

Minutes of the West Belfast District Policing and Community Safety Partnership

Private Meeting

St Mary's University College Belfast
Thursday, 26th September, 2013

Political Members

Councillor Steven Corr
Councillor Matt Garrett

Independent Members

Harry Connolly (Vice-Chair)
Breige Brownlee

Statutory Designated Organisations

Sharon Beattie, NIHE
David Harbinson, NIFRS
Aideen McLaughlin, YJA

John McLaughlin, BELB
Angela McKeown, BELB

Attendee

Malachy Turley, West Belfast 50+ Forum

Staff Present

Glenn Thomas, Safer City Co-ordinator
Michelle Bagnall, Project Sponsor
Michael Burns, Project Officer
Katharine McCrum, Partnership Support Officer

Apologies

Councillor Máire Hendron (Chair)
Bernie Reilly
Carol Carville, PBNI
Tommy Boyle, H&SCT

1. Welcome and Routine Matters

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

2. Declarations of Interest

- i. The Chair asked Members to declare any material interests which they may have in relation to any item of business to be considered during the meeting.

3. Minutes

- i. The minutes of the Private and Public Meetings held on 25th June, copies of which had previously been circulated, were taken as read and agreed as correct.
- ii. With regards to the resulting Action Points, the Safer City Coordinator advised Members that discussions regarding Small Grants had taken place however some issues that had been raised to Members were in relation to Council Policy and governance rather than those imposed by the Community Safety Unit.
- iii. The Vice-Chair added that during this meeting, frank discussion had taken place and the criteria and application forms had been reviewed. He advised that an independent review on the impact and role of Small Grants was to take place and that this would be the place to raise the DPCSP's concerns. Members again stated their opinion that, as an autonomous group, the West Belfast DPCSP should be fully involved in the scoring of

applications in order to maintain integrity. The Vice-Chair stated that he would be pursuing the issue with the relevant Council staff.

- iv. With regards to the remaining Action Points, the Safer City Coordinator advised Members that £8,000 had been reallocated from the Lower Falls/Divis Intervention to Small Grants following discussions with the Programme Manager and that a further £8,000 was still available in the 2014/2015 Action Plan.
- v. Members were further advised that discussions with the NIHE were still to take place, information regarding the West Belfast Area Working Group's Lenadoon meeting had been circulated, as had details of the PCSP Youth Event, and letters which had been sent to the Area Commander and Suffolk Residents Group regarding sectarian attacks would be circulated to Members.

4. Whiterock Community Corridor Project

- i. Michelle Bagnall, Project Sponsor, provided Members with a briefing on the development of the Whiterock Community Corridor site and the proposed site improvements and new facilities. In addition to this site, Members were advised that the walkway beside the Ardmonagh Family Centre was also an anti-social behaviour hotspot and as such would benefit from an additional intervention.
- ii. The Safer City Coordinator agreed to prepare a paper for the next meeting of the DPCSP outlining proposals for the site, however, Members agreed that there was no need to wait for such a paper and that the feasibility study should be progressed.
- iii. Members questioned the officers about possible funding streams that were available to fund the Ardmonagh development to which they were advised that the options for the site would be considered prior to financial lobbying however various options including the Big Lottery could be explored.
- iv. Following a Members suggestion, it was agreed that the West Belfast DPCSP should endorse the proposals as there was real community excitement about the developments.

5. Action Plan Update

- i. The Safer City Coordinator advised Members that £56,000 of the DPCSP's £125,000 budget had been allocated, largely on Small Grants, and a further £28,000 would be allocated through a procurement process to tackling anti-social behaviour. Members were subsequently asked to review a list of possible initiatives and to grant permission to officers to progress these whilst delivering regular updates.
- ii. Members agreed that it was important for resources to reach the ground through local delivery as soon as possible and suggested that items related to the Suffolk/Lenadoon Action Plan for Interface Issues should be rolled out as soon as possible. It was also mentioned that the Community Safety Forums would be keen to align their work to that of the DPCSP Action Plan.
- iii. A Member suggested that the work of the Broadway Interface Working Group had been a success and raised concerns that moving focus to another area may be detrimental.

- iv. Both the Safer City Coordinator and Members agreed that the Broadway Intervention was a model of best practice and would be continued in future years.
- v. Members also asked for further information on the Neighbourhood Watch Schemes to be provided as people working in the areas were not aware of who was involved.
- vi. Members approved the list of proposed initiatives and suggested that building the profile of the DPCSP was an important action.

6. Date of Next Meeting

- i. Members were advised that the next meeting of the West Belfast DPCSP would be held on Wednesday, 23rd October.