

**MINUTES OF THE BARROW POLICE COMMUNITY LIAISON FORUM
HELD IN FORUM 28, BARROW, ON
TUESDAY, 7 NOVEMBER 2006, AT 7.00 PM**

PRESENT

Members:

Cllr Mr Bill Smith	-	Chair
Mrs Janet Lashmar	-	Vice-Chair (Cumbria Police Authority)
Acting-Chief Supt.Iain Goulding	-	Cumbria Constabulary, South
Ms Lynda Shaw	-	Cumbria Police Authority
Cllr Mr W Joughin	-	Barrow Borough Council
Mr George Appleton	-	Ulverston Trades Council
Mr Ron Turner	-	Scouts Association
Mrs B E Shepherd	-	Secretary

Members of the Public present included the following:

Mr G McCreedy	-	Self
Mrs V Beck	-	Self
Mr W Beck	-	Self
Mrs Margie Arts	-	BAFPA
Mr Dennis Pye	-	Self

APOLOGIES

Chief Superintendent Dee Collins	-	Cumbria Constabulary, South
Ms Lynne Slavin	-	Cumbria Police Authority
Cllr Mr Ernie Wilson	-	Cumbria County Council
Mrs A F Martin	-	Chair, Independent Custody Visitors
Mr Ken Arts	-	Newby Terrace Neighbourhood Watch
Ms Edith Walker	-	Acting-Gen.Mgr, Barrow Children's Services
Mrs Thora Wadsworth	-	Ulverston Trades Council

1. Mr Ron Turner

The meeting was opened with presentation of a commemorative plaque to Mr Turner for his long service to the Independent Custody Visiting scheme since 1991. Chairman Mr Smith was pleased to record appreciation for Mr Turner's contribution towards both the Policy Authority and Constabulary; and Mr Turner was very pleased to accept the token.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE were given as above.

3. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

It was agreed that the Minutes of the 61st meeting held on 6th April 2006 be adopted.

4. MATTERS ARISING

Minute 5 : The Chairman reported failure of merger proposals with Lancashire, due to a number of financial issues being unresolvable. Thus Cumbria will remain as a standalone Police Authority. However, monies CPA monies expended on the process will be reimbursed in full; and although the time involved cannot be regained, a number of positives have emerged through networking etc.

5. POLICING ISSUES

The Chairman welcomed **Acting-Chief Superintendent Iain Goulding**, for Chief Superintendent Dee Collins who was seconded onto a Strategic Command Course until January 2007. ACS Goulding was present to report on (i) operational performance locally; and (ii) amalgamation/merger issues re Cumbria Constabulary as opposed to Cumbria Police Authority.

IG outlined operational issues covering identified priorities including the following:

- Burglary of dwellings.
Showed reduction of 36% in total: in Barrow, 40%; in Ulverston around 70%. This was a significant reduction in real terms - about three per week in South Cumbria - through much effort on partnership basis, which will be sustained.
- Violent crime and disorder.
Another key issue – down by 20%, meaning 400 fewer assaults this year than in first half of last year. Incidents in licensed premises showed 33% reduction.
- Vehicle crime – was down by 24%.

Overall, there was a significant downturn in all categories – which IG noted would not lead to complacency as effort would continue towards maintaining such improvements. However:

- Drugs' performance was more difficult to gauge. Thus, an annual target number for 'serious' arrests was set – and was achieved in first six months of year: ie, 29 more arrests, due to focusing increased efforts concerning working methods in those areas.

Acting-CS Goulding concluded his talk with less than good news, unfortunately. Criminal damage was showing an increase of 5-10% each year – partly a casualty of changing life patterns (ie, vehicles no longer being secured in garages, etc). However, this remained a key issue.

Questions were then invited and responded to as follows:

- IG gave good-news report regarding Halloween. Looked to 'Respect' agenda to reduce associated criminal damage by increasing responsible actions and working with partners to design alternative activities for children and families. A number of initiatives aimed at diversionary tactics were outlined: working with shops re inappropriate sales; messages in

schools, etc. As a result, the number of calls from public had halved in Barrow, with only two in Ulverston and four in Dalton. Looking to repeat next year.

Part of the success/reduced burglaries due to changes in society (ie, items cheaper, so without real value), plus fluctuating crime types/seasonal (ie, windows left open) etc; also communication links/partnership working and basic neighbourhood advice.

- Some incidents re automatic cash machines – but resolved and not as many as other areas. General advice given.
- Domestic Violence statistics more difficult to quantify due to under-reporting.
- Attempts being made to understand reasons for criminal damage, categorised under alcohol-related, youth disorder and neighbour-disputes. Although it was noted this was a community as well as police responsibility; and that efforts would continue to empower the former via the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership and working together on all levels.
- ‘Your Choice’ operation aimed to work with parents, and was creating a database through police presence at young people’s events. Letters would be sent to parents of children ‘present’ on three antisocial etc occasions; continued ‘presence’ would result in a home visit, and possibly ASBOs.
- The Acting-CS noted that people had the right to take reasonable steps towards self-protection, and if necessary make citizens’ arrests.
- A suggestion for CSOs to attend school PTA meetings on an information-gathering basis would be fully supported by the Police. CPA was also investigating ways of engaging with schools/young people.

