

Minutes of the West Belfast District Policing and Community Safety Partnership

Policing Committee Meeting

Conor Room

Wednesday 27 January 2016

Political Members

Councillor Stephen Magennis(Chair)
Councillor Matt Garrett
Councillor Brian Heading
Alderman Frank McCoubrey
Alderman Chris McGimpsey

Independent Members

Ms Lauren Slane
Ms Breige Brownlee
Miss Claire Canavan
Mr Eoin McShane

PSNI Representatives

Inspector Alan Swann

Jocelyn Wise

Staff Present

Alan Wardle Safer City Coordinator
Alyson Crompton Partnership Support Officer

Apologies

Mrs Elizabeth Groves (Vice Chair)
Chief Inspector Anthony McNally

1. Welcome and Routine Matters

- i. The Chair welcomed Members to the meeting and noted the apologies provided. Eoin McShane was proposed and seconded as Vice Chair in the absence of Liz Groves.

2. Declarations of Interest

- i. Members were asked to declare any material interests which they may have in relation to any item of business to be considered during the meeting.
- ii. No declarations of interest were noted.

3. Minutes and Matters Arising

- i. The minutes of the Policing Committee meeting held on 28th October, copies of which had previously been circulated, were taken as read and agreed as correct.
- ii. There were no matters arising from the minutes.

4. Area Commanders Update on Policing

West Belfast Performance against Local Policing Plan

- i. Inspector Swann provided Members with an update on the West Belfast Performance against the Local Policing Plan to January 2016.
- ii. He advised Members that there had been a rise in ASB however this shows confidence in the community to report. Court West was quiet over the Christmas period with a slight spike in car crime possibly due to repeat offenders being released and on the street. In Black Mountain the Neighbourhood Police Team (NPT) had established good links and communication within the Community. In the Colin area tensions had been raised following the murder of Christopher Meli. He further stated that through a multi-agency approach and with extra resources in place, including midnight soccer, the Christmas/New Year period had been quiet.

- iii. Inspector Swann also advised the Members of the successful west Belfast Careers Convention where the PSNI had been able to engage with the 1000 young people who had attended.
- iv. The Chair thanked Inspector Swann for his report. He also advised the Members that the multi-agency approach with the PSNI over the Christmas period had been very successful.
- v. The links between the Community and Police were discussed and it was agreed that over the Christmas period this liaison had been very successful. The importance of maintaining these links throughout the year and not just at key times was stressed. Inspector Swann commented that due to resources it was impossible for the PSNI to saturate the area every day however if the community became aware of unexpected events that were imminent e.g. raves etc, to liaise with the PSNI who could then prioritise and redirect resources to the area in question.
- vi. The negative stories in the media about West Belfast were discussed. It was felt that the Partnership collectively needs to highlight the positive work within the community and through active communication get the message out. The Safer City Co-ordinator advised the Members that the PCSP are attempting to expand the channels of communication through the use of social media and that the Belfast PCSP FaceBook page was in its infancy. He also said that it was important for the community providers to alert the Partnership of any issues or projects that are happening in the community that could be supported.
- vii. The Chair agreed that there had been a lot of negative press in the area however the community and the PSNI are working to address this, by providing the relevant information when required. Another Member agreed that it was important to get the message out that the PSNI are working with the Community.

5. Emerging Issues

Policing Committee Meetings

- i. Councillor Matt Garrett proposed that to avoid the problem of the Policing Committee Meetings running into the time allocated to the Private Meetings, in future the Policing Committee Meeting should follow the Private Meeting to alleviate this issue.
- ii. This was seconded by Councillor Brian Heading and agreed by the Members.
- iii. The Safer City Co-ordinator stated that he would consult with Senior Management regarding any governance implications.

Twinbrook Rally

- i. The Chair informed the Members of the proposed Twinbrook rally to address ASB in the Area. He said that the Community are concerned about the rally and community safety. He has already spoken to the youth providers and community workers who will be on the ground and he wanted to highlight to the PSNI the Community's concern.
- ii. Inspector Swann informed the Members that the PSNI and the Neighbourhood Police Teams (NPT) were aware of the rally.

6. Close

- i. The Chair thanked Members of the Partnership for attending and closed the meeting.