

DACORUM COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP



MINUTES

**7.30 pm Wednesday 23 October 2013
Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Hemel Hempstead**

Present:

Catherine Appleby	DBC Representative
Peter Scott	OWL
Sally Marshall	DBC
Adrienne Gear	Community Action Dacorum
Jo Hudson	HMP The Mount
Jonny Bugg	PCC
Mike Wallis	Hemel Hempstead Street Pastors
Johnathan Walker	OWL
Bruce Burrows	Neighbourhood Watch
Rebecca Rose	Neighbourhood Watch
Tony Coley	Former Chair, HHCPP
Jack Daw	Herts Fire and Rescue Service
Douglas Walker	Former Chair DCSP
Peter Ingram	Chipperfield Parish Councillor/Neighbourhood Watch
Cllr W Wyatt-Lowe	DBC
Cllr Guest	DBC
Cllr Terry Douris	DBC
Cllr Neil Harden (Chairman)	DBC
Chief Inspector Glen Channer	Herts Police
Ian Markwell	Herts Fire and Rescue Service
Dave Moore	DBC – Community Safety Coordinator
Kevin Minier	Grovehill Resident
John Warner	Resident
Julie Still	DBC – Group Manager (Resident Services)
Michelle Anderson	Minutes

ACTION

1. Introductions and Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from: Maria Kraitham and Councillor Debbie Meech.

Councillor Harden thanked everyone for attending and said it was a great turnout. He felt that the message through OWL had worked.

2. Minutes of previous meeting 23 April 2013 (previously circulated)

The minutes of the meeting on 23 April 2013 were agreed and signed by the Chairman.

Matters arising:

The Chairman highlighted that I Markwell had been asked at the last meeting for a breakdown of the 170 primary fires.

I Markwell said that he had a map with him outlining the primary fires if people wanted to have a look.

The Chairman noted that there were further copies of the PCC Business Plan available at the meeting.

T Coley referred back to the issue discussed at the previous meeting around CO2 detectors and noted that they were still not in all homes and had been reserved for the vulnerable. He asked how much a detector cost.

I Markwell replied that the cost was £17-18 per detector. Lots of work was underway on this, however it had not yet been implemented across the county.

3. Performance Update

Dave Moore explained that the partnership began in 1998 following the introduction of the Crime & Disorder Act. The legislation set out the role of the partnership and that its aim was to reduce crime and disorder and anti-social behaviour (ASB), amongst other areas. He noted that the partnership was measured on performance and currently Hertfordshire was a very safe county. He felt that if crime rates started to rise, this should not be seen as a partnership failure, but it was the role of the partnership to tackle the issue.

D Moore gave the following update:

- **Community Safety Partnership**
 - Dacorum is a challenging Community Safety environment:
 - Population 144,800 (2011 Census)
 - Multi Centred Borough
 - Diverse Demographic mix
 - Urban/Rural Mix
 - Strong attractor for highly mobile criminals due to proximity to arterial road networks
 - All Crime - Down 10.5% - 358 fewer crimes
 - Burglary - Down 17% - 33 fewer crimes
 - Vehicle Crime - Down 6% - 21 fewer crimes
 - Robbery - Down 50% - 21 fewer crimes
 - Violent Crime - Down 3% - 14 fewer crimes
 - ASB - Down 35% - 938 fewer incidents
 - The Strategic Assessment Priorities include:
 - Anti-Social Behaviour and Criminal Damage
 - Dwelling Burglary
 - Vehicle Crime
 - Alcohol Misuse
 - Drug Misuse
 - Managing Offenders/ Reducing Re Offending
 - Support given to local projects: Swan Project, Think Safe campaign, Fire & Rescue etc.

Questions and Answers

D Walker noted a correction to the history behind the partnership. He explained that the panel began in 1993, twenty years ago. There was a set duty on the local authorities to work with the Police in partnership. It was noted that the strategic priorities in 1993 were similar to that of the present ones. He agreed that there were crimes waves throughout the year and supported D Moore when he said that this would not be a partnership failure.

D Moore assured the partnership that any increase in crime would be addressed.

Councillor W Wyatt-Lowe asked if there were any partnerships with the public health teams and drug and alcohol abuse agencies.

