

REPORT ITEM 4.4



Minutes of Public Meeting held on 31st March 2022

Venue: Coleraine Town Hall

Duration: 7pm – 9.15pm

Present:

Chair: Councillor D. Wilson

Ald. G. Duddy, L. Abernethy, S. Chambers, Lee Kane

Officers in Attendance: PCSP Officer, Business Support Officer, Business Support Assistant

Statutory Agencies: Chief Inspector S. McIlldowney, Inspector B. O'Brien

Agenda Item		Actions
1.	Introduction	
	<p>Chair, Cllr. D. Wilson welcomed and thanked the Public, PSNI and PCSP members on attending.</p> <p>The purpose of the Public Meeting is so that the PCSP Partnership can find out first-hand what the public think about policing issues and in particular around drugs which will help the PCSP to develop action plans.</p> <p>He explained there would be an opportunity to ask questions. It was also requested no photographs or recordings of the event were taken, a note of the event will be recorded by PCSP staff and will not refer to any names.</p>	
2.	Policing and Community Safety Partnership	
	<p>The Chair gave a short presentation on the role of the PCSP.</p> <p>Policing and Community Safety Partnerships are statutory bodies established under the Justice Act (NI) 2011. There are 11 throughout Northern Ireland, one in each council area.</p>	

REPORT ITEM 4.4

	<p>Each PCSP has a Policing Committee to take forward specific police monitoring and engagement functions, with the wider PCSP taking forward community safety related functions. “Community Safety” is about developing local solutions to local problems in respect of crime, the fear of crime and anti-social behaviour, enabling a partnership approach to resolving local community safety issues.</p> <p>More relevantly for tonight, with regards to tackling drugs the PCSP have played their part within the remit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Public Meetings• Campaigns – Drug Dealers Don’t Care/ One Pill Will Kill• RAPID – Bins in Limavady and Coleraine where people can dispose of unwanted prescription and other drugs. Other areas are being identified• Monitoring Police – report at monthly meeting by members• Dissemination information on this issue via Social-Media, Databases, Newsletters and Text Alert• Dramas and various talks in schools• Work together with Health Trusts to develop and promote various support initiatives• PCSP Support Hub – helping individuals with various drug related issues• Grant scheme – help local groups to address this issue on the ground• Open to anything else that we can do <p>Policing and Community Safety Partnerships aim to create safer, shared and confident communities.</p>	
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REPORT ITEM 4.4

3.	PSNI	
	<p>Chief Inspector Sinead McIlldowney. Performance</p> <p>Reporting issues to the police is very important to get resources to be deployed to areas to deal with them. 7000 calls were reported in one week using the 101 number. Support from the community groups and the political reps is required to encourage people to report incidents when they happen.</p> <p>We have reviewed how drugs are getting into the Borough and have seen an increase in ordering over the internet and delivered to postal boxes or empty residences for collection. We are working jointly with Royal Mail to deal with this.</p> <p>Overview of Crime Statistics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Crime has increased in CC&G overall by 2%• On average every 1 in 5 calls is to do with a vulnerable adult/Mental Health/Someone with underlying issues.• New Domestic Legislation has also created a demand on resources.• Resources in CC&G is pressured – Limavady more so than Coleraine. <p>Road safety remains a priority in the Causeway Coast and Glens there have been;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 6 Road Deaths YTD up to 22nd March 2022 in comparison with 15 PYTD.• 717 breath tests have been carried out with 135 failures through either drink or drugs. <p>ASB has increased throughout the district and is of low risk to the offenders but high risk of who it is happening. This is where the community needs to be reporting the incidents so that so more resources can be sent the areas needed.</p> <p>Visibility of Neighbourhood Patrol Teams (NPT) was reduced in all the districts because of a resourcing issue. From the end February they will return to their NPT roles. And will be more visible out in the neighbourhoods.</p>	

REPORT ITEM 4.4

	<p>Inspector Bjorn O'Brien-Neighbourhood Policing</p> <p>There has been a rise in Coleraine and the Portrush/Portstewart of Anti-Social Behaviour motoring and of Anti-Social Behaviour in Riverside Park in Ballymoney. There are a certain number of officers to deal with the whole area, however we can call on other resources from elsewhere in the province when required. There are plans to work with the Traffic Branch and DVLA throughout the summer to deal with ASB motoring.</p> <p>We look at the Threat Harm Risk to see where resources are needed if incidents are reported that factors in to how many resources are made available .</p> <p>There will be a Portrush Summer Team in place from May to June to ensure the public are safe.</p>	
4.	Questions & Discussion	
	<p>Statement</p> <p>Coleraine Pedestrian Zone – cars driving through thinks it a racetrack in the evenings and somebody is going to get knocked down. I have reported to the PSNI and have been told that they would get back to them and has never happened. Cars going the wrong way up New Row and The Mall. Cars parked outside the churches on Sundays.</p>	

REPORT ITEM 4.4

	<p>REPSONSE</p> <p>The pedestrian zone has set hours for loading and unloading during the day and vehicles with blue badges can enter the town at certain time slots during the day. These restrictions are only to 5pm and when the shops close it is no longer pedestrian. DFI is responsible for traffic in the town centre.</p> <p>Chair of the PCSP</p> <p>Awareness of Restrictions needs to be publicised, the PCSP could possibly provide some publicity around this.</p> <p>RESPONSE</p> <p>Riverside Retail Park has the same problem with ASB motoring and again the PSNI had no jurisdiction for the area as it was owned by private landlords. After lengthy talks barriers were installed to be lowered an hour after the shops closed. This has displaced the drivers to other areas. Have had talks with the Causeway Chamber but are doubtful that they would want barriers in Coleraine Town Centre.</p> <p>Chair of the PCSP</p> <p>There needs to be a discussion with Statutory agencies and business owners.</p> <p>Ald George Duddy to raise the issue at the next Town Team Meeting.</p> <p>Statement</p> <p>Resident lives in the town centre and feels unsafe in her own home due to young people dinking and taking drugs in Andersons Park and drug dealing in her street. She has been threatened while walking through the park and has had fireworks thrown at her house. It was reported to the PSNI and it had taken an hour to respond and then the young people just run when they see the PSNI.</p> <p>RESPONSE</p> <p>It is important that every incident is reported so that more resources can be requested to deal with the problem. The NPT will have more patrols and will also to do a door to door to speak to residents.</p>	
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REPORT ITEM 4.4

	<p>Question</p> <p>Major problem with ASB motoring on a Sunday in Portstewart which goes on to midnight. Anything that the public can do to report this?</p> <p>ANSWER</p> <p>Ideally if the number plate can be reported, this helps to identify the vehicle and help us to contact the owner at a later date. The number plate of the vehicle will also be broadcast on the police radio so that officers can look out for that vehicle.</p> <p>If the vehicle is stopped it be checked to ensure it is road worthy and. The person who reported the driving would be required to make a statement so that the driver would be taken to court.</p>	
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Meeting ended