Concluding, ACS Goulding noted that, following the failed merger plans, the key issues as a standalone force remained, ie: to find efficiency savings through budget pressures, whilst addressing serious crime together as well as delivery of local services. Work was underway to identify new approaches following what has been a fundamental change for police forces who now needed to deliver services on budget.

6 INDEPENDENT CUSTODY VISITING SCHEME

6.1 Ms Shaw reported on a number of issues raised at last meeting – including:

- i) CPA’s Mr Edwards had liaised with building maintenance to resolve drainage problem in Barrow Station yard.
- ii) Constabulary currently review light fittings in cells with a view to updating.
- iii) New specification paint now being used.

6.2 Ms Shaw added good news in completion of recruitment exercise, and that Barrow Panel was now up to strength with 15 members who could now begin regular weekly visits, thus increasing public confidence.

6.3 Mrs Beck suggested some thought be given to the statement given to detainees when being asked if they wished to be visited, which was felt to need more clarity as to its purpose for their own protection.

6.4 Ms Shaw reported on ICVA Annual Conference in Cambridge, to which she was accompanied by four ICVs, one from each panel. Attended by 300 delegates, who discussed the role of the national body.
A full report would be circulated, but the following points were noted in meantime:

- Upset at failed merger plans.
- Interesting talk regarding mental health issues, which were an issue for many detainees. National training programme planned.
- Home Office talk concerning interaction with Health Authorities to shoulder more of own burden.

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

7.1 Congestion reported at Griffin Centre, where workmen/cars parking etc are having difficulties negotiating the area. Suggestion to add yellow lines. Chairman noted that this was a CCC Highways issue, which he would pass on through Cllr Ernie Wilson for assessment.

7.2 Concern expressed at number of drivers known not to have passed driving tests, which there was reluctance to report fearing repercussions. Advised that reports could be made anonymously via:
Crimestoppers - telephone 0845 3300247 (10p cost).

9 DATE AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETINGS

9 January 2007 - Barrow (Forum 28, Green Room). Finance presentation.
19 April 2007 - Ulverston (Coronation Hall, Ante Room).
19 July 2007 - Dalton (venue tba).

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.25 pm.

CUMBRIA POLICE AUTHORITY**CARLISLE AREA COMMUNITY LIAISON FORUM**

Minutes of a Meeting of the Carlisle Area Community Liaison Forum held on Thursday 12 October 2006 at 7.00 p.m. at the Irthing Centre, Union Lane, Brampton.

Present: Mr R Watson, Cumbria Police Authority (Chairman)
 Mrs C Egan, Cumbria Police Authority
 Ch Supt Andy Davidson, Cumbria Police
 Acting Sgt. Andy Fox, Cumbria Police
 PC Anita Owen, Cumbria Police
 PCSO Kate Cunningham
 PCSO Emma Wharton
 Kelly Eve
 Mike Pattison
 I Pennington, Brampton PC
 Cllr J Bainbridge, Carlisle City Council
 Mr J Lucking, Nether & Upper Denton PC
 Mrs C Ridley, Brampton PC
 Mike Clarke, SR PC
 Chris Green
 Cllr D Morton, Carlisle City Council
 Mrs M Naylor, Stanwix Rural PC
 Mr N Griffiths, New & Star
 Helen Hinvest, Clerk
 + 10 other members of the public

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Apologies were received from Ms J Scarlett and Ms A Boyle.

Minutes of the meeting held on 13 July 2006 were signed as a correct record.

Matters Arising

Mr J Lucking, representing Nether & Upper Denton PC asked whether the emergency services were relying on the services of the air ambulance in rural areas to transport patients following the removal of the ambulance from Alston. Ch.Supt. Davidson said that if the police were consulted on this issue they would make their concerns known to the relative body but that it must be appreciated that each Authority works to different financial pressures.

Independent Custody Visitors (ICVs)

The Clerk reported on weekly visits made by the Independent Custody Visitors (ICVs) to detainees in North Cumbria. 5 new ICVs have recently joined the Scheme, making a total of 14. The new Custody Suite at Durrhill, Carlisle, will be opening on 20 November 2006.

The Role and Responsibilities of a Police Community Support Officer (PCSO)

Ch Supt Davidson introduced PCSO Kate Cunningham and PCSO Emma Wharton and explained that the role of PCSOs is to develop neighbourhood policing and support the reduction of crime and anti-social behaviour within the local community they serve. They are well respected members of the Local Policing Team (LPT) and their work is highly valued. There are currently 18 PCSOs in Cumbria, six in each policing area. Due to additional government funding, these numbers will increase across the county to 105 by April 2007.

