

**Minutes of the West Belfast District Policing and Community Safety Partnership
Private Meeting**

**1st Floor Conference Room, Cecil Ward Building
Monday, 27th January, 2014**

Political Members	Independent Members
Councillor Marie Hendron (Chair)	Harry Connolly (Vice-Chair)
Councillor Tim Attwood	Breige Brownlee
Councillor Steven Corr	Bernie Reilly
Councillor Matt Garrett	Ann-Marie Weir
Councillor Billy Hutchinson	

Statutory Designated Organisations	
Sharon Beattie, NIHE	Aideen McLaughlin, YJA
Tommy Boyle, H&SCT	Sergeant Christopher Robinson, PSNI
Davey Harbinson, NIFRS	Inspector Alan Swann, PSNI
Angela McKeown, BELB	Inspector Mike White, PSNI

Locally Designated Groups	Attendees
Paula Kerr, CRJI	Malachy Turley, 50+ Forum
Terry Quinn, GFCSF	

Staff Present	Apologies
Alistair Charles, Safer City Co-ordinator	Michael O'Hara, UFCSF
Michael Burns, Project Officer	Chief Inspector Emma Bond, PSNI
Katharine McCrum, Partnership Support Officer	

1. Welcome and Routine Matters

- i. The Chair welcomed Members to the meeting, in particular Councillor Hutchinson who replaced Alderman Smyth, and noted the apologies provided.

2. Declarations of Interest

- i. The Chair asked Members to declare any material interests which they may have in relation to any item of business to be considered during the meeting. No declarations of interest were declared.

3. Minutes

- i. With regards to the minutes of 11th December, it was noted that the attendance of designated organisations had not been recorded. Notwithstanding this correction, the minutes were taken as read and agreed as correct.
- ii. With regards to the outstanding actions, Members were advised that:
 - The £1,000 allocated to a DPCSP leaflet would be reallocated to support a project regarding Youth Outreach and Scamblers,
 - A Public Meeting/Event would be organised in late February/early March to support the City Wide Drugs Campaign,

- There were currently no places left on the Design Out Crime Training Course for February, 2014, however the course was due to run again in September, 2014.
- iii. In response to discussion regarding the contribution and role of attendees, the Safer City Coordinator advised Members that the Planning/Review day scheduled for 17th February would include a review of roles and responsibilities and encouraged Members to attend.

4. 2013/2014 West Belfast DPCSP Action Plan Update

- i. The Safer City Coordinator advised Members that the West Belfast DPCSP was currently on course to fully spend its 2013/14 budget allocation, and that this was testament to the dedication of the Partnership throughout the year. He added that Members would have the chance to review the 2013/14 Action Plan in detail at the Planning/Review day on 17th February.
- ii. Members were advised that projects were steadily progressing and were also asked to identify any small proposals which could still be supported in the event of under spend from existing projects being realised.

5. West Belfast Bonfire Working Group Membership

- i. The Safer City Project Officer reminded Members that the West Belfast DPCSP would be leading on managing the issue of unwanted August bonfires and asked for nominations to sit on a Working Group to progress the issue, with the first meeting due in February.
- ii. Inspector Alan Swann, Paula Kerr, Davy Harbinson, Terry Quinn, Aideen McLaughlin, Councillor Attwood, Councillor Corr and Harry Connolly volunteered to sit on the Working Group.
- iii. Members also asked that the Project Officer invite Karol McKee, landowners and representatives from the Department of Social Development and Health and Social Care Trust who were present at a previous meeting held in Fasset International.

6. Update on recent Emergency Meetings

- i. The Safer City Coordinator advised Members that several meetings had taken place regarding the incident of death driving on New Year's Eve on the Falls Road and as a result, an Action Plan had been developed to include Joint Enforcement Operations, Anti-Social Behaviour visits and community surgeries. Members were also advised that discussions were underway regarding additional CCTV cameras however this would require a scoping exercise.
- ii. In response to a Member's query regarding arrests following this incident, Inspector White advised that investigations were continuing however at this stage there was not sufficient evidence to allow for any arrests. He added that several mobile phones had recently been seized and that the photos recovered may help with the identification of perpetrators.
- iii. At the request of a Member the Safer City Coordinator agreed to look into the possibility of utilising mobile CCTV in the area.

- iv. In response to queries regarding the absence of police CCTV, Inspector White confirmed that its use would almost always be at planned events and that there was no intelligence to alert the PSNI to this incident in advance. He stated that social media was monitored by police however this was not constant and PSNI were unable to view closed sites. He added that officers had learnt from this event and were working to prevent further incidents.
- v. A Member commented that increased disruption over the Christmas holiday period was a regular occurrence and that a partnership approach was needed in order to tackle the issues of fear and lack of confidence amongst the community.
- vi. Inspector White agreed that a partnership approach was needed and suggested that in future, interventions such as those seen at Broadway could be utilised over Christmas and New Year.
- vii. A Member welcomed the additional resources which are in place but questioned what was being done to rebuild confidence within the community.
- viii. Inspector White advised that the Action Plan was now in place which would tackle this issue, that several vehicles had been recovered and that no further incidents had taken place.
- ix. A Member suggested that the partnership approach suggested should be discussed further at the planning day, and that key dates were gathered in order to plan for issues before they arose and to look at the reasons behind such disruption.
- x. Members discussed the Impact Programme which is now delivered by the Youth Justice Agency and the NI Probation Board, and the possible education angle that could be pursued.
- xi. Members also discussed the successful operations that had reduced crime and anti-social behaviour and questioned whether sustainable change could be achieved without a major police presence.
- xii. A Member commented that multi-agency approaches had been the driver for change thus far and that the evaluation of the Lower Falls/ Divis Intervention may be able to answer the questions raised by Members. The Safer City Coordinator advised that Members would be provided with an update on the intervention at the private meeting in February.
- xiii. Angela McLaughlin, BELB, advised Members that the Frank Gillen Centre would now be open until midnight over the weekend for young people to avail of.

