

**Minutes of the North Belfast District Policing and
Community Safety Partnership
Public Meeting
Wednesday, 18th June 2014, 7.00pm
174 Trust, Duncairn Complex, Belfast**

Members Present	
Councillors	Independents
Councillor Mary Ellen Campbell (Chair)	Winston Irvine (Vice Chair)
Councillor Patrick Convery	Jennifer Cornell
Councillor JJ Magee	Bronach Graham
Councillor Naomi Thompson	Pat McLarnon
	Ian McLaughlin
Designated Organisations	
Chief Inspector Bobby Singleton	Inspector Roy Watton
Inspector Robin Gouk	Alan Wilson, BELB
Inspector Gavin Kirkpatrick	David McComiskey, NIFRS
Staff Present	Apologies
Richard McLernon, Safer City Coordinator	Mark Nicholson, PBNI
Edele Cleary, Project Officer	Patricia Muldoon, YJA
Saranne Gallagher, Partnership Support Officer	

1. Welcome

- i. The Chair, Cllr Mary Ellen Campbell, welcomed all to the Public Meeting of the North Belfast District Policing and Community Safety Partnership.
- ii. The Chair outlined the purpose of the meeting, the role and priorities of North Belfast DPCSP.
- iii. The Vice Chair also thanked all for attending the North Belfast DPCSP Public Meeting. He added his support to continued dialogue to address all community safety issues.

2. Presentations and Questions

- i. Chief Inspector Robert Singleton provided all in attendance with an overview of PSNI figures for the period 2013/14.
- ii. He commented that it had been a good year for policing but also a year of many key challenges.
- iii. He advised that there had been an increase of 5.6% in overall crime. He commented that there had been an increase in shoplifting, specifically around the Cityside Complex. He advised members of the public that the PSNI in partnership with local traders in the Cityside Complex had developed a control strategy to address the issue of shoplifting within this area.
- iv. The Chief Inspector also advised members of the public that during 2013/14 violence against the person had been recorded as 10.5% and violence with injury had been recorded as 22.6%. He further commented that there had been a decrease of 8.4% in domestic burglary and a decrease of 2.4% in non domestic burglary.

- v. He also commented that there had been a number of recent events held to which all passed without incident. These events included, Giro d'Italia, Crusaders and Cliftonville Football Match, Orange Widows Parade, European Elections and 11th June Ligoneil Parade.
- vi. He commented that the PSNI had recently held a recruitment exercise and that a good representation of cross community and underrepresented groups attended.
- vii. The Chief Inspector advised members of the public of emerging issues. He commented that seasonal issues will emerge again which may lead to a potential spike in anti social behaviour.
- viii. The Chief Inspector also provided an update on forthcoming events, including the Tour of the North Parade, Between the Bridges Run and the Whiterock Parade.
- ix. A Member asked the Chief Inspector to explain the term 'violence without injury.' The Chief Inspector commented that it can include physical violence and also threats to kill.
- x. A member of the public commented that since the Giro d'Italia there had been an increase in bicycle theft. He asked what resources had been available to address this issue. The Chief Inspector commented that there had been front line officers who deal with bicycle theft. He advised there had been Crime Prevention Officers who had facilitated bike marking schemes and the service could be made available to North Belfast.
- xi. The Chief Inspector also provided members of the public with an update in relation to confidence in policing within North Belfast. He commented that community confidence had been fundamental to what the PSNI need to do and without community confidence the role of the PSNI would be non existence.
- xii. He advised members of the public that there had been a number of key drivers to assist with increasing public confidence. He commented that a visible, accessible policing service, to treat people fairly and have a quality service given had been the PSNI key objective.
- xiii. The Chief Inspector also detailed the key challenges that the PSNI had to encounter. He advised members of the public of the key challenges, which included the severe terrorist threat, paramilitary threat, the absence of a political solution on contentious issues and also public sector cuts.
- xiv. He commented that there had been an opportunity for the PSNI to refocus, to promote the work of the Neighbourhood Police Team, to focus on the quality of service and victim satisfaction.
- xv. He advised members of the public that the PSNI in partnership with North Belfast DPCSP would aim to implement 'Meet Your Neighbourhood Team'. He commented that the aim of this scheme would be to increase the awareness of local officers and how the public can contact them. He also advised members of the public that the PSNI aim to develop a 'Beat' information card that will provide details of local neighbourhood police officers.
- xvi. A member of the public commented that the PSNI claim to treat people fairly and equally. She commented that disparity occurred when arrests had been made following riots on interface areas. She commented that there had been 35 arrests made at the interface in Ardoyne and 101 arrests made in Woodvale. The Chief Inspector commented that he would review the figures provided and provide clarification.