PCSOs do not have the same powers as police officers but are an important part of the LPT and provide an highly visible presence in the local community and act as a liaison between the local community and the police by being the “eyes and ears” of local people as they carry out their foot patrols in their local area.

PCSO Kate Cunningham gave a short presentation on her role and explained the limited powers of a PCSO which are similar to those of an ordinary citizen to enforce a citizens arrest. She explained that her main duties are to provide advice and support to the local community. A PCSO can become involved in matters such as anti-social behaviour, youth disorder, confiscating alcohol and tobacco from minors, litter and dog fouling, drunk and disorderly situations, house to house enquiries, crime prevention, dealing with victims of crime, and they can act as a professional witness. She explained that PCSOs work a shift pattern between the hours of 0800 and 2200, 7 days a week.

In answer to a question about entry requirements and training, PCSO Cunningham said that the age range is 18-65 and she explained that there is a rigorous assessment day as part of the very demanding application process, followed by 4 weeks instruction, a further 4 weeks working alongside an experienced PCSO tutor, and on-going training. If appointed, the police will try to accommodate the PCSO’s wishes with regard to their work location.

Sgt Fox praised the work of PCSO Tracy Watt who works in the Brampton area and who has built up excellent relationships with young people in the local community, and with rural farmers.

A representative from Dalston PC asked if a PCSO would be assigned to Dalston and Ch Supt Davidson assured him that next year there would be a PCSO assigned to the Local Policing Team (LPT) which covers Dalston, but they may have to share this PCSO with another LPT. Sentence removed

With regard to a question about transport for PCSOs, Ch Supt Davidson explained that they would patrol around the local community on foot, although when logistics dictate they may be driven to rural areas before starting their foot patrols. The question of providing them with bicycles was discussed; there are some police officers in Cumbria who patrol on bicycles but due to financial constraints and Health & Safety regulations these numbers are limited . The issue of bicycles to PCSO is a matter for local consideration by LPT Inspectors. The difficulty of one PCSO patrolling on foot throughout a large rural community was questioned and Ch Supt Davidson stated that by April 2007 each LPT would be supported by more than one PCSO.

Cllr Morton asked whether we could retain the level of PCSOs once the 3 years of funding had terminated. The Chairman felt confident that the positive feedback from the public and the value placed on their work by the police would mean that no government would take a decision to reduce the number of PCSOs.

Cllr Morton commented that local people wanted to see more police officers on the streets and not driving around in cars, and Ch Supt Davidson assured him that the PCSOs would become a highly visible presence on the streets and a point of contact for local people. Their presence would also free up police time so that local community police officers could spend more time in their communities.

The Chairman thanked PCSO Kate Cunningham and PCSO Emma Wharton for attending the meeting.

Crime Statistics for North Cumbria

Ch Supt Davidson presented the crime figures for the Carlisle area for the 12 months to the end of September 2006, and a comparison with last year’s figures. These showed a general fall in crime of 6.5% which must be maintained. This downward trend has been achieved mainly because of the policy of local policing and the introduction of Local Policing Teams (LPT) which provides an identified local police officer covering every ward or parish in Cumbria.

Ch.Supt. Davidson commented that new legislation giving police the power to seize the property and possessions of convicted criminals if it is proved these have been obtained through the proceeds of crime has positively impacted on convicted criminals. Crime prevention advice has also improved and increased, and Neighbourhood Watch schemes are a significant factor in reducing burglaries. Joint agency efforts continue to deal with Persistent Offenders with great success.

A synopsis of the public consultation survey recently carried out was included with the crime statistics on which Mrs Egan commented that the Police Authority would like to receive information about what local people feel are their policing priorities so that these can be targeted by Cumbria Police.

The Chairman reported that Cumbria Police has been recorded as the best force in the country, with an "Excellent" for neighbourhood policing,. There are now more police officers in Cumbria than at any previous time. Many police jobs have been civilianised so there are fewer police officers doing administrative work.

The Chairman thanked Ch Supt Davidson for presenting these statistics and for placing these figures into context with local policing initiatives.

Question Time

In response to a question from the floor regarding young people being constantly moved on, Ch.Supt. Davidson said it was necessary to look at the root of the problem as the police could not solve this problem in isolation but needed to work with their partner agencies to look at ways of providing facilities and opportunities for young people within local communities. A comment was made that the local community centre did not provide suitable facilities for young people.

Mrs Egan was concerned that young people were not getting a voice and she explained that the Police Authority are looking at ways in which the views of teenagers and young adults can be obtained.

The role and monitoring of the Special Constable was questioned and Ch Supt Davidson confirmed that they undertake professional training and the same level of training as a police constable with regards to Officer Safety issues. The Chairman suggested that if any member of the public had a complaint against any member of Cumbria Constabulary an official complaint should be made and it would be investigated by an independent panel in the normal way.