D Moore replied that health were statutory members of the Community Safety Partnership and were regular attendees at the strategic Responsible Authorities Group of the CSP. However, for understandable resourcing reasons across the county they had been unable to play as full a part as they would have wished at an operational level. With the recent restructuring to Clinical Commissioning Groups, they were keen to participate in the CSP and a representative will be attending the next RAG meeting to outline how health fit into the CSP. The CSP has excellent relationships with local drug & alcohol treatment agencies, Spectrum and Druglink and also with the Dacorum Emergency Night Shelter (DENS).

P Ingram noted that cars for PCSO's had been withdrawn in the past and concerns were raised at the time about this. He felt that it had not been an issue; however he hoped that they would return to mobile coverage of rural areas.

G Channer stressed that PCSO's were a foot asset and were never planned to be in cars. They could be supported by mobile Police Officers.

K Minier asked if there was any update with regards to Victim Support/ASB issues being addressed and the compensation from offender's scheme.

D Moore explained that the partnership focused on treatment of drug offenders as a way to prevent them returning to crime and this could be a challenge.

J Hudson added that HMP The Mount ran several drugs courses and had a number of drug free wings.

J Still informed the partnership that they had received confirmation of a post for victim support and for ASB, which would be advertised in the next week. Although the number of ASB cases was reducing, they were increasingly complex. She gave assurance that DBC offered a confidential service and only passed on details if the victim was happy to. They did all they could to support people.

J Bugg added that the PCC would soon be responsible for funding for victim support.

Councillor Douris felt that the levels of crime were decreasing; however the fear of crime was still high. He asked what the partnership was doing to address this.

D Moore said that they tried to publicise good news stories in order to balance people's perceptions of crime levels, but this could be a difficult balancing act.

G Channer said that it was the duty of the Police to ensure that people did not become a victim of crime and therefore worked closely with the partnerships.

J Bugg added that the PCC tried to encourage positive perceptions and aimed to get more people directly involved in community safety.

- **POLICE**

Glen Channer felt that this was a successful partnership and gave the following update:

- The challenge to the Police was the diverse borough. It included affluent areas,

and it bordered Beds, Thames Valley and the Metropolitan Police. However cross border meetings took place to discuss cases.

- Crime figures were scrutinised daily by the Police. He noted that they could not attend every incident and had to prioritise each case.
- The help from the community was very beneficial to the Police
- The recent trafficking incident in Tring demonstrates the diverse issues the Police face
- Work was underway with HMP The Mount with regards to issues of drugs being thrown over the fence.
- town centre night crime had reduced dramatically compared to the 1990's
- Speeding – the Police were actively trying to monitor this issue as much as possible
- The number of domestic violence reports had increased – which was encouraging to know that victims felt they could come forward and they would get the necessary support required

Questions and Answers

Councillor Guest asked what had happened to the victims of the recent trafficking incident.

G Channer replied that a safe place was used to take them for support, and translators were provided where required.

C Appleby asked if the elderly in sheltered accommodation were informed of the safety issues in their areas.

G Channer said that they were regularly visited by their local PCSO. Operation 'Sponge Pudding' was a recent example of agencies coming together to help inform the elderly.

- **FIRE SERVICE**

Ian Markwell gave the following update.

- Hemel Hempstead had been nominated for station of the year.
- Combined Safety Campaigns with partners.
- Co2 Reduction.
- Level and speed of response maintained
- Arson had reduced by 25% on last year.
- Building and property fires were down by 4%.
- There had been Zero fire injuries in first 6 months of 2013.
- Think Safe campaign.
- Dacorum Drive Safe.
- ASDAN Project.
- Duke of Edinburgh.
- LiFE Courses

Questions and Answers

K Minier noted that some streets suffered with parking issues. He asked how fire engines would operate if they were unable to gain access.

I Markwell said they had never had a case where the engines were unable to access the street. They would always find a way. They would also speak to the local authorities with regards to enforcing parking restrictions if necessary.

P Scott asked if there was a law around Carbon Monoxide detectors and where they must be supplied.

I Markwell explained that they were not compulsory in privately owned accommodation, however must be provided in privately rented accommodation. J Still added that DBC fit detectors in all of their housing stock, and those who did not yet have one were on the list to.

