

Minutes of the East Belfast District Policing and Community Safety Partnership

Private Meeting

East Belfast Network Centre
Wednesday, 26th April, 2017

Political Members

Alderman Tommy Sandford (Chair)
Councillor Sonia Copeland
Councillor Carole Howard

Independent Members

Jonathan Currie (Vice-Chair)
Michelle Bryans
David Geddis
Lisa McMaster

Designated Organisations

Yvonne Cowan, H&SCT
Dermot Magorrian, YJA
Alison Methven, NIHE
Jane McKenna, PBNI

Chief Inspector David Moore, PSNI
Michael Roberts, NIFRS
Pauline Smart, EA

Staff Present

Suzanne Gowling, Safer City Coordinator
Katharine McCrum, Partnership Support Officer

Apologies

Councillor Aileen Graham
Steven McMillen

1. Welcome and Routine Matters

- i. The Chair welcomed Members to the meeting and noted the apologies provided. He advised Members that Suzanne Gowling would be supporting the meeting in the absence of the usual Safer City Coordinator, Glenn Thomas.

2. Declaration of Interests

- 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 declared at the outset of the Meeting.

3. Minutes and Matters Arising

- i. In relation to actions from previous DPCSP Meeting, the Safer City Coordinator advised that;
 - The Graffiti Bus would be deployed following reports to the Council's cleansing line, with contentious graffiti continuing to be removed as a priority. Residents and groups were encouraged to report issues as they arose.
 - A letter would be sent to the Education Minister regarding funding for youth provision once Stormont returned. It was subsequently agreed that a letter would be sent to the Permanent Secretary in the absence of a Minister.
- ii. Minutes of the East Belfast DPCSP Private Meeting held on 28th March, copies of which had previously been circulated, were taken as read and agreed as correct.
Proposed: Councillor Sonia Copeland
Seconded: David Geddis

4. Updates from Statutory Partners

Education Authority

- i. Pauline Smart advised Members that funding for extended youth provision had not been fully retained in East Belfast but the services most in need within inner east had all been provided with a 4 month cash allocation and they were hopeful of an extension.
- ii. Members welcomed this news.

NIFRS

- iii. Michael Roberts advised that calls regarding bonfires were increasing, particularly regarding Bloomfield Walkway.
- iv. Members were made aware of a major fire in the Braniel area at which a smoke alarm had saved the life of the occupant. Station Commander Roberts advised that NIFRS were actively targeting the Lower Newtownards Road area to encourage the installation of smoke detectors and asked for assistance in encouraging residents to allow access to Fire and Rescue officers providing home safety checks. Members were advised that the easiest way to book a visit was via www.nifrs.org.
- v. The Chair noted that the East Belfast Protestant Boys would likely be in touch with NIFRS and PSNI regarding attendance at a fun day they hoped to hold during the summer.

Bonfires

- vi. Members were advised that following discussions with the Good Relations Partnership, the bonfire at Cregagh Estate would be reapplying to the Council's Bonfire Programme, news that was welcomed by all.
- vii. The Safer City Coordinator advised that the deadline for applications to the Bonfire Programme was Friday, 28th April and encouraged Members to promote this. The Partnership Support Officer undertook to circulate information regarding the Programme to Members. Members were also advised that the Safer City Coordinator for East Belfast would be convening interagency bonfire meetings when he returned from leave.
- viii. Members requested that a presentation from the Good Relations Unit was provided at the next DPCSP meeting in order to clarify expectations and roles.

5. East Belfast DPCSP 2016/2017 Action Plan Progress Report

- i. Members were provided with a final copy of the 2016/2017 East Belfast DPCSP Action Plan and were advised that a draft Annual Report would be presented at the meeting in June.
- ii. Members noted the contents of the report.