In response to a comment from the floor that often people do not report crimes because they are not confident the police will take action, Ch.Supt. Davidson said that the survey showed that people were happy with the level of policing in Cumbria but acknowledged that under reporting exists for many different reasons. However, he appealed to local communities to report known suspicious incidents and criminal activity at all times

In answer to a question from the floor regarding information about whether a resident holds a Firearms Certificate, Ch.Supt. Davidson suggested the questioner contact to him after the meeting and he would advise whether this information could be released under the Freedom of Information Act.

Mrs Egan said that members of the Police Authority would be willing to come to speak to local communities about any policing issues over which they have concerns.

Next Meetings

Thursday 11 January 2007 – Harraby Community Centre
Thursday 19 April 2007
Thursday 12 July 2007
Thursday 11 October 2007

The Chairman thanked all speakers and members of the public for attending the meeting, which closed at 2015.

CUMBRIA POLICE AUTHORITY

EDEN AREA COMMUNITY LIAISON FORUM

Minutes of a meeting of the Eden Area Community Liaison Forum held on 11 October 2006 at 7.00 p.m. at Penrith Rugby Club.

Present: Mike Ash, Cumbria Police Authority (Chairman)
Ch Supt Andy Davidson, Cumbria Police
Insp William Woan, Cumbria Police
PCSO Joel Larmour
PCSO Joanne McGarr
Mr J A Todd, Tebay PC
Mr F Chalmers
Ms C Shea, Cumbria County Council, Children's Services
Mr J Ravetz
Cllr M Wilcox, Eden District Council
Jill Hay, Culgaith Parish Council
Helen Hinvest, Clerk

The Chairman welcomed all the members to the meeting.

Apologies were received from Dr C P Albon (Kirkby Stephen Town Council), Mr C Arnison, Ms S Bisson (Eden Youth Partnership), Mr R I Campbell, Mrs A Kindleysides, Cllr T Stoddard, Cllr G Strong, Ms S Wilkinson (Kirkby Stephen Town Council).

Minutes of the meeting held on 12 July 2006 were signed as a correct record.

Matters Arising

Ch.Supt. Davidson reported on road improvements on the A6 in the Plumpton area and expressed his confidence that the new measures are having an effect on driver speeds.

Following on from this, a member of the public queried the possibility of introducing a 20 mph speed limit on some minor roads, particularly Pooley Bridge to Howtown. The Chairman advised that this could only be done if the case can be justified, and then only in conjunction with physical restraints (i.e. road "bumps"). Ch.Supt. Davidson assured the meeting that the road network in the North Cumbria area is constantly under review.

Questions were also raised about sections of the A685. Ch.Supt. Davidson advised that in some cases driver behaviour is the most likely cause of accidents but that improvements are always under review with all partner agencies to look at education, engineering and enforcement, making reference to elements of the CRASH presentation made by Supt Rush at the previous meeting. The Chairman suggested contacting the Eden Local Committee regarding engineering solutions.

Independent Custody Visitors (ICVs)

The Clerk reported on weekly visits made by the Independent Custody Visitors (ICVs) to detainees in North Cumbria. 5 new ICVs have recently joined the Scheme, making a total of 14. The new Custody Suite at Durranshill, Carlisle, will be opening on 20 November 2006.

The Role and Responsibility of a Police Community Support Officer (PCSO)

Insp William Woan introduced PCSOs Joanne McGarr and Joel Larmour and explained the difference in uniform between them and himself as a police officer. He also explained the items of

police equipment which PCSOs carry, including a personal Airwave radio so that they are in constant contact with the Communications Centre and colleagues. Insp. Woan praised the work of the PCSOs and said that the work they do is of great value to the police and to the public.

PCSO McGarr detailed the powers of a PCSO which are similar to an ordinary member of the public, including citizen's arrest. PCSOs main duties are to provide liaison between the public and the police, to be "eyes and ears" in the local community, and to foster close relationships with the communities they serve. They become involved in matters such as anti-social behaviour, youth disorder, confiscating alcohol and tobacco from minors, litter and dog fouling, drunk and disorderly situations, house to house enquiries, crime prevention, dealing with victims of crime, and they can act as a professional witness. PCSOs can assist in the formation of Neighborhood Watch teams, and help town centre police officers. PCSO McGarr said that she had recently been advising local businesses following a spate of charity box thefts.

Ch.Supt. Davidson confirmed that the PCSOs are highly valued members of the Local Policing Team (LPT) and although their powers are limited, their role is to be in contact with the local community, and the increase in community feedback has been of great value to the police.

The Chairman explained that there are currently 17 PCSOs in Cumbria. This figure is due to increase to 105 by April 2007 as government funding has been given to increase the numbers, and each LPT in North Cumbria will have the support of at least one PCSO.

In answer to a question from the floor regarding training, PCSO McGarr explained that there is a rigorous assessment day as part of the very demanding application process, followed by 4 weeks instruction, a further 4 weeks working alongside an experienced PCSO tutor, and on-going training.

