

**Minutes of the North Belfast District Policing and
Community Safety Partnership
Private Meeting
Tuesday, 24 June 2014, 6.00pm
1st Floor HR Conference Room, Cecil Ward Building, Belfast**

Members Present	
Councillors	Independents
Councillor Mary Ellen Campbell (Chair)	Ms. Jennifer Cornell
Councillor Pat Convery	Ms. Bronach Graham
Councillor Guy Spence	Mr. Pat McLarnon
Councillor Naomi Thompson	
Designated Organisations	
Chief Inspector Robert Singleton	Mr. Malachy McKinney
Mr. David Harbinson	Mr. Alan Wilson
Ms. Patricia Muldoon	
Staff Present	Apologies
Richard McLernon, Safer City Coordinator	Councillor JJ Magee
Edele Cleary, Project Officer	Inspector Gavin Kirkpatrick
Saranne Gallagher, Partnership Support Officer	Mr. Martin Morgan
	Mr Mark Nicholson
	Inspector Roy Watton

1. Welcome/Apologies/ Declarations of Interest

- i. The Chair, Cllr Mary Ellen Campbell, welcomed Members to the Private Meeting of the North Belfast District Policing and Community Safety Partnership and noted apologies provided.
- ii. The Chair highlighted the declarations of interest policy. No declarations of interest were recorded.

2. Minutes of North Belfast DPCSP Private Meeting

- i. The Minutes of the North Belfast Private Meeting held on 28th May, of which copies were previously circulated, were taken as read and correct.
- ii. The Safer City Coordinator provided Members with an update regarding actions from the last DPCSP Meeting.
- iii. The Safer City Coordinator advised Members that a meeting with the Parks Department had not yet been convened. The Safer City Coordinator suggested for the meeting to be held early August. He informed Members that the Probation Board for Northern Ireland had offered community services to go into local parks in September.
- iv. A Member commented that there had been ongoing concerns regarding anti social behaviour in the Cavehill Country Park. He commented that although there had been CCTV in the area, it had not deterred any anti social behaviour within the area. He further commented that there needed to be a mechanism identified on how to deal with anti social behaviour within the Cavehill Country Park. He suggested for Belfast City Council Enforcement Officers to review this.

- v. The Area Commander suggested for a meeting to be held with Belfast City Council and PSNI to discuss enforcement within North Belfast.
- vi. The Safer City Coordinator commented that Members agreed at the last DPCSP Meeting to forward a formal letter to the Policing Board regarding their decision on expenses. The Chair informed Members that this had been raised with Belfast PCSP and it had been agreed for the Belfast PCSP to write to the Minister to review the decision.
- vii. The Safer City Coordinator advised Members that following a discussion at the last meeting regarding Belfast City Council logo on vehicles, he confirmed that it had been a corporate decision for the logo to be displayed on all Council vehicles.
- viii. The Safer City Coordinator informed Members that he had raised their concerns regarding the Invest NI site with Alison McGlone. He advised Members that the Council's directive on the issues regarding the site had been an issue for Invest NI not Belfast City Council.
- ix. The Area Commander commented that PSNI had been planning to meet with Invest NI regarding the site. He advised Members that PSNI will increase patrols within the area until after the Whiterock Parade.
- x. A Member commented that she attended an East Belfast DPCSP Meeting and the Area Commander provided an overview of the policing deployment and the management of East Belfast parades. She commented the information provided had been very useful and would be beneficial to North Belfast DPCSP if the same information could be provided. The Area Commander commented that it would be difficult to do this for North Belfast due to the number of interface areas. The Member commented that it had been acknowledged that to provide the same information for North Belfast may be difficult.
- xi. The Area Commander informed Members that there had been no confirmation of the new police boundaries. He commented that he would provide Members with an update after the 12th July.
- xii. The Safer City Coordinator informed Members that an evaluation report on previous funded small grants projects will be presented at the next DPCSP Meeting.
- xiii. The Safer City Coordinator informed Members that a visit to Thompson House had been arranged for Thursday 31st July.
- xiv. The Project Officer advised Members that the other drug bin had not yet been installed as a date had not yet been confirmed. She also advised Members that a presentation by the Reducing Offenders Partnership will be scheduled to take place for the DPCSP Meeting in September.

3. Community Safety Updates

- i. A Member provided an update regarding the recent Youth Justice Agency Road shows. She advised Members that the Road shows had been well received by the local schools and positive feedback had been received following the events. She also commented that colleagues from the Youth Justice Agency had been visiting families who had young people with previous orders relating to interface disorder and reminding them of the consequences particularly if they had been on restrictions.

