

East Belfast District Policing and Community Safety Partnership

Policing Committee Meeting

**East Belfast Network Centre
Wednesday, 28th June, 2017**

Attendees

J Currie (Vice Chair)
Councillor S Copeland
Councillor C Howard
Councillor D Hargey
Councillor A Graham
Y Cowan
M O'Donnell
L McMaster
M Bryans
D Geddis
CI D Moore (PSNI)

Suzanne Gowling, Safer City Coordinator
Andy Claydon, Partnership Support Officer

Welcome and Routine Matters

- i. The Vice Chair welcomed Members to the Policing Committee Meeting

PSNI Performance Report against East Belfast Policing Plan

- i. Chief Inspector D Moore provided Members with an update on East Belfast's Performance against the Local Policing Plan. The following key points were noted:
 - East Belfast reflects the results of Belfast as a whole
 - Burglaries showed a positive result
 - The East Belfast Social Media results were particularly good
 - Drug Seizures and arrests were increased significantly by 20% and 8% respectively
- ii. CI D Moore informed Members that the increase in drug seizures did not impact the supply of drugs to the community as the seizures were relatively small compared to the volume of drugs coming into the area.
- iii. A Member asked if the increases were due to an increase in the number of people reporting incidents to the police which CI Moore indicated was accurate but also stressed that research had to be done on each call before the police can act upon it. He also reported that a lot of seizures were as a result of vehicle stoppages. CI Moore insisted that the PSNI had to be seen to act if members of the public were brave enough to contact them.
- iv. CI Moore responded to a Members question relating to the number of prosecutions per arrest by suggesting that the PSNI would look to prosecute each case so the percentage should be high across the city.

- v. CI Moore clarified the PSNI's position with regards to the current Bonfire situation in the East. He stipulated that it was not the role of the PSNI to move bonfires, but to work with other agencies to get resolutions to issues and to protect communities from the threat of Anti-Social Behaviour. CI Moore also spoke of his concern for the bonfire at Bloomfield Walkway.

Policing Committee Project Applications

Short Strand Community Forum

- i. An application from Short Strand Community Forum for summer diversionary activities was proposed.
- ii. An interest was declared in the proposal by Y Cowan and Cllr M O'Donnell who left the meeting.
- iii. The funding of £1950 was approved by Members

Lower Beersbridge Residents Association

- i. A funding application of £1000 for a fun day to celebrate the 11th July was proposed.
- ii. The proposal was approved by Members.

Gertrude Star Flute Band

- i. J Currie declared his interest and left the meeting.
- ii. The funding application for £1419 for an Inner East Cultural Cohesion Project was proposed.
- iii. A Member asked for clarification of the route for the march and CI D Moore agreed to confirm and relay to Members.
- iv. The proposal was approved by Members subject to route clarification.
- v. J Currie re-entered the meeting

Emerging Issues

- i. A Member expressed their concern at the levels of Anti-Social Behaviour stemming from events at Belsonic and enquired as to whether the event organisers were paying for the policing of the event. CI Moore confirmed that Belsonic were not paying for policing.

- ii. The Member continued to describe some of the behaviour she witnessed and suggested that Coach drivers need to be more responsible for what youths are consuming on the coaches before arriving at the event. The Member also suggested that the event would not have been held in a more middle class area.
- iii. A Member suggested a police presence at train stations to confiscate alcohol from underage drinkers. It was also confirmed that there would be a police car driving around the worst areas for the upcoming DJ set.
- iv. A Member commented on the generally good behaviour of the vast majority of attendees that had been overlooked because of the actions of the minority.

Date of Next Meeting

Members were reminded that the next meeting of the Policing Committee would be on 29th August, Venue to be confirmed.

Summary of Actions

- Chief Inspector D Moore agreed to confirm the march route for the Gertrude Star Flute Band and relay confirmation to Members.