In reply to questions Ch.Supt. Davidson said that the age range of PCSOs is 18-60, and 40% said they joined as a stepping stone to becoming a police officer. He confirmed that many applications had been received since the national recruitment campaign was launched in August 2006 and was hopeful that the target figure of 105 by April 2007 would be achieved.

Insp Woan answered a question about anti-social behaviour in rural areas which do not yet have a PCSO, and requested that any concerns are directed to the Local Policing Team (LPT) Inspector who will deploy appropriate officers – including PCSOs - to investigate the problem. He confirmed that LPT officers can be contacted by mobile phone as well as through the call handling system at HQ on 0845-3300247.

The Chairman thanked Insp Woan, PCSOs McGarr and Larmour for their presentation.

Crime statistics

Ch Supt Davidson presented detailed crime statistics for the 12 months to the end of September 2006, and a comparison with last year's figures. These showed a general downward trend which must be maintained with increasing detections over the same period. This downward trend has been achieved mainly because of the policy of local policing and the introduction of Local Policing Teams (LPT) which are now bedding in and which for the future will be further supported by more PCSOs.

Ch.Supt. Davidson responded to a question from the floor regarding the recording of crime and advised that single incidents of low level nuisance may not always be recorded as a crime if they did not fit a nationally set criteria. However he emphasised the need for the public to report such matters as this helps to build on local community intelligence which is then assessed and actioned accordingly by LPT officers.

Ch.Supt. Davidson confirmed that tackling a reduction in crime figures required a multi-agency approach and the introduction of different strategies to achieve a reduction. The police work closely with other agencies such as the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP), Carlisle Housing Association, and Eden District Council.

One area which is being given a high priority is the apprehension of Class A drug suppliers, making reference to a current Crown Court case covered by the media.

In reply to a query about the low number of burglaries shown in the figures, Ch.Supt. Davidson explained that new legislation giving police the power to seize the property and possessions of convicted criminals if it is proved these have been bought through the proceeds of crime have had a significant effect. Crime prevention advice has also improved and increased, and Neighbourhood Watch schemes are a significant factor in reducing burglaries as has been the effort directed towards dealing with Prolific Offenders..

A synopsis of the public consultation survey recently carried out was included with the crime statistics and Ch.Supt. Davidson suggested that the name of the local police officer be advertised as widely as possible in local communities so that residents know how to make contact.

A request was made that some level of analysis be added to the figures in future, the chair explained that contextual issues are provided by C/Supt Davidson in his verbal overview and that people then had the opportunity to ask questions or raise issue as appropriate.

The Chairman thanked Ch Supt Davidson for presenting these figures.

Question Time

In answer to a question regarding "Operation Safeguard" Ch.Supt. Davidson confirmed that Cumbria has not been asked to house convicted prisoners at present but that this situation might change. Each police force is graded as to their ability to accommodate prisoners, and it was felt that Cumbria was at the lower end of the grading system.

A question from the floor regarding the effectiveness of the Highways Agency motorway patrols prompted a reply from Ch.Supt. Davidson that they provided a very valuable role in keeping the road network flowing smoothly and giving a very good and visible service to the motoring public and will hopefully contribute by their presence to reducing road collisions.

A request was made that a future topic for discussion may be the role of each rank of officers of the LPT, the structure of the police force and what operational difficulties Cumbria Police faces.

Next Meetings

Wednesday 10 January 2007 - Appleby.

Wednesday 18 April 2007

Wednesday 11 July 2007

Wednesday 10 October 2007

The Chairman thanked all speakers and members of the public for attending the meeting, which closed at 2100.

**MINUTES OF SOUTH LAKELAND POLICE COMMUNITY LIAISON FORUM
HELD IN MOUNTAIN RESCUE BASE & COUNTY OFFICES, KENDAL, ON
MONDAY, 13 NOVEMBER 2006 FROM 7.00 PM**

PRESENT

Members:

Cllr Mr J Nicholson	-	Cumbria Police Authority (Chairman)
<u>Inspector Ian Carruthers</u>	-	Cumbria Constabulary, South
<u>Cllr Alan D Day</u>	-	<u>Chair, Kirkby Lonsdale Town Council</u>
Mrs Freda Kitching	-	Westmorland National Union of Teachers
Mrs Sue Harrison	-	Self
<u>Miss Beryl Greenwood</u>	-	<u>Chairman, Independent Custody Visitors</u>
<u>Mr Brendan Johnson</u>	-	<u>South Lakeland District Council</u>
<u>Ms Fiona Crombie</u>	-	<u>Underbarrow Neighbourhood Watch Assn.</u>
<u>Mr David Hardy</u>	-	<u>Underbarrow Neighbourhood Watch Assn.</u>
Mrs B E Shepherd	-	Secretary

There were 4 Members of the Public present.