- xvii. A Member commented that there had been numerous fights arranged through social media. He commented that the local community had been frustrated as they believe the people who had been orchestrating the fights had been known by the PSNI, however the PSNI had not done anything to prevent the fights from occurring.
- xviii. The Chief Inspector commented that the PSNI had been aware of the arranged fights being organised through social media. He advised members of the public that the PSNI had been reviewing these incidents.
- xix. A member of the public commented that following PSNI Officers assaulting people at Twadell, asked why the PSNI Officers in question had not been removed from Twadell? The Chief Inspector gave the assurance as Area Commander for North Belfast, that if the conduct of a Police Officer is disputed, officers will be dealt with accordingly. He advised members of the public that if they had any serious complaints that they should contact the Police Ombudsman Office.
- xx. A member of the public commented that she had asked a question regarding policing confidence within North Belfast. She commented that to date she had not been provided with a response. The Chief Inspector commented that the figures presented had been Northern Ireland wide and unfortunately could not provide figures specifically for North Belfast. He suggested for the development of a survey that would allow to provide local figures.
- xxi. A Member asked in relation to the PSNI's social media and profiling, if members of the public can feed into their system? The Chief Inspector commented that the PSNI do not have the ability to manage public inputting data. He commented that this is something the PSNI had been looking at and currently the only online reporting that the public can use is directly for hate crime.
- xxii. A member of the public asked that since the introduction of 101, had the PSNI been able to monitor the satisfaction of the public? The Chief Inspector commented that 101 had been a work in progress and it is not about increasing policing confidence.
- xxiii. A member of the public commented that when relationships had been developed with local neighbourhood officers, there had been occasions when the neighbourhood officer had moved on and then local communities had to redevelop relationships with the new neighbourhood officer. The Chief Inspector commented that there had been a period of promotions within the PSNI, which resulted in Officers moving on to a different post. However, he commented that this process had slowed off and the public had benefited from this. He further commented that through Service First some changes had been made to the Neighbourhood Policing Team but again this would be to the benefit of local communities.
- xxiv. A Member asked what the difference had been between confidence and satisfaction of the PSNI? The Chief Inspector commented that satisfaction had been in relation to the quality of service and confidence had been regarding encouraging people to take that next step.
- xxv. A member of the public asked how the PSNI are tackling bonfires and the burning of tyres. Inspector Robin Gouk commented that if the PSNI are informed of bonfires, they will inform Belfast City Council for the removal of wood.

- xxvi. David McComiskey, Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service provided an update on bonfires and also informed members of the public of health implications due to bonfires and burning of tyres.
- xxvii. The Vice Chair commented that it had been interesting to listen to public conversations and questions regarding public confidence in police. He further commented that in relation to the Northern Ireland crime figures presented, he suggested that figures for North Belfast would be lower. He welcomed the idea of collating information specifically in relation to North Belfast.
- xxviii. The Chief Inspector commented that there had been a need identified for figures to be collated specifically for North Belfast and in partnership with the North Belfast DPCSP that this could be reviewed and a method of how this information is collated identified and implemented.
- xxix. The Chair thanked all for attending and alluded to North Belfast DPCSP's commitment to public meetings and welcomed all to attend future meetings.