

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

**Private Meeting**

**Lavery Room, Belfast City Hall  
Thursday, 29<sup>th</sup> June, 2017**

<b>Political Members</b>	<b>Independent Members</b>
Councillor Brian Heading (Chair)	Breige Brownlee (Vice Chair)
Councillor Matt Garrett	Eoin McShane
Councillor Stephen Magennis	Claire Canavan
<b>Statutory Designated Organisations</b>	
Harry Bradley, YJA	Davy Harbinson, NIFRS
CI Kellie McMillan	Inspector Alan Swann, PSNI
Sharon Beattie, NIHE	N Coogan PBNI
	M George
<b>Staff Present</b>	<b>Apologies</b>
Denise Smith, Safer City Co-Ordinator	John McLaughlin (EA)
Andy Claydon, Partnership Support Officer	Carole Carville, PBNI

**1. Welcome and Routine Matters**

- i. The Chair welcomed Members to the Meeting and noted the apologies provided.

**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. Cllr S Magennis declared an interest in the Safer Neighbourhood Projects consultancy work undertaken by Copius Consultancy.

**3. Presentation from Copius Consultancy**

(Darren McArdle of Copius Consultancy attended in relation to this item)

- i. Darren McArdle provided Members with information on the work of Copius Consultancy and their evaluation of the Safer Neighbourhood Projects and Community Safety Forums in West Belfast.
- ii. The 2 models used for evaluation were Colin Safer Neighbourhoods and Greater Andersonstown Safer Neighbourhoods Project with a view to refine the efficiency and effectiveness of both schemes.
- iii. Members were informed of the heavy reliance on volunteers from both projects, and that volunteers largely felt that they required clearer direction and more support. There was also a sense that too much was expected of them.

- iv. Darren McArdle explained to Members the similarities between the 2 models, such as the aims and objectives, the excessive reliance on volunteers and the fact that both projects are sorely needed in their respective areas.
- v. Members were informed of the recommendations that the consultancy work had developed such as, training for volunteers, clear definition of roles for SNP projects, a need for investment and the need for an engagement strategy with young people.
- vi. Darren McArdle introduced Members to similar work that had been done for a number of Community Safety Forums; Lower Falls, Upper Falls, Colin Community Safety Forum and Upper Springfield.
- vii. Observations from this work included;
  - a 'one size fits all' approach will not work due to the complexities of each area,
  - a lack of resources has led to inefficient management and administration,
  - a protocol of information sharing would benefit each of the projects.
- viii. Members were informed that increased resource was necessary to these models, not only for improvement but also to ensure they continued to exist.
- ix. A Member commented on the relevant and valuable nature of the reports. They spoke of the difficulty of resources and suggested that the West Belfast Community Safety Strategy would address the recommendations proposed by Darren McArdle.
- x. A Member commented on the different capacities of the Forums and suggested that a joined up approach may increase effectiveness. The Member reported that the people of West Belfast want these Forums and that they have proven themselves as necessary. The Member praised the work of the volunteers in the area and their openness to training but suggested that there was too much reliance on them.
- xi. Darren McArdle responded to a question from the Chair as to the nature of the required support by suggesting that the onus was on personnel and training and questioned where the next group of volunteers was coming from. He continued to suggest that a paid position was required to administer the work of the Forums.
- xii. A Member enquired as to who would fit the bill if a volunteer was confronted and injured and had to miss work. Darren McArdle suggested that this hadn't been part of discussions but that the reliance was on training volunteers to avoid such situations and that volunteers were well aware of what they were taking on.
- xiii. CI Kellie McMillan commented on the importance of reporting recorded incidents and the importance of the PSNI to be seen to respond when people do file a report. She informed Members that all reports of ASB were reviewed by herself or Inspector Alan Swann and every individual receives a call back the following day to explain the action that was taken.

#### **4. Minutes & Matters Arising**

- i. The minutes of the Private Meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> May, copies of which had previously been circulated, were taken as read and agreed as correct.  
Proposed: Briege Brownlee  
Seconded: Cllr Matt Garrett

- ii. With regards to actions from the previous meeting, the Safer City Coordinator updated Members as to the progress of the listed project briefs.
- iii. The Safer City Coordinator reported that £15'000 had been moved into the Community Safety Strategy budget as proposed.
- iv. The Safer City Coordinator also informed Members that the next partnership meeting on the 23<sup>rd</sup> August would be held at the RADAR Centre.

## **5. Chairs Update from PCSP**

- i. The Chair advised that there had been difficulties in getting the cage football utilised.
- ii. The Safer City Coordinator informed Members that the issue had been discussed at the PCSP meeting and that proposals had been put forward by West Belfast groups. She also informed Members that Mid & East Antrim Council had been contacted in regards to their own procedures when utilising the Cage Football.
- iii. Members were informed that the options were to give guidance to community groups and for them to facilitate the use of the cage or for internal council staff to accompany the cage and facilitate it themselves but this option may have an effect on their normal duties.
- iv. The Safer City Coordinator responded to the question of whether the Cage Football could be gifted to an organisation by suggesting that it would be a decision for the PCSP and that D.O.J would need to be involved as they provided the funds for the Cage Football.
- v. Michael George proposed that the possibility of gifting the Cage to a relevant organisation be discussed at the next PCSP meeting. This was seconded by the Chair.