APOLOGIES

<u>Chief Superintendent Dee Collins</u>	-	<u>Cumbria Constabulary, South</u>
<u>Acting-CS Iain Goulding</u>	-	<u>Cumbria Constabulary, South</u>
<u>Cllr Mrs Pauline Halfpenny</u>	-	<u>Cumbria Police Authority</u>
<u>Cllr Mr Jim Bland</u>	-	<u>Cumbria County Council</u>
<u>Mr M J Sherriff</u>	-	<u>Holme Parish Council</u>

1 The meeting convened with a talk and slide show at Kendal Mountain Rescue Base by Eddie Harrison, Deputy Team Leader. This was well received, proving most interesting and enlightening, especially concerning its volunteer status and funding. The talk was followed by a brief tour of the base and vehicles.
A vote of thanks was given to Eddie and Team - which may be followed by a donation from CPA towards much needed funds.

Members then retired to County Offices for refreshments and business meeting.

2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE were recorded above.

3 **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

It was agreed that the Minutes of the 61st meeting held on 10th April 2006 be adopted as a correct record.

4 **MATTERS ARISING**

None.

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5 POLICING ISSUES

Police tabled statistics under various crime headings including:

Burglaries of dwellings	-	down 32%
Burglaries other (commercial)	-	down 8%
Theft of/from motor vehicles	-	down 13%
Violent crime	-	down 21%
Total number of offences recorded	-	down 6% overall

63 offenders also dealt with for supplying Class A drugs during last three months.

One of biggest problems, however, was said to be criminal damage, which had risen by 13%, but was being addressed. Possible link with alcohol abuse – although Police pointed out this was a massive cultural and countywide issue, and that responsibility should be shared by parents/schools as well as Police. He also noted that pro-formas had been circulated querying the reasons for alcohol consumption.

Points raised from the meeting and dealt with included:

- Given above reductions in crime statistics, queried whether more POs could patrol beats, as greater 'visibility' might reduce incidents of criminal damage.
- Insufficient follow-up to reports by public of suspicious incidents. ACS to ensure that such reports should be passed on asap to relevant NW co-ordinator; and report back to next meeting.
- Speed camera at Ings inappropriately placed – when emerging from Hill Farm towards Kendal, impossible to join traffic flow safely without exceeding 40 mph speed limit. Suggest siting 50 yards nearer Kendal. Police will refer to Traffic Management Officer.

6 INDEPENDENT CUSTODY VISITING SCHEME

Chairman Miss Greenwood wished to record presentation to ICV members of five long-service awards in June from CPA. Panel now increased to 15 including new members, who are all now trained, fully operational and working well.

7 CORRESPONDENCE

None.

8 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- 8.1 Concern expressed at dwindling membership of forum, particularly from nominated statutory representatives; also fewer meetings per year. Agreed to seek more interesting agenda items, press coverage, etc; also request CPA to address issue/contribute agenda items etc.

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¶ The Chairman tabled and read the following statement dated 21.3.06 from CPA's Clerk and Chief Executive Mr Clive Alcock:¶

¶ "At previous meetings the views of the Forum have been sought regarding the future of Cumbria Constabulary. This report is to update you on the position taken by the Police Authority at its meeting on 24th February.¶

¶ You will be aware from previous meetings that last September, the Home Office invited authorities and forces in England an (... [15])

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DATE AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

Thursday, 15 February 2007 – County Offices (Committee Room 1), 7.30 pm.
(Subsequently b/f to 25 January.)

The Chairman thanked all attendees and declared the meeting closed at 8.55 pm.

Deleted: 9.1 . A member queried what procedures were in place for dealing with major ¶ incidents arising as a result of the numerous one-day events etc in the area, plus ¶ how different ethics of other police forces would combine to resolve such issues. ¶ Particular concern was expressed that often heavy equine traffic was an ¶ 'accident-in-waiting'. ¶ CS Collins was confident sufficient measures were in place, and would check ¶ existing processes which would be reported back to next meeting.¶ ¶

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To be arranged after consultation with HQ.¶

Deleted: Monday, 10th April 2006 – Kirkby Lonsdale (Queen Elizabeth School). ¶ Apologies from Cllr Mrs Thompson. ¶
Addendum: Meeting venue subsequently changed to The Institute, Kirkby Lonsdale.

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TO DO

CONTACTS: Holme Parish Hall – Carol Hayton 01524 782007

Send sue ltr to clive

return JN to paper copies

icv – find mins from 94 + plc dec 2000 for BG

dont need 'destroy previous rotas'

dont send forms etc to garnet, as he only 2nd

ANIMALS

birdsong on nat parks answerp

cttee – apols

1 Apologies for Absence.

2 Minutes of Previous Meeting (attached) of 9 January 2006.

3 Matters Arising.

4 Police Restructuring Review - Update:

Following Home Secretary's announcement on 6.2.06, options are now for Cumbria Police Authority to volunteer for merger with Lancashire by 24.2.06, or Home Secretary will start the statutory process to force a merger on 1.3.06.

Police Budget 2006/07– Feedback

To receive feedback following the consultation exercise in January 2006.

6 Policing Issues:

Update by Chief Superintendent Dee Collins, Area Commander.

