

DACORUM COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP



MINUTES

**7.30 pm Wednesday 3 October 2012
Council Chamber, Dacorum Civic Centre**

Present:

Cllr Terry Douris	DBC
Cllr Neil Harden (Chairman)	DBC
Inspector George Holland	Herts Police
Trudy Mahon	DBC - ASB and Community Safety Team Leader
Dave Moore	DBC – Community Safety Coordinator
Andy Reynolds	Herts Police (Neighbourhood Watch)
Councillor Christopher Townsend	DBC
Douglas Walker	Past chair, DCSP
Cllr Colette Wyatt-Lowe	DBC
Cllr William Wyatt-Lowe	DBC
Lucy Stone (minutes)	DBC – Member Support Officer

ACTION

1. Introductions and Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Councillors Guest and Taylor, Maria Krathman (Mediation Hertfordshire), T Coley (Ex chair HHCPP) and Ian Markwell (Hertfordshire Fire and Rescue Service).

2. Minutes of previous meeting 25 April 2012 (previously circulated)

The minutes of the meeting on 25 April 2012 were agreed and signed by the Chairman.

3. Performance Update

• Community Safety Partnership – Dave Moore

D Moore said that since 1999, when Community Safety Partnerships were introduced the structure and funding mechanisms had remained pretty well stable over that 13 year period. With the imminent introduction of an elected Police & Crime Commissioner there would be a new way of working in Community Safety. Whilst it was unlikely that there would be any immediate changes to the structure of the CSP what was certain was that the funding process certainly would alter as funds which currently were allocated to each partnership via the County Council would now come under the authority of the Police and Crime Commissioner.

As a partnership we would be committed to working closely with the Commissioner whoever that turns out to be and we would now be well positioned to take on the challenge of what lay ahead; our finances were in order, our structures and processes

were organised, but most importantly, through a partnership that was working well we were achieving reductions which were in some cases quite outstanding.

The following figures were for the whole borough for the first six months of this year compared to the same period in the previous year.

- All Crime – Down 14%
- Burglary – Up 1%
- Vehicle Crime – Down 29%
- Violent Crime – down 4%
- Criminal Damage – Down 14 %
- ASB – Down 26%

D Moore said that he reported on these figures on a monthly basis both to elected members and to the management groups of the CSP. It could be easy to become blasé about performance which continuously improved and for there to be an expectation that this situation would carry on forever. However, I need to sound a note of caution around this issue and would suggest that this is something the partnership needed to prepare for, in that the day when performance ceased to be general reduction and either levelled out or increased.

At present, the success or failure of a partnership was measured and was likely to be measured by an incoming Police & Crime Commissioner, as to whether crime & ASB was reducing or increasing. There would be a point reached when we would be at the baseline of crime – it was accepted in criminology that within any democratic and free society, there would be an inherent level of crime which would be unaffected by interventions. D Moore said that as a partnership it would be necessary to think creatively about how the overall success of our partnership was measured and a suite of performance measures could be necessary to take account of indicators such as public satisfaction with the services provided by CSP partners and feelings of safety within communities.

To give some context to the current figures:

All Crime:

- April to September 2010 – 4600
- April to September 2011 – 4000
- April to September 2012 – 3400

ASB:

April to September 2010 – 4700

April to September 2011 – 3600

April to September 2012 – 2600

There were lots of different activities, operations, interventions and initiatives which all contributed to the unprecedented reductions seen. It was the sum of what both statutory and non statutory agencies were doing together in partnership. D Moore highlighted some examples of these initiatives.

Operation Sponge Pudding:

Herts Fire and Rescue Service and PCSOs in Berkhamsted had accompanied those delivering Meals on Wheels to carry out safety and security checks.

Drive Safe Dacorum:

A press release is attached to the minutes.

DBC Neighbourhood Action Groups in Hemel Hempstead:

The groups had been involved in many events during the Jubilee and Olympics.