- ii. A Member commented that there had been ongoing community safety issues within Ardoyne, Marrowbone and Ligoniel Parks. He advised Members that there had been diversionary projects scheduled for during July.
- iii. The Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service provided Members with an update regarding bonfires. He advised Members that attacks on Fire Engines within the New lodge area had been continuing and requested an appeal to Councillors to try and stop the attacks.
- iv. A Member commented that there had been attacks on NI Housing Executive equipment within the New lodge area. He commented that the NIHE always had to be careful and very mindful of staff safety. He further advised Members that the NIHE had secured funding for hate crime initiatives and the funding will assist to help people who are new to an area who may feel unsafe. He also commented that the funding will assist to help people integrate into the community.
- v. Inspector Roy Watton commented that in comparison to this time last year, reports of anti social behaviour within the Upper Cavehill area had been less.
- vi. A Member provided an update on BELB's work and how they had been engaging with young people. He commented that following a meeting with a local school, it had been suggested BELB need to engage with young people as early as Year 1 to allow for a relationship to be developed as soon as possible.
- vii. Following a discussion around the cost of pallets, a Member commented that caution needed to be taken as this could be a danger of more burglaries occurring.
- viii. A Member suggested for a review of good practice projects in relation to bonfire management to be undertaken.
- ix. A Member commented that there had been additional flags put up this year within the Ballysillan area, which directly impacted on the mood of the local community.
- x. The Area Commander commented that the PSNI had no direct responsibility for the removal of flags. A Member commented that there had been a misperception by the general public in that they thought it had been a violation of by laws.
- xi. Following a discussion regarding breach of the peace and flags, a Member asked if there had been any legislation regarding of flags on lamp posts? The Area Commander commented that as far as he had been aware there had been no specific legislation regarding flags on lamp posts. He commented that he would seek clarification on this and update Members accordingly.

4. **Chair Update on Work with Belfast PCSP**

- i. The Chair advised Members that she attended her first Belfast PCSP Meeting.
- ii. The Chair informed Members that on behalf of North Belfast DPCSP she raised the Partnerships concerns regarding Members expenses. She advised Members that Belfast PCSP agreed to write to the Minister regarding expenses.
- iii. The Chair also advised Members that she had highlighted the amount of funding North Belfast DPCSP contributed towards the City Wide Drugs Awareness Campaign in comparison to other DPCSP's.

- iv. Members requested the Drugs Awareness Campaign Evaluation Report to be circulated.
- v. The Safer City Coordinator commented that once the Belfast PCSP Communication Strategy is completed, it will allow for an informed conversation to be held within the North Belfast DPCSP Communication and Engagement Working Group.
- vi. The Safer City Coordinator advised Members that the New lodge Intervention funding ended in March 2014. He suggested that Members possibly allocate funding during 2014/15 to support this intervention.
- vii. A Member commented that funding should be shared through the development of partnerships rather than be area based.
- viii. A Member commented that the full time voluntary sector received £20,000 for BELB and also each Board area received £15,000. He advised Members that all funding had to be incurred by the end of September. Members requested a breakdown of who received this funding.
- ix. The Chair requested if an evaluation form had been received from the New lodge Arts Group? The Safer City Coordinator commented that he would clarify if an evaluation report had been received and update Members accordingly.
- x. The Chair commented that there had to be clear outcomes demonstrated from all aspects of funding allocated.

5. **Sign Posting**

- i. No issues for sign posting noted.

6. **Items for Action**

- i. The Safer City Coordinator updated Members on the Belfast Tension Monitoring Programme Evaluation Report. He advised Members that if they had any comments on the report to contact Brendan Smith directly.
- ii. The Safer City Coordinator provided Members with an update on the Greater Ardoyne Tension Monitoring Group. He informed Members that the Group had completed an Action Plan and circulated a copy of the Action Plan to Members for information. He advised Members that the Group had identified three issues and provided Members with an overview of each issue. He commented that a positive meeting had been held with the Group and Cllr Mary Ellen Campbell.
- iii. The Safer City Coordinator provided Members with an overview of the progress of the working groups that the Partnership had agreed to at the last North Belfast DPCSP Meeting.
- iv. He advised Members that the Hate Crime Working Group had met once and was due to meet again shortly. The Domestic and Sexual Violence and Abuse Working Group had not convened but will meet in the next few weeks. He also informed Members that a date for

the Youth and Communication and Engagement Working Group had not yet been confirmed.

- v. A Member commented that Belfast City Council had been leading on three different strands for Hate Crime. A Member suggested for an update regarding what these three strands included to avoid duplication.
- vi. The Safer City Coordinator advised Members that a Citywide Hate Crime Conference had been scheduled to take place this year. He commented that information regarding the Conference will be circulated to Members in due course.

7. **Next Meeting**

- i. Members noted that the next North Belfast DPCSP Policing Committee and Private Meeting will be held on Wednesday 13th August, 5.00pm, Cecil Ward Building.
- ii. The Safer City Coordinator informed Members that a North Belfast DPCSP planning session would be held in August and a date/venue would be circulated to Members.
- iii. Members noted that North Belfast DPCSP will facilitate a Public Meeting in September. The Safer City Coordinator asked Members to suggest a theme for the Meeting. The Area Commander suggested for the PSNI to facilitate a table top exercise at this meeting, whereby it would assist with the PSNI engaging with the local community and providing information on the roles and responsibilities of the PSNI. Members welcomed this suggestion and requested for the Area Commander to provide further information on the proposed structure at the next North Belfast DPCSP Meeting.
- iv. The Chair advised Members that notification had been received from the Department of Justice regarding budgets for 2014/15. The Safer City Coordinator advised Members that due to budget constraints the overall North Belfast DPCSP Budget for 2014/15 had to be decreased by 1.74%. Members agreed for the Safer City Coordinator to review budget, amend accordingly and provide an update to Members.