

Minutes of the East Belfast District Policing and Community Safety Partnership

Private Meeting

East Belfast Network Centre, Templemore Avenue, Belfast
Thursday 23rd June, 2014

Political Members

Councillor Mervyn Jones (Chair)
Alderman Gavin Robinson

Independent Members

Mr Gareth Beacom
Ms Lynda Gibson
Mr Mark Houston
Ms Olwen Lyner

Designated Organisations

Chief Inspector Darrin Jones, PSNI
Yvonne Cowan, H&SCT
David Elliott, NIHE

Patricia Muldoon, YJA
Pauline Smart, BELB

Staff Present

Glenn Thomas, Safer City Coordinator
Andrew Charles, Project Officer
Saranne Gallagher, Partnership Support Officer

Apologies

Gary Ballantyne, NIHE
Jane Lappin, PBNI
Kenny McEwan, NIFRS

1. Welcome and Apologies

- i. The Chair welcomed Members to the meeting and noted the apologies provided.

2. Declaration of Interests

- i. No declarations of interest were declared.

3. Minutes of East Belfast DPCSP Policing Committee Meeting

- i. The Minutes of the East Belfast Private Meeting held on 5th June, of which copies were previously circulated, were taken as read and correct.

4. Chair's update on work with Belfast PCSP

- i. The Chair advised Members that following his attendance at the last Belfast PCSP Meeting, there needed to be a way of sharing information between the PCSP and the DPCSP.

5. East Belfast DPCSP Annual Report 2013-14

- i. The Safer City Coordinator advised Members that the Draft East Belfast DPCSP Annual Report 2013-14 had been circulated for review.
- ii. He commented that if Members had any suggested amendments, to forward them for inclusion.

6. PSNI Operations Update for July

- i. The Area Commander provided Members with an overview of the PSNI Operational plan for the forthcoming marching period.

- ii. The Area Commander advised Members of the key issues as parades walk past interface areas. He advised Members that physical barriers had been assembled and would be used to separate the road.
- iii. He informed Members that the parade on the 1st July will last approximately 23 minutes from start to finish.
- iv. The Area Commander also advised Members that meetings and discussions had been held with community representatives from both sides of the community regarding parades.
- v. A Member asked how many PSNI Officers would be involved in the parade. The Area Commander commented that there had been enough PSNI officers appointed to police the parade. However, he further commented that TSG officers would be available to respond if required.
- vi. The Area Commander also provided Members with an update on the 12th July policing arrangements. He commented that there had been lessons learnt from last year and that the PSNI had adopted their resources accordingly to deal with any issues.
- vii. The Area Commander advised Members that the overall crime rate had increased for the period April – June 2014.
- viii. He advised Members that burglaries had slightly decreased and domestic burglaries had decreased to 15%.
- ix. The Area Commander also commented there had been a decrease of 6% in anti social behaviour.
- x. The Area Commander advised Members that there had been a total of 36 arrests at interface areas since 15th April.
- xi. A Member asked the age of the people who had been arrested. The Area Commander commented that the age had been between 11-40 years old. However, the arrests had been for multiple charges.
- xii. The Chair asked if any arrests had been made following the recent activity around the Rock. The Area Commander commented that there had been two arrests following incidents at the Rock.
- xiii. Following as discussion regarding what an arrest achieved, a Member commented that there needed to be awareness that young people had been manipulated.
- xiv. A Member commented that an arrest had been a valuable resource as it changes people's behaviour. She suggested that there may be a need to develop and deliver something that addresses behaviour. The Chair commented that he would raise this at the next Belfast PCSP Meeting.
- xv. A Member commented that following a recent incident on the Albertbridge Road and the arrest of a man using pepper spray, the local community did not approve of how the PSNI handled the situation. The Member commented that the local community felt that there could have been a more effective way to arrest the man as some young people had been in the area and were affected by the pepper spray.

- xvi. The Area Commander commented that pepper spray had only been used in certain incidents. He commented that he had been unaware of the full circumstances of the incident and will provide Members with an update at the next Meeting.
- xvii. The Area Commander provided Members with an update regarding hate crime within East Belfast.
- xviii. He advised Members that there had been 31 sectarian hate crimes reported this year in comparison to only 13 last year. He also commented that there had been 41 race crime incidents reported this year in comparison to 21 last year.
- xix. A Member advised that a Hate Crime Conference had been scheduled to take place on Thursday in the Network Centre and welcomed all to attend.
- xx. The Safer City Coordinator informed Members that a City Wide Hate Crime Campaign had been scheduled to take place later this year and details will be circulated in due course.

7. Alley Gate Programme Update

- i. The Safer City Coordinator provided Members with an update regarding the Alley Gate Programme.
- ii. The Safer City Coordinator advised Members of the financial resources of the Alley Gate Programme and commented that there had been 132 Alley Gates managed by Belfast City Council in East Belfast.
- iii. The Safer City Coordinator commented that if any Members had any particular alley gate requests, to forward their request either to Gavin Bell or him.
- iv. A Member commented that the allocation of Alley Gates could result in displacement. He asked for clarification as to how Alley Gates had been allocated.

8. AOB

- i. The Safer City Coordinator advised Members that the Policing Committee Application had been under review.
- ii. However, the Safer City Coordinator commented that an application had been submitted requesting funding for £500 to assist with the delivery of a local Hate Crime Conference.
- iii. Members agreed to support the application and gave delegated authority to the Safer City Coordinator to fund the application.

9. **Date of Next Meeting**

- i. Members agreed to postpone DPCSP Meeting in July.
- ii. The Area Commander offered to host a future DPCSP Meeting in Musgrave Police Station. Members welcomed this suggestion.
- iii. Members requested for dates of future DPCSP Meetings to be tabled and circulated.