DBC Anti-Social Behaviour Team:

Since the last meeting, there had been:

- 4 yellow warning letters issued
- 1 ASB notice given
- 3 injunctions
- 31 cases referred
- 16 cases open
- 3 awareness sessions on disability training
- Safeguarding training.

The Herts Family Support Team had been working closely with the team. Feedback forms had been given to those families involved and excellent feedback had been received.

Health:

There was an issue around illegal tobacco being imported which the Health authorities was working on.

Druglink were offering alcohol diversion schemes for those with alcohol related offences in order to reduce the penalty and try to rehabilitate. Druglink had also held awareness sessions in schools and had been to 8 out of the 9 secondary schools and seen 5,743 pupils between May and July.

Probation Service:

The Community Payback Scheme had seen a lot of work carried out for the Council. Around 8,000 hours had been completed with a value of around £50,000.

Plans were in place already for the Halloween and bonfire night period when joint working between Police, LA, Trading Standards and Fire & Rescue would take place to maintain the low incidence of ASB etc. (Reduced hugely last year)

There would also be reassurance messages issued along with crime prevention advice in the approach to Christmas and the Enjoy Festive season safely campaign would be repeated this year featuring crime, fire and health messages.

Questions raised by members:

Councillor Townsend asked how much funding would be allocated to the CSP when the Police and Crime Commissioner was in place. D Moore said this would not be known until after they were in place. The funding had been reduced over the last three years from £100k to £34k.

D Walker said that although there was not one explanation for why crime had reduced, it was due to the multi-agency approach. It had been an incremental process over the years since the CSP was set up in 1993. At that time, no one had worked together. The partnership had introduced different agencies into working together and things started to improve as new information became available.

Councillor Harden added that Health and Wellbeing had now been added into the multi-agency approach as well and more areas were being developed.

Councillor W Wyatt-Lowe thanked D Moore for a very succinct presentation and asked that all the information be sent out with the minutes. He asked how DBC compared with the East of England and the National crime figures. D Moore said he would circulate figures for the East of England separately. With regard to Hertfordshire, Dacorum was 5th in the table per 1000 of the population. Dacorum was also a very large population and therefore with regard to the total number of crimes, Dacorum had the largest in Hertfordshire.

- **Police – Inspector George Holland**

G Holland said that partnership working was key in the reducing levels of crime. He said that the main drive for crime was drugs and that different agencies were helping to rehabilitate drug users.

There were 40 prolific and priority offenders which over the past year, police had been targeting. One of those on the list had recently been arrested and charged with 12 counts of burglary. If convicted, he would receive a significant sentence which would send a clear message to others.

G Holland said he had started to change the way his Neighbourhood team worked. They were catching a lot of criminals, there had been a run of burglaries in Tring and Berkhamsted, the people responsible had now been caught. The PCSOs needed to get to know the community and therefore ride bikes, walk or catch the bus. G Holland said he had removed cars for those officers.

Groups of kids were responsible for a lot of low level crime. Safety Net, an audited system for police and others had been put in place. All crime reported was risk assessed. The PCSOs would go to where these incidents were taking place and be more proactive.

G Holland said the last quarter had been challenging and rewarding. It had seen the football Euro Championship, where in working with the licensing team, there had only been one arrest. The police had a presence in the pubs. The Diamond Jubilee celebrations had been successful and the Olympic torch relay in Hemel Hempstead had seen the largest number of people in Hertfordshire. This had gone very smoothly and the use of volunteers had been excellent. There had been two arrests at the end of the relay. Over 15,000 people had attended the paralympic torch relay through the night. The police also had to supply resources to other areas for the Olympic events and had therefore been stretched.

Matters had been put in place ready for Halloween and Bonfire night. As the nights drew in, people would also need to heed advice as there were more burglaries and car thefts in the dark evenings.

Councillor C Wyatt-Lowe arrived at 8.05pm.

Councillor Douris arrived at 8.10pm

Questions raised by members:

Councillor Douris said that his daughter had heard of an initiative in St Albans on marking catalytic converters. She had asked a PCSO about it and they had not heard of it. He said it had not been very good customer service. G Holland said it was being used for light commercial vehicles as they were the easiest target for this crime.