## **6. Statutory Partner Update**

Sharon Beattie, NIHE

- i. S Beattie reported to Members of checks to high rise accommodations in the wake of the Glenfell tower tragedy and that cladding found in New Lodge and East Belfast appeared to be robust.
- ii. D Harbinson of NIFRS informed Members that checks of high rises over 5 floors high were nearly complete and confirmed that it is not the NIFRS that provide safety certificates but only to audit buildings in terms of escape and fire-fighting.

## **7. Upcoming Events (Item moved up from 9)**

- i. A Member introduced a proposal for a West Belfast Fanzone for the forthcoming Champions league qualifier between Linfield and Celtic at Windsor Park on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> July
- ii. The Member informed the Partnership that no tickets had been sold to Celtic fans but that there would be many fans that would travel over from Scotland despite not having

- a ticket. In order to allay any chances of Anti-Social behaviour, the Member outlined a proposal from Feile an Phobail to create a Fanzone in Falls Park.
- iii. The Member also reported that after discussions, the costs were deemed too high as the cost of the Television Rights had not been considered.
  - iv. As an alternative, the Member proposed that the Devenish Complex is now the chosen location to house the Fanzone.
  - v. The Member explained that the objective of the Fanzone was simply to keep people safe whilst allowing them to enjoy the game and that it wouldn't prohibit anybody.
  - vi. The Member further explained how the PSNI are aware of the plans and that the event could take significant pressure off the Police who will be stretched anyway given the time of year.
  - vii. The proposal is that the PCSP fund £15,000 of the total £40,000, with the rest being provided by Feile an Phobail
  - viii. The Member noted that there is £12,000 in the Anti-Social Behaviour Budget for emerging events which this project could fit in with.
  - ix. The Safer City Co-Ordinator explained that any approval given by Members would have to be subject to the process of internal due diligence. The Safer City Co-Ordinator also highlighted to Members the extra governance involved with a purchase worth over the £3,000 threshold and the fact that the proposal would need to be approved by the Director. Further approval is also required from the Belfast PCSP Chair and Vice Chair who are due to meet on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> July which would be a very tight deadline.
  - x. A Member asked for agreement in principle and approval was given subject to the internal due diligence processes being completed.

#### **8. West Belfast DPCSP Action Plan 2017/18**

- i. The Safer City Coordinator drew Members attention to the attached progress report and spend update
- ii. Members noted the contents of the report and supported its implementation.

#### **9. Unwanted August Bonfires**

- i. The Safer City Coordinator informed Members that an Unwanted Bonfires group continues to meet and that there had been proposals for 4 projects although the costing had not yet been finalised before being presented to the PCSP Chair and Vice Chair. Members were informed that the 3 sites that would be focussed on would be; Lower Falls, Colin and Whiterock
- ii. A Member enquired how pop up sites would be dealt with and the Safer City Coordinator replied by telling Members that a contractor would be used.
- iii. The Safer City Coordinator told Members that information relating to unwanted bonfires would come in via the anti-social behaviour officer and cc'd to her. The Safer City Coordinator confirmed to Members that she would obtain clarity as per the role of the contractor by way of briefing paper.

#### **10. Emerging Issues**

- i. Michael George informed Members that he and another Member had been called to a site where youths had dug into accessible bunkers and caused £18k worth of damage. The youths breached a chlorine tank which could have had serious consequences to their own health and caused massive disruption to the area as a whole. M George suggested to Members that there needed to be extra security in the area such as CCTV.
- ii. Inspector Alan Swann assured Members that the PSNI had paid specific attention to that area and that they had offered NI water crime prevention services.
- iii. M George also addressed the Members from the PBNI in regards to Seamus Armstrong whose wife had been murdered by an individual who was due to be released on the anniversary of her death. M George asked if there was any way that this could be prevented as it was causing great stress to the family.
- iv. N Coogan informed M George that Mr Armstrong would have to be registered through their Victims Unit to enquire about this but that also that the release date had not yet been set in stone. However, it was also confirmed that there would be no way of changing the release date once set.
- v. The Chair addressed Members to thank them for their support during his time as Chair of the Partnership and he was thanked by Members for his tenure.

**11. Date of next meeting**

- i. The date of the next meeting will be 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2017 at the RADAR Centre.

**West Belfast DPCSP Meeting - Summary of Actions  
Private Meeting**

**Thursday, 29<sup>th</sup> June, 2017**

Action Agreed	By When	By Whom
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Briefing Paper outlining the role of unwanted bonfire contractor</li> </ul>	23 <sup>rd</sup> August	Safer City Coordinator
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Present proposal to PCSP for tender of Cage Football to interested parties</li> </ul>	23 <sup>rd</sup> August	Safer City Coordinator