4. STREET PASTORS

M Wallis explained that:

- the scheme was launched one year ago and came through Hemel Hempstead churches. There was currently a team of 25 who go out on a Friday or Saturday night to engage with people in the community.
- the work they do includes assisting people to get home at night safely, homeless cases and general behaviour in the town.
- the concept had been pioneered in London in 2003. The pastors had to go through lots of training prior to starting and then have to comply with governance set.
- Funding was received from Dacorum Community Safety Partnership, the Police, the PCC and Billy's wish.
- The pastors carried accessories with them to help the community such as flip flops for ladies, first aid kits, lollies and spikies – to protect ladies drinks
- The pastors liaise with CCTV to enable the teams safety
- The challenge ahead was to recruit more volunteers to increase the teams. The aim was to have 40 members by April 2014.

Questions and Answers

Councillor Harden felt that this was a fantastic 'volunteering in the community' scheme.

R Rose asked if M Wallis found any conflict with his magistrate role.

M Wallis confirmed that he had found no conflict as he did not work in the borough.

G Channer said that the work carried out by the street pastors was great and they helped influence the reduction in incidents in the town centre. They were a great asset to the town.

Councillor Guest asked how the street pastors dealt with alcohol incidents.

M Wallis explained that they talked to people to help break the ice and build relationships.

C Appleby asked if there were any patrols in Berkhamsted.

M Wallis said that they did not currently have the manpower to extend the scheme outside of Hemel Hempstead. Berkhamsted did have drop in centres on Friday evenings and also had local PCSO's.

Councillor Douris was encouraged that Billy's Wish was helping to fund the scheme. He hoped that by educating people, the levels of knife crime would be reduced.

M Wallis highlighted that reports on the work of the street pastors could be found in this week's Gazette and on Hemel online, where a film of their work was available.

5. POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER

J Bugg recognised that Dacorum had a strong partnership. He noted, based on a comment made previously, that they were making links with public health bodies and looking at cross cutting issues.

J Bugg gave a presentation, which highlighted the following points:

- Aims of the business plan include:
 - Building on Success
 - Public focus
 - Offender pays
 - Business Sense
- Community funding to Billy's Wish, Hemel Hempstead Street Pastors, South Hill Centre and Countywide projects
- Volunteering Strategy

Questions and Answers

T Coley requested that the contact details shown in the presentation be attached to the minutes. He asked who dealt with questions around the Crown Prosecution Service and the criminal justice system.

ACTION: M Anderson to attach PCC contact details to the minutes.

J Bugg explained that the PCC did have 'a crime' responsibility. The responsibility for the Courts system sits with the Herts Criminal Justice Board This was a challenge and the PCC were raising the expectations of the Criminal Justice Board. They did not intervene in individual cases but did acknowledge the system.

Councillor Harden informed everyone that there would be a Police and Crime Panel meeting on Thursday 21 November at 7pm in the Council Chamber at the Civic Centre, Hemel Hempstead, which they were invited to. The PCC would attend along with his team and this would be a chance for people to directly ask him questions.

6. FUNDING UPDATE

D Moore explained that the partnership had received £32,324 funding, however currently £27,590 remained. He explained that community safety ideas were received throughout the year. He would like to encourage an increase in ideas and bids from villages and rural areas.

Ideas for bids which may help increase community safety could be sent straight to D Moore, which would then follow through a simple bidding process.

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

K Minier noted that as part of the Grovehill future neighbourhood plan they would look at blocking access to certain alley ways. He asked who he could contact for advice on this.

D Moore noted he would be able to help.

Councillor Douris added that as part of the new town planning, guidance was to avoid building alley ways and underpasses and estates with main roads through the middle, to avoid a separation.

D Walker noted that issues with alleys and underpasses were raised over 20 years ago. He suggested that this could be raised with the relevant Hertfordshire County Councillor.

Councillor Douris said that subways did prove to be a challenge, however could supply safe access across busy roads.

Councillor Harden thanked everyone for attending.

DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 9th April 2014.

The meeting ended at 9.25 pm.

Issued by Michelle Anderson
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