Councillor Douris said that when speaking to residents, an issue which came up often was the perception that part night lighting had resulted in increased levels of crime. He asked if the crime figures for the hours between 00.00 and 06.00 could be drawn up. Councillor C Wyatt-Lowe added that following a burglary in Woodhall Farm, an officer had told the resident that they were seeing increased levels of crime. She agreed that breakdown of figures was necessary.

D Moore said Broxbourne had been the first area to introduce part night lighting and had since seen a reduction in the levels of anti-social behaviour. He said he had spoken to the police analysis team and had requested a ward by ward breakdown.

They would be best placed to see how this information would be shown. D Moore said he would add that the DCSP had requested the information as soon as possible

Councillor W Wyatt-Lowe added that some of the crime figures could relate to streets where the lights were kept on, this would need to be separated.

G Holland said police officers were human and did sometimes offer comments from their own perceptions. He added that burglaries through the night were rare and that rural areas had no street lighting and did not see increased levels of crime to lit areas.

A Reynolds said that the police looked at and analysed crimes. The figures would relate to a longer period of time than when the lights were off. He said that people usually spotted, for example, that a car had been stolen in the morning, so would only be able to say between 7pm and 7am, the exact time would be unknown. He said that the figures should be considered with caution.

Councillor Douris said they needed the ability to refute the public perception of increased crime.

- **Fire Service – Ian Markwell**

D Moore summarised the report from the Fire and Rescue service which is attached to these minutes.

4. Police & Crime Commissioners

Councillor Harden said the Police and Crime Commissioner's election was in six weeks time and would be in place in seven weeks. He said that he would be the representative on the Police and Crime Commissioner Panel. The PCC would be accountable to the electorate every four years and to the Panel continuously. They would be responsible for Police and Crime including setting the budget. Councillor Harden explained all the responsibilities.

D Moore said the Home Officer would be launching an awareness campaign. The Electoral Commission would launch a public awareness campaign at the end of October until the date of the election. They would also be sending a booklet to every household affected. Broxbourne would be the centre for the Panel. He explained that the Association of Police and Crime Commissioner's website was up and running and had a link to all the candidates. HMIC had visited every police force to see if they were for the changes and had found Hertfordshire to be well prepared.

Councillor Harden said that Hertfordshire were one of the leading areas. He said that he was looking forward to scrutinising and encouraging the new PCC.

5. Destination Dacorum

D Moore provided leaflets on Destination Dacorum and explained that it had taken over some of the previous Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) functions. It focused on themes and within 'safer destination' it focused on building links with business communities on reducing crime. An action plan was in place and M Pryce was leading on it in developing better links between businesses and the police. M Pryce would be able to report on this at a future meeting.

Councillor Townsend asked if Destination Dacorum had replaced the LSP and if the DCSP played a role in it. Councillor Harden said the LSP had been scrapped by the Government. As the networking aspect had been of value, Destination Dacorum had

been set up which had several agencies represented but was more focused. The areas it focused on would change over time.

6. Funding Update

D Moore said that the starting budget was £34,569 of which just over £31,000 was left. £999 had been allocated to the Fire and Rescue service for letter box guards and £2,000 to the Community Payback scheme.

The bids in for consideration:

- £1,500 for Canal Fields skip
 - £1,500 for Billy's wish – reducing knife crime. Following the murder of Billy Dove, this money would be used to produce age appropriate DVDs to be shown in schools as a resource in the citizenship part of the curriculum in reducing knife crime.
 - £2,000 for Global Rock Challenge which was a national competition with the message of getting high on performance rather than drugs.
 - £1,500 for Fire and Druglink for more drive safety events
- If all of these bids were accepted, there would be £25,000 left. There had been some other bids rejected as there was not enough evidence or as they did not fit the criteria.

8. Dates of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 23rd April 2013.

The meeting ended at 9.00 pm.

Issued by Lucy Stone
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