Members of the Public and the Forum are invited to raise any

questions

regarding any policing issue of national, county or local level.

7 Correspondence.

8 Independent Custody Visiting Scheme:

Reports on recent visits. Plus any other ICV business.

9 Any Other Business.

10 Date and Venue of Next Meeting.

THE INSTITUTE, KIRKBY LONSDALE,

Chief Superintendent Dee Collins

Chief Inspector D Spiller Constabulary, South	-	Operations, Cumbria
Page 1: [5] Deleted	BES	16/11/2006 18:40:00
Mr M J Sherriff	-	Holme Parish Council
Page 1: [6] Deleted	BES	20/11/2006 19:00:00
Mr D Hardy Watch Assn.	-	Underbarrow Neighbourhood
Page 1: [7] Deleted	CUMBRIA POLICE AUTHORITY	22/04/2006 14:35:00
Mr D Hardy Watch Assn.	-	Underbarrow Neighbourhood
Page 1: [8] Deleted	BES	20/11/2006 19:00:00
Miss Beryl Greenwood	-	Chair, ICV Panel
Page 1: [9] Deleted	CUMBRIA POLICE AUTHORITY	22/04/2006 14:08:00
Guest: Mr Douglas Thomas	-	Cumbria Police Authority
Page 1: [10] Deleted	BES	16/11/2006 18:41:00
Mrs M J Sherriff	-	Self
M/s M D Roberts + 2	-	Self
Page 1: [11] Deleted	CUMBRIA POLICE AUTHORITY	23/04/2006 18:46:00

10 + 4

There were no Apologies for Absence.

Cllr Mrs Pauline Halfpenny	-	Cumbria Police Authority
Cllr Mrs W Thompson	-	Windermere Town Council

Page 1: [12] Deleted	BES	16/11/2006 18:52:00
Cllr Mrs Wendy Thompson	-	Windermere Town Council

Page 1: [13] Deleted	CUMBRIA POLICE AUTHORITY	22/04/2006 14:13:00
The Chairman opened the meeting by wishing all present a Happy New Year.		

Page 1: [14] Deleted	BES	16/11/2006 18:38:00
proposed by Ms Harrison, seconded by Mrs Kitching, and a		

Page 2: [15] Deleted	BES	16/11/2006 18:50:00
POLICE FORCE RESTRUCTURING – AMALGAMATION OF CUMBRIA AND LANCASHIRE CONSTABULARIES		

The Chairman tabled and read the following statement dated 21.3.06 from CPA's Clerk and Chief Executive Mr Clive Alcock:

“At previous meetings the views of the Forum have been sought regarding the future of Cumbria Constabulary. This report is to update you on the position taken by the Police Authority at its meeting on 24th February.

You will be aware from previous meetings that last September, the Home Office invited authorities and forces in England and Wales to consider options for merger. The request was made on the basis of a recommendation from Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary that stated that small forces were least able to provide for the most significant policing demands.

The Police Authority has considered this matter carefully and together with advice from the Chief Constable, Michael Baxter, it has agreed to a conditional merger of the Cumbria and Lancashire policing areas.

The Authority is persuaded that the new force's size will create the extra capacity needed to deal more effectively with serious, major and organised crime; counter-terrorism; major incidents; civil contingencies; incidents of public order; and strategic roads policing.

This decision was not taken lightly and the views of all those consulted have been weighted against the operational necessities arising from modern policing and the professional advice of police officers.

Cumbria Constabulary has nationally recognised high standards for its positive relationship with the public and you can be assured that the provision of good quality local policing will remain of the utmost priority for Cumbria.

If all goes to plan, the new constabulary, likely to be called "Cumbria and Lancashire Constabulary", will come into existence in April 2007."

There were no questions from the meeting.

5

POLICE BUDGET 2006/07 – FEEDBACK

The Chairman tabled and read the following statement dated 21.3.06 from CPA's Treasurer Mr Douglas Thomas:

"At the January meeting of the Forum views were sought on the Authority's budget proposals for 2006/2007.

On 15th February the Police Authority met and approved the Revenue Budget for 2006-07 and Capital Programme recommended to them by the Authority Treasurer and the Chief Constable.

The approved budget was for £90.328m - a net increase in provision of £3.633m (4.1%) over the adjusted figure of £86.695m for 2005-06.

This required a Band 'D' Council tax of £163.08 - an increase of £7.65 (4.92%) over 2005/06 - just below the maximum increase of 5% which would have been permitted under government guidance. The charge for a band 'B' property, the most typical in Cumbria, is £126.84 (an increase of £5.95) - equivalent to £2.44 per week (increase - 12p per week)

This budget does not require any further savings to be made beyond £763,000 of efficiency savings identified in the Efficiency Plan for 2006/07 or those savings totalling £430,000 identified during the course of the budget preparation.

This budget has enabled £546,000 to be contributed to the General Reserve against future uncertainties, including merger. North BCU estate, and civil contingencies."

