

# Minutes of the West Belfast District Policing and Community Safety Partnership

HR Conference Room, Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> June 2012

<b>Members Present (Including partners)</b>	
Cllr Tim Attwood	Harry Connolly
Cllr Steven Corr	Carol Larkin
Cllr Marie Hendron	Geraldine Lavery
Cllr Brian Kingston	Rosie McCorley
	Bernie Reilly
	Sean Taylor (PSNI)
	Paddy Kelly ( NIHE)
<b>Staff</b>	<b>Apologies</b>
Stevie Lavery	Alderman Hugh Smyth
Denise Smith	Cllr Matt Garrett

## 1. Routine matters

- i. Vice Chair (HC) welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending
- ii. Minutes agreed and accepted as accurate
- iii. Action points:

6(ii) PSNI and NIHE in attendance, Youth Justice Agency sent apologies to meeting and hope to attend future meetings. Probation Board invited to future meetings.

7(iii) Venue suggestions to be explored and risk assessment to be completed so meeting can be held in communities.

### **Action: Stevie Lavery to sort venue for next few meetings**

8(ii) Vice Chair and Chair placed articles in the Andersontown News introducing the new partnership. Harry Connolly suggested that there needed to be discussion at the next meeting dedicated to PR.

### **Action: Propose PR item agenda for next private meeting**

9(i) Agreed that SL will keep members updated as Bonfire meetings are ongoing. E-mail updates to be distributed to members.

Rosie McCorley asked for times of future meetings to be moved to 5.30pm. All agreed that future meetings to be held at 5.30pm.

## 2. Declaration Interest

- i. Vice Chair read declaration of interest statement to all present.

## 3. Emerging issues

### Summer Intervention

- i. Stevie Lavery gave an update ongoing work at M1/Broadway interface area. Concerns were raised referencing Facebook sites and the need to do something around social networking and its contribution toward heightening tensions in the area.
- ii. Cllr Attwood highlighted the plans agreed for the 11/12<sup>th</sup> July by the multi agency group pulled together by the West Belfast DPCSP.
- iii. Sean is confident that most actions will be completed by the agencies, with warden deployment, mobile CCTV joint visits and various diversionary programmes planned for the young people over the coming weeks.
- iv. Cllr Hendron highlighted the importance of linking with the communities and working with key community reps, she also acknowledged the difficulties with the instant social media messages.
- v. The Vice Chair noted that more work is being done this year compared to last year.
- vi. Information to be circulated to members to keep them updated on the M1 work.

**Action: Stevie Lavery to continue to update members re this work**

### Bonfire Groups

- vii. SL explained there were a number of groups within Council dealing with the bonfires.
  - (1) Multi agency Bonfire Management Group
  - (2) Internal Council Officers Group
  - (3) Group set up for West Belfast with Kirsten Mullen as the lead officer. This group is developing specific plans around what agencies are doing in the Beechmount area. The next meeting of the Bonfire group ( West) will take place on Monday 2 July 1.30pm

## 4. Proposed meeting schedule

- i. SL outlined a proposed meeting schedule up until December 12.
- ii. Cllr Attwood referenced his concerns for the planned stakeholder meetings and their dates for August. He proposed West should hold its own West Belfast Stakeholder

meeting when it is in a better position to discuss the work of the partnership and ensure good attendance.

- iii. Vice Chair recommended that such events should be timed/themed etc to get as much buy in from the local communities.
- iv. All meeting dates agreed.
- v. Vice Chair made reference to Policing Committee Mtg. Agreed that S.L Chair and Vice Chair and PSNI to meet around structure of meeting.

**Action: West DPCSP to plan stakeholder engagement / public meetings at a later date**

**Action: SL, Chair and Vice Chair and PSNI to meet to discuss structure of future Policing Committee meetings**

**Action: SL to organise future meetings for 5.30 pm**

## **5. Draft Standing orders**

- i. Report Noted

## **6. Locally Designated Groups**

- i. Vice Chair informed members of (7) groups that are proposed to be formally designated for the new partnerships and also outlined at the last meeting 13 groups were proposed for the local designation. He explained that this would mean a total of 31 members on the new partnerships if agreed which would have implications regarding administration and decision making.
- ii. Rosie McCorley stated that the community safety forums which exist in west were the most effective structures to deliver and should be considered for designation.
- iii. Cllr Corr explained that geographical spread was important and the forums are dealing with Community Safety and also have reps from local communities. He stated that 13 Groups would need to be reduced to make it manageable.
- iv. Cllr Attwood advised members that representation is required from senior citizens and young people groups.
- v. SL suggested members could consider inviting local groups on for a period of time only over the next few months otherwise they would have full voting rights. He also outlined the option of inviting other groups to a partnership meeting as an attendee for specific meetings / agenda items
- vi. Members agreed the following groups would be invited to sit on the partnerships as attendee until December 12:
  - Upper Falls Community Safety Forum
  - Upper Springfield Community Safety Forum

- Greater Falls Community Safety Forum
- Black Mountain Action Group

vii. It was also agreed to explore a representative from Senior Citizens and Youth Forum.

viii. Process to be reviewed after 6 months

**Action: Local forums to be invited to next Private meeting.**

**Action: Explore possible representatives from Senior Citizens and Youth Groups.**

## **7. Small Grants**

- i. SL updated groups on small grant programme for West Belfast and explained that four groups did not receive funding. Two of the groups did not put in the necessary paperwork and two of the groups did not score high enough.
- ii. R.McCorley suggested we fund the two groups who did not put in the correct paperwork providing they do so. This was agreed.
- iii. There was further discussion in relation to the two groups who did not score high enough. Members agreed to fund them providing the partnership were happy with their projects.
- iv. Cllr Kingston felt it was important to note that the grants have been independently and objectively scored through the Council process and we are now funding some groups who did not reach a high enough score. He asked the members to note that the DPCSP will have to refuse some groups in the future and tighter processes are required for future funding.
- v. SL also informed members that the Council is looking at implementing a corporate small grants system which will reduce some of the above issues.

**Action: SL to contact Beechmount and St James Group to ensure the appropriate paperwork in place to release funds.**

**Action: SL to contact Half Moon and Upper Springfield groups and liaise with chair to agree funding.**

## **8. Response to Code of Practice Consultation**

- i. Report Noted

## **9. Response to Code of Practice on Formal Designation**

- ii. Report Noted

## **Recent Incidents**

Cllr Kingston raised concern in relation to “Recent Incidents” on the Black Mountain. He requested that PSNI should treat incidents like this as high importance as it was disrespectful and caused offence.

Sean stated that the PSNI had received a number of calls referencing the flag on Black Mountain and while displaying of flags is not a criminal offence, he was aware of the impact it had on tensions.