

**WORKING TOGETHER IN ALLERDALE
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WORKINGTON POLICE LIAISON FORUM
HELD IN CHRIST CHURCH**

PRESENT

Mr. A.L. Barry (Police Authority) (Chair)
Mr. D. Thomas (Police Authority Treasurer)
Mr. B. Taylor (Kirkbride Parish Council)
Mr. P. Logan (Holme East Waver Parish Council)
Councillor Mrs. J. MacLeod (Allerdale BC and Workington TC)
Mr. J. Molyneux (Beckfoot Neighbourhood Watch)
R. Pearson (Wigton Town Council)
Mr. V. Richardson
J.C. D. Lamb

Superintendent A. Towler (Cumbria Police)
Mrs. B.A. Lamb (Secretary to the Forum)

WELCOME

Mr. Barry welcomed everyone to the meeting and apologised for the lack of heating. He introduced the members of the top table.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Hazel Peacock, Councillor C Garrard, Councillor D. Fairbairn, Councillor Mrs. M. Snaith, Councillor Mrs. A. Tinnion Councillor R. Mumby– Allerdale Borough Council, Patrick Everingham (Cumbria Police Authority)

MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 8th September 2009 at St. Michaels Workington were agreed and signed as a correct record.

MATTERS ARISING

None

ANNUAL INDEPENDENT CUSTODY VISITOR REPORT

Mrs. Lamb as Secretary to the Independent Custody Visitor Panel gave the following report:

The Whitehaven and Workington Independent Custody Visitor Panel is working well. There are thirteen members with one member resigning during the year.

The Workington station is visited weekly with the Whitehaven station visited monthly for the first half of the year and then fortnightly. However there are occasions when the Whitehaven station is designated and needs to be visited on a weekly basis e.g. Carnival, Maritime Festival, Bank Holidays. Some work has been done to the Whitehaven station to bring the custody suite up to standard.

The visits to the Workington station were interrupted in November and December because of the floods.

The Independent Custody Panel meet quarterly to discuss visits made between the meetings and to discuss any problems which have arisen. When visits were made to both stations the Independent Custody Visitors were made very welcome and the staff were polite and helpful. Any issues brought up during the visits were dealt with effectively and efficiently.

The Panel has worked well during 2009 and I hope the situation will continue during 2010.

PRESENTATION - DOUG THOMAS, CUMBRIA POLICE AUTHORITY TREASURER – BUDGET PROPOSALS 2010-11

Mr. Thomas began by referring to the new display advertising the role of the Police Authority. He also referred to the new website and gave details of it. Mr. Thomas circulated two documents :

- Four parties to provision of police service
 - Government
 - Police Authority
 - Constabulary
 - Council Tax Payers

- Series of graphs showing
 - Sharing the cost of Cumbria Police Authority Services 2000-01 to 2010-11
 - Weekly Band B Council Tax to 2010-11
 - Police Authority Budget and Government Spending Assumptions Grant funding 2000-01 – 2010-11
 - Sharing the cost of Cumbria Police Authority Services 2000-01 to 2010-11

Mr. Thomas explained the documents and the implications for council taxpayers of a 3% increase for policing services. At the end of the presentation Mr. Barry asked the following questions:

1. Does the audience understand the performance achievements of the constabulary in the national context? **YES**

2. Do you get the impression of Value for Money and support for your local police service? **YES**

3. Are the taxpayers prepared to support a tax increase of 3% for policing services in 2010-11 – an additional 4.39 a year (Band B) – approximately 8.5p per week. **YES**

Mr. Thomas then fielded questions from the floor:

- Does the amount payable through rates cover the cost of CCTV cameras and if so could the number of cameras be increased throughout the rural areas. **Answer** - Superintendent Towler said CCTV cameras were very helpful in combating public disorder. He said the Chief Constable was a key player in talks concerning cameras and he also referred to the Crime and Disorder Partnership working. A further question raised whether the CCTV cameras were all linked into the police station and whether there was clear face recognition. Superintendent. Towler said the police had invested in CCTV and where looking at provision in some of the villages but he said most of the decision making was down to finance and money available.
- There is a need for more officers on the streets. **Answer** – Superintendent Towler agreed more officers needed to be mobilised but to do that he said there was an urgent need for a reduction in bureaucracy.
- What is the policing pledge? **Answer** - Mr. Barry read out the ten points of the pledge. Mr. Barry said the Chief Constable was committed to getting more officers into the community but that there were only so many officers to go round. He said there were instances when officers had to be taken to other duties e.g. Appleby Horse Fair, floods in Cockermouth and Workington, large investigations etc. Superintendent Towler referred to the situation in Silloth with regard to PCSO's He also explained the reason why some PCSO's move on quicker than expected but that most PCSO's are in post for a minimum of two years.

POLICE RELATED MATTERS AND QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

Councillor MacLeod raised the issue of fixed penalty notices being issued around the Udale Street area in connection with traffic in and around the new bridge. Superintendent Towler said this was in the interest of public safety and was primarily to do with the Highways Authority. Councillor MacLeod said there was a distinct lack of information given to the public. Superintendent Towler said he would look into the matter. The last question raised the issue of illegal parking of police vehicles at Hall Brow in Workington. The Superintendent said the police should be dealt with in the same way as members of the public. He said he would also look into this situation.

DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

16th March 2010 at Beacon Hill School , Aspatria.

Mr. Barry thanked everyone for their attendance and Mr. Thomas for his presentation. He wished everyone a safe journey home.

Meeting ended 8.30 pm