Page 2: [17] Deleted BES 16/11/2006 18:50:00

After questions were invited, Chief Superintendent Collins assured the meeting that sufficient funding had been agreed which would ensure that recruitment would not be adversely affected.

6

Page 2: [18] Deleted BES 16/11/2006 18:50:00

POLICING ISSUES

Chief Superintendent Dee Collins

Page 2: [19] Deleted BES 16/11/2006 18:50:00

reported a few changes since last meeting involving restructuring of teams. CI Ian Carruthers would now lead Kendal rural area, and CI Dave Banks was moving from Barrow to cover Kendal town area.

Issues dealt with included successful operations in Kendal Sandylands area to resolve youth disorder. The public was warned about (non-violent) purse snatches in Kendal town centre, which was being addressed through extra patrols etc. A great deal of work via Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership was continuing and would do so into next year.

Figures for whole of south Cumbria were said to be good news, totalling less than one offence per day, ie:

Burglary offences were 30 under the target of 382 at 352.

Drugs target of offences had totalled 110, but concerned itself with promoting treatment for offenders, working also with licensees toward this end.

Robbery target of 23 resulted in 19 such offences.

Theft from motor vehicles was 164 less than target of 660.

Theft of motor vehicles was less than one per day.

CS Collins said the target for 2004/05 was 12,500 offences, but had ended at 13,000 for whole of south Cumbria – which was less than five crimes per day – and she felt reassured that Cumbria was a safe place

to live and work. She noted that - whilst balancing extra work involved through amalgamation - local policing would remain a priority, focusing for the next 12 months on criminal damage plus vehicle crime and domestic violence, and that continued help from the public would be greatly welcomed.

Chief Inspector D. Spiller, Operations, covering Barrow, then emphasised the importance of dealing early and effectively with underage drinking – which would be tackled from all angles, targeting dealers, parents and schools.

Questions were invited and answered as follows:

A member noted children consuming alcohol underage on land behind Kirkby Lonsdale fire station, and requested police patrols to include the area when possible.

This member also expressed concern at the lack of preventative measures generally: ie, during a telephoned report to police of potential problems, the response was to “let them know once a crime had been committed.”

Concern expressed at regular parking on double-yellow lines in Kirkby Lonsdale after 6 pm - and the response that only actual obstructions could gain response.

Some concerns were reported regarding Neighbourhood Watch Scheme, which had largely reduced into a one-way process with lack of police feedback to scheme members; also, that a NW telephone number publicised via Penrith was no longer valid. CS Collins agreed this situation was unacceptable. She promised to investigate the difficulties with a view to increasing support, and would report back to next meeting. Mr Day to copy NW distribution list to CS Collins.

> Violent crime between October and November reduced by 18%
– though concerns remained to be addressed regarding that category's content for a true comparison

In addition, the detection rate was increasing (which did not necessarily go hand-in-hand with above reductions), which CS Collins would continue to pursue.

However, she noted serious crimes during the last three months at (1) Oxenholme Post Office, and (2) Windermere filling station - the perpetrators being non-local, offering good examples of effective regionalisation.

CS Collins' other main area of concern was road casualties, which showed only

would 3% reduction from last year; but work with the 'crash partnership' continue.

Questions were invited and answered as follows:

Christmas/New Year period drink-driving statistics were not yet released, as there had not been a high number of tests carried out due to focusing on other priorities.

Regarding benefits of CCTV for off-licences, it was felt the transfer in licensing to district councils was a positive step as it included extra measures such as registration, door supervision etc.

It was noted that there are no regulations requiring young people to carry ID cards – and reiterated that parents/guardians bore responsibility to help police with 'mixed messages' of such nature. The need to prioritise meant police were unable to provide specialist response regarding all illegal hunting events; however, they would always meet any responsibility to investigate where felt necessary regardless of the nature of the event.

It was agreed that, as a general rule, the *division* should be notified of any activity requiring police action, rather than HQ – which would in any case be automatically advised.

Windermere's change in speedboat regulations, resulting in visitor decline, had not yet shown any significant effect on the area's crime figures.

7 CORRESPONDENCE

7.1 The Chairman referred to a letter received after September 2005's meeting from

Mrs Harrison, outlining various helpful suggestions for the future of Cumbria's Police Liaison Forums. He apologised that a reply was still outstanding, adding that it would be forwarded to CPA Clerk and Chief Executive Mr Alcock, for comments.

ICV Chairman Miss Beryl Greenwood explained that the ICV panel comprised

members of the public who are independent of the Police. Four new members

recruited during last year had increased membership to 11; and she added that

a membership drive would begin in May, urging any interested persons to watch

out for details soon to be publicised in the press.

CS Collins also emphasised the importance of this function, which was to ensure

the accuracy of Police procedures for the protection of detainees. She noted

significant and traumatic work carried out Barrow area in this connection, and

thanked all individuals who took part of the schemes generally.

7 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None.