

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

Policing Committee Meeting

**Falls Community Council
Wednesday, 26th September 2012**

Political Members	Independent Members
Councillor Matt Garrett (Chair)	Mr Harry Connolly (Vice-Chair)
Councillor Tim Attwood	Mrs Carol Larkin
Councillor Steven Corr	Mrs Bernie Reilly
Councillor Máire Hendron	
Councillor Brian Kingston	

PSNI	
Inspector Michelle Boyd	Inspector Caroline Black
Inspector Mike White	

Staff Present	Apologies
Glenn Thomas, DPP Officer	Alderman Hugh Smyth
Katharine McCrum, Partnership Support Officer	Chief Inspector Emma Bond

1. Welcome and Routine Matters

- i. The Chairman welcomed Members to the first Policing Committee meeting of the West Belfast DPCSP and noted the apologies received.

2. Declaration of Interests

- i. No declarations of interest were recorded.

3. Policing Committee Procedures

- i. Members considered the format that future meetings of the Policing Committee should take and how business would be conducted.
- ii. Members agreed that meetings should take place prior to the full meeting of the DPCSP and that the agenda for each meeting should reflect the restricted functions of the Committee, namely; providing views to the Area Commander and the Principal PCSP on any matter concerning policing of West Belfast, monitoring police performance in relation to the Policing Plan for West Belfast, and, obtaining the cooperation of the public with the police in preventing crime and enhancing community safety in West Belfast.
- iii. It was also agreed that;
 - Policing Committee Meetings would be themed around pre-agreed priorities with time to discuss emerging issues made available.
 - Questions should be submitted to the PSNI 10 days in advance of a meeting and a response then provided 5 days prior to the meeting to inform further discussion.

- Consideration be given to holding meetings in public to improve accountability.
 - A quarterly review of the operation of the Policing Committee to be carried out in order to maintain effectiveness.
 - The PSNI will provide a one page update on crime statistics and recent operations in advance of the meeting.
 - That 'Obtaining the Co-operation of the Public with the Police in Preventing Crime', would be included on the agenda for Policing Committee meetings.
- iv. Inspector Boyd agreed with the comments made and suggested that Members consider looking at themes and issues in their wider sense during Policing Committee meetings rather than focusing on individual cases.
 - v. **ACTION:** Members agreed to forward possible Policing Committee themes to the Chair and staff to enable a timetable of meetings to be developed.
 - vi. A Member raised concerns with the PSNI regarding recent searches within West Belfast which were reported on extensively by the Andersonstown News while no notice was given to community representatives or Councillors for the area.
 - vii. Inspector Black explained that information on the searches had been embargoed until the last minute however she conceded that communication between the PSNI and communities had not been effective on this occasion.
 - viii. **ACTION:** Officers agreed to compile a list of political and community representatives who should be kept informed of police operations in various areas across West Belfast. Inspector Boyd agreed to raise the issue of communications with the Duty Inspectors again.