
- (2) Mr Joe Byrne
- Mr Sam Foster
- (1) Mr Ian Paisley Jnr
- (3) Mr Suneil Sharma
- (4) Professor Sir Desmond Rea (Chairman of the Board)

##### **OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:**

- (5) Mr Trevor Reaney (Chief Executive)
- (6) Mr David Jackson (Director of Community Affairs)
- (1) Mr Peter Holt (Director of Communications)
- (5) Mrs Sinead Simpson (Director of Policy)
- Four Board Officials

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

- (7) Mr Duncan McCausland (ACC Urban Region)
- (7) Mr Peter Sheridan (ACC Rural Region)
- (7) Two PSNI Officers
- (8) Two PSNI Officers

##### **NORTHERN IRELAND OFFICE IN ATTENDANCE**

- (8) Two Officials

- (1) Item numbers 1 - 8
- (2) Item number 3.3 to close
- (3) Item number 1 – part of item number 9
- (4) Item numbers 1 - 9
- (5) Item number 9
- (6) Item numbers 1 - 5
- (7) Part of item number 9 only
- (8) Item number 12 only

## **1. APOLOGIES**

Apologies for non-attendance were received from Mr Brian Dougherty.

## **2. MINUTES OF THE 20<sup>TH</sup> COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 8 JUNE 2005**

The Committee considered the draft minutes of the previous meeting.

It was:

### **AGREED**

That the minutes of the meeting of the Community Involvement Committee held on 8 June 2005 be agreed.

## **3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING**

### **3.1 Update On DPP Recruitment Process (Item 5.1 Of Minutes Refers)**

Officials briefed the Committee on the current position regarding the DPP recruitment process. The latest available statistics indicated that 518 applications had been received. NOTED.

The Committee discussed the recruitment process and the procedures to select existing independent DPP Members.

### **3.2 Neighbourhood Watch (Item 5.2 Of Minutes Refers)**

This matter was dealt with under item numbers 6 and 12.

### **3.3 Restorative Justice (Item 5.3 Of Minutes Refers)**

The Committee discussed matters relating to community restorative justice issues.

It was the Committee's view that a discussion with representatives from NIO and the PSNI to discuss restorative justice issues should take place as soon as possible.

### **3.4 Part-Time Policing – Briefing**

The Committee noted that the Board had held a meeting with Police Officers from West Yorkshire and Sussex Police Services on 15 June 2005 to explore the impact of Police Community Safety Officers (PCSOs) and the role of Part Time Police Officers. NOTED.

The Committee discussed the role of PCSOs and the future role of Part-Time Police Officers in Northern Ireland.

A Member enquired about the current position regarding the future of Traffic Wardens and speculation that Traffic Wardens may become PCSOs.

It was:-

#### **AGREED**

- That a representative from the PSNI should be invited to brief the Committee on the role of Part Time Police Officers.
- That information should be sought from the NIO regarding legislation which would be required in order to appoint PCSOs in Northern Ireland.
- A question should be formulated to ask the Chief Constable at the next Board meeting regarding the current position in relation to Traffic Wardens.

#### **4. CHAIRMAN'S BUSINESS**

The Chairman had undertaken the following engagements:-

- Meeting with representatives of the University of Ulster regarding restorative justice issues. NOTED.
- Meeting with women from Glencree Centre for Reconciliation regarding policing issues. NOTED.

#### **5. REVIEW OF DPP MEMBERS ALLOWANCES**

The Committee considered the content of a paper regarding a review of the rates of allowances which were paid to DPP Members.

Officials referred to a Local Government Review of Councillor rates of allowances which was being undertaken at present and recommended that the rates of allowances for DPP Members should remain unchanged until the outcome of the review.

The Committee discussed the role of DPPs and considered that a comparative to Council Committees for payment purposes was not necessary.

It was:-

#### **AGREED**

That Officials should provide the Committee with further information regarding DPP Members Allowances.

#### **6. UPDATE ON SUPPORT FOR NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH SCHEME**

The Committee considered the content of a paper concerning the up to date position on Neighbourhood Watch Schemes in Northern Ireland and proposals for

the provision of funding by the Board for an advertising campaign for the scheme.

## **7. DISTRICT POLICING PARTNERSHIPS**

The Committee noted the content of a paper which summarised the recommendations arising from a recently published Committee on the Administration of Justice commentary on DPPs. NOTED

## **8. MATTERS TO BE RAISED WITH THE CHIEF CONSTABLE AT THE NEXT BOARD MEETING**

It was:

### **AGREED**

That apart from the issue which had been raised at item 3.4, the Committee had no other matters to raise at the next Board meeting.

## **9. BRIEFING BY PSNI ON PROTOCOLS FOR FLYING OF FLAGS AND POLICING OF CONTENTIOUS PARADES**

The Chairman welcomed the representatives from the PSNI to the meeting. The C/Superintendent gave a presentation to the Committee on the protocols for flying of flags in public areas in Northern Ireland. During the presentation and in the discussion that followed, the following issues were considered:-

- The joint protocol which had been drawn up between the PSNI, Department for Social Development, Department for Regional Development - Roads Services, Department of the Environment – Planning Service, Northern Ireland Housing Executive and Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister in relation to the display of flags in public areas.
- A new initiative which was being undertaken in Larne regarding the flying of flags in public areas.

- The display of bannerettes in certain areas on Northern Ireland.
- The problems associated with the painting of kerbstones and flagpoles.
- The impartiality which was shown by the PSNI in dealing with all sections of the community in relation to the display of flags in public areas.
- The displaying of flags in certain areas of the Province.
- Specific sites being allocated in Belfast for bonfires.

ACC McCausland and ACC Sheridan then advised Members of parades which they considered would be contentious in Urban and Rural Regions of the Province during 2005.

During the discussion that followed, the following issues were considered:-

- The good professional working relationship which had been developed between the PSNI and the Parades Commission.
- The resources and costs associated with policing the most contentious parades
- The legislation which had been introduced which related to supporters of parades.

Following the discussion the Chairman thanked the PSNI representatives for their contribution and they left the meeting.

It was suggested that as there was a significant gap until the next scheduled meeting of the Committee that arrangements be put in place to convene a meeting should this prove necessary. The Chairman agreed that a meeting be convened if a Member or Members requested it. Following discussion:

It was:-

### **AGREED**

That Officials should notify Members if a meeting of the Committee was

required in August 2005 to discuss issues following parades in July 2005.

## **10. PRESS ISSUES**

It was:

### **AGREED**

That there were no issues arising from the meeting that should be released to the press.

## **11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

No other business was conducted.

## **12. DISCUSSION ON NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH**

The Chairman welcomed the representatives from the PSNI and NIO Community Safety Unit to the meeting.

During a discussion on Neighbourhood Watch Schemes the following issues were considered:-

- The aim and structure of Neighbourhood Watch Schemes in Northern Ireland.
- How the Board should support the Neighbourhood Watch Schemes and how the funding would be used.
- The role of PSNI, District Policing Partnerships and Community Safety Partnerships in relation to Neighbourhood watch schemes.

Following the discussion the Chairman thanked the representatives from PSNI and NIO for their contribution and they left the meeting.

It was:-

**AGREED**

That further consideration should be given as to how the Board should support this area of work.

**13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The date of the next scheduled meeting was arranged for 8 September 2005 at 10:00 am in Waterside Tower, Belfast.

(Meeting closed at 1600 hours).

**SECRETARIAT**

**July 2005**

---

**CHAIRMAN**