6. PACT Review

- i. The Chair advised Members that the next Titanic PACT was scheduled for 25th May but due to the General Election in June, this would fall during the Purdah period meaning that Council Officers would need to absent if politicians were to attend.
- ii. The Vice-Chair agreed to take the lead at the meeting with Officers ensuring everything is prepared in advance. He also agreed to lead the Lisnasharagh PACT on 7th June as this too would fall during Purdah.
- iii. Several Members advised that they had been unaware of the Lisnasharagh PACT dates and asked for communication regarding the dates to be improved.
- iv. Members reviewed the East Belfast PACTs Report and noted that the review had reached a large number of stakeholders and raised some interesting new points. It was agreed that a sub-group would be established to analyse the report and to develop an Action Plan using the recommendations provided with an agreed meeting date circulated to all Members.
- v. Sub-Group Members: M. Bryans, J. Currie, L. McMaster and Chief Inspector D. Moore.

7. East Belfast DPCSP Action Plan 2017/2018

- i. The Safer City Coordinator advised Members that no further information was available on the 2017/2018 Action Plan or the associated budget.

8. Emerging Issues/Open Floor Discussion

Bonfires

- i. In response to queries regarding a number of bonfire sites, the Safer City Coordinator provided an update regarding Walkway, Harkness Parade, Cregagh Estate and London Road.
- ii. The Chair advised that the Council's Anti-Social Behaviour Officer and local Councillors were having discussions with representatives regarding the Walkway site and that it was being evaluated on a daily basis.
- iii. With regards to London Road, a Member advised that they may be able to provide local contacts as Council Officers were experiencing difficulties.
- iv. Members discussed the impact that the recycling/waste disposal site on Cregagh Road could have on the dumping of bonfire materials and other waste, firstly due to closure rumours and secondly due to their refusal to take certain items. It was also noted that those responsible for littering and/or dumping of waste were often being given warning letters but no fines were being issued.
- v. Political representatives agreed to seek clarification regarding the site from Belfast City Council and update the Partnership at the next meeting.

The New Normal

- vi. The Vice-Chair advised that a draft report was being produced following 'The New Normal' conversations which had been led by the East Belfast Drug and Alcohol Forum and would be circulated to Members once available.

Operation Plans regarding Parades and Events

- vii. A Member requested information on the operational plans of the PSNI and Council for key parade/event dates such as 13th May and 1st July. Chief Inspector Moore advised that a resourcing team based at Musgrave Street Station were responsible for this but that they could discuss plans with Members, listen to any concerns and reflect upon these if necessary. The Safer City Coordinator advised that once the policing operation was agreed, Council would look at how to support this through joint enforcement by the Community Safety Unit, Licencing and Parks, as necessary.
- viii. A Member advised that the East Belfast Protestant Boys were considering the use of marshals at their fun day and were keen to curtail alcohol at their events.

Miscellaneous

- ix. A Member advised that an information event would be held on Friday 28th April at the Mount Conference Centre regarding plans for the Sirocco Works site.
- x. A Member noted that despite recent rumours, the Short Strand Bus Depo was not closing.

9. Date of Next Meeting

- i. Members were reminded that the next meeting of the DPCSP would be on Tuesday, 30th May.

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Actions

Action	Date Due	By Whom
A letter is to be sent to the Education Authority's Permanent Secretary in the absence of an Education Minister.	30 th May	Safer City Coordinator
Information on the Bonfire Programme is to be circulated to Members and a presentation from the Good Relations Unit is to be arranged for the next DPCSP meeting in order to clarify expectations and roles.	30 th May	Safer City Coordinator
Details of Lisnasharagh PACT meetings are to be circulated to all DPCSP Members.	Ongoing	Project Officer
A sub-group is to be established to analyse the PACT Report and to develop an Action Plan using the recommendations provided with an agreed meeting date circulated to all Members.	30 th May	Safer City Coordinator
Political representatives are to seek clarification regarding the possible closure of the recycling/waste disposal site on Cregagh Road and update the Partnership at the next meeting.	30 th May	Political Members
<i>From Policing Committee</i> Chief Inspector Moore to provide a briefing on plans for parades and events over the summer period at the next meeting.	30 th May	PSNI