

**Minutes of South Belfast District Policing and Community
Safety Partnership – Policing Committee
Wednesday, 30th January, 2013
Conor Room, City Hall**

Political Members

Ald. Tom Ekin (Chair)
Cllr. Deirdre Hargey
Cllr. Kate Mullan
Cllr. Mairtin O’Muilleoir
Ald. Christopher Stalford

Independent Members

Ms. Paula Bradshaw
Mr. Trevor Greer
Ms. Debbie Hammill
Nuala Toman (Vice Chair)

Police Service of Northern Ireland

Chief Inspector Gaby Moran

Staff Present

Denise Smith, CS Coordinator
Jo Black, Partnership Support
Officer
Edele Cleary, Project Officer

Apologies

Chief Inspector Gaby Moran

1. Welcome & Routine Matters

- i. The Chair, Tom Ekin, welcomed the Members to the meeting of the South Belfast District Policing and Community Safety Partnership.

2. Declarations of Interest

- i. The Chair read the declaration of interest.
- ii. No interests were declared.

3. South Belfast DPCSP Policing Committee Minutes

- i. Minutes of the South Belfast Policing Committee, copies of which had previously been circulated, were taken as read and approved as correct.
- ii. Report was distributed to all Members for information and discussion.

4. Written Questions for Area Commander

- i. The Area report was distributed to all Members for discussion.
- ii. The Area Commander highlighted each incident was being treated as an individual policing operation. Where roads were being blocked would be treated as an individual incident.
- iii. 124 arrests had been made relating to protesting. The Criminal Justice System was to deal with most serious offenses initially then all prosecutions.
- iv. The total number of arrests was 181.

- v. The protocol on flags was given by OFMDFM, DSD, DRD, NIHE and PSNI.
- vi. Since the 3rd December there had been flags protests. The policing of these incidents had not been met with the same spirit of cooperation as the 12th July parading. Oral Questions from Member

5. Oral Questions to the Area Commander

- i. A Member asked if there had been a reduction in the number of incidents of burglaries involving gangs. The Member further asked if there were young people hanging around MacDonalDs at Castle Street.
- ii. The Area Commander explained that CCTV had been put in place at MacDonalDs, however there had been problems with pubs in the vicinity emptying in the area.
- iii. A Member suggested that the number of burglaries in the area could be resolved by engaging with Neighbourhood Watch schemes.
- iv. The Area Commander suggested that community engagement was essential to producing a successful response.
- v. A Member addressed the question of the flag protests. The Member asked if these were mainly taking place at interface areas and other flash points, for example the Donegall Pass. The Member explained this was cutting off the connection from the lower Ormeau Road to the Markets which was restricting access for residents. Councillors were receiving complaints and blockages were preventing access to rugby grounds.
- vi. The Area Commander clarified that on the Ormeau Road protests near Donegall Pass had moved to the central reservation. In general blockages didn't involve the whole street.
- vii. The Area Commander further suggested that in South Belfast protests were mainly in the Village/ Bradbury area on 13th December.
- viii. The Member clarified if the figures as a whole related to South Belfast.
- ix. A Member asked what constituted a hierarchy of criminal behaviour and asked if this included violent protest.
- x. The Area Commander outlined the hierarchy of behaviours which constituted violent blockages.
- xi. A Member asked if in future statistics a separate category could be included for flag-related incidents.
- xii. The Area Commander explained it was his intention to provide a separate category.

6. Policing Committee Fund Applications

- i. One application for £650 which was for leaflet to be circulated to households in greater South Belfast village area had been received.
- ii. A Member asked about drugs bins and asked if they could transfer spending to the Action Plan headings such as the Drugs & Alcohol aspects of the Action Plan.
- iii. A Member explained that in South and North Belfast the Forum for Action on Substance Abuse were participating in the use of bins. The Member suggested this could be implemented in South Belfast.
- iv. Member asked about information contained in the report on thefts of cars in South Belfast and asked what initiatives were being put in place to combat them.
- v. The Area Commander asked if Antisocial Behaviour officers would be consulted about drugs bins schemes.
- vi. There was discussion among Members about the 'Beat The Burglar' campaign.
- vii. A Member asked if on drugs bins young people could be engaged with to place drugs bins.
- viii. Members agreed to circulate proposals by email.