7. DPCSP Planning and Review Day

- i. The Safer City Coordinator reminded Members that a Planning/Review Meeting would be held on Monday, 17th February between 9.30am and 2pm in Belfast Castle. He added that the agenda would include a critical review of the current 2013-2014 Action Plan and planning for the 2014-2015 Action Plan.
- ii. He also underlined the importance of attending the session as themes and budgets would begin to be agreed at this stage.

8. Tension Monitoring Update

- i. The Safer City Coordinator advised Members that the Peace III Tension Monitoring Project had been granted an extension until March, 2014. He further advised that after this date the Tension Monitoring staff would no longer be in place.
- ii. Members agreed that DPCSP staff could continue to facilitate meetings of the Tension Monitoring Group at M1/Broadway post March, 2014.

9. Small Grants Update

- i. The Safer City Coordinator advised Members that 45 applications had been received for the PCSP Summer Small Grants and that 10 were for activities in West Belfast.
- ii. Members were advised that officers would assess the applications during early February prior to being ratified by a panel of Members in mid-February.
- iii. Councillor Garrett, Breige Brownlee, Harry Connolly and Bernie Reilly agreed to form the Member Panel for the West Belfast DPCSP. Alderman McCoubrey was also nominated in his absence.
- iv. Members asked that the panel be convened straight after the planning session on 17th February.

10. Update on NIFRS

- i. Davey Harbinson, NIFRS, provided Members with information on the work of the Fire Service in the North and West District of the Eastern Area Command during December, 2013.
- ii. Members were advised that 35 major fires had been tackled, 14 of which had involved vehicles, and a further 40 secondary fires. He also advised that 6 attacks on the Service had taken place during this period (35 attacks annually) and that one had resulted in the hospitalisation of a fire-fighter and theft from the Appliance.
- iii. The Station Commander added that 7 school visits had taken place, a lower number than usual due to school holidays, and that 32 home safety visits had been carried out.
- iv. He added that the DPCSP Public Event in St Agnes' in November had been very useful as the Fire Service was keen to increase its referrals for home safety visits.
- v. A Member suggested that links should be made with Belfast City Council's Environmental Health Officers who carry out safety checks, as well as making links with Community Safety Forum meetings.
- vi. Representatives from the Community Safety Forums agreed to make contact with NIFRS regarding an upcoming event and suggested that schools could also be contacted. It was also suggested that links could be made with the bonfire work that the DPCSP were involved in.
- vii. A Member also suggested that the NIFRS, through the media, highlight attacks on the Service, and link with Families Against Car Crime to draw attention to the dangers and impact of speeding. Members discussed the possibility of supporting the NIFRS Life

and Race Schemes which dealt with issues such as hoax calls, dangerous driving and illegal fire setting.

- viii. In closing, a Member stated their appreciation to the NIFRS for attending the recent West Belfast Forum Awards.

11. Service First Overview

- i. Inspector White advised Members that the PSNI's Service First Programme would redefine resources in order to deliver savings while maintaining the scope and quality of policing services.
- ii. Members were advised that Response Officers would focus solely on emergency issues and 999 calls while Case Progression Officers would provide the follow up investigation and paper work, freeing up both Response Officers and Neighbourhood Policing Teams. He also advised that Neighbourhood Policing Team numbers would be enhanced in West Belfast.
- iii. Inspector White advised that resources in West Belfast would be centralised to Woodburn Police Station and that the LOCATE System would provide live, accurate information on the whereabouts of police crews enabling the Resource Coordination Centre to advise of the nearest and most appropriate response. He added that a presentation on the LOCATE System could be provided to Members if they wished.
- iv. Several Members raised concerns regarding the relocation of Neighbourhood Teams to Woodburn Police Station as this would increase community fears regarding response times and further effect community confidence. A Member suggested that the plans should be delayed in order to allow communities to fully understand the proposals and asked for Officers comments on the programme of change.
- v. Inspector White advised that the plan had been signed off by the Chief Constable and was due to be implemented in the coming weeks. He suggested that further information on the LOCATE System may reassure Members and the community on the response times of Officers, adding that Woodburn Station would act as a base only, and that officers would be deployed to their respective areas after an initial brief at the Station.
- vi. A Member suggested that a dedicated meeting was required in order to further discuss the changes, and whilst the Chair reminded Members that the PSNI had arranged a briefing on 9th January, it was agreed that a special meeting would be organised for this purpose.

12. Emerging Issues

- i. The Safer City Coordinator advised Members that the Criminal Justice Inspection for Northern Ireland (CJINI) would be undertaking a review of PCSPs which may include interviews with Members, however no dates for this had been provided as yet.
- ii. Members were advised that PCSP Members were undertaking a visit to HMP Maghaberry Prison on Thursday, 30th January to look at Social Inclusion and Offending and that places were now available to DPCSP Members. Members were asked to contact the PCSP Office before Tuesday, 28th January if they wished to attend.

- iii. Members agreed to the Chair's proposal that a letter of thanks should be sent to Alderman Smyth in order to acknowledge his contribution to the Partnership.

13. Date of Next Meeting

- i. The next meeting date was agreed as Monday, 24th March at 5.30pm in Cecil Ward Building. It was also agreed that a separate date would be agreed for the Service First Briefing.