

WORKING TOGETHER IN ALLENDALE

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE WORKINGTON POLICE AREA COMMUNITY LIAISON FORUM HELD IN THE CIVIC HALL, MARYPORT ON TUESDAY 4TH APRIL 2006 COMMENCING 7.30 P.M.

PRESENT

A. Barry	Police Authority
Councillor M. Davidson	Allerdale Borough Council
Councillor G. Humes	Cumbria County Council
Councillor T. Fee	Cumbria County Council
Mrs. D. Messenger	Co-opted and ICV Member
Ch. Supt. I. Cardwell	Cumbria Police
Sgt. R. Thompson	Cumbria Police
Mrs. B.A. Lamb	Secretary to the Forum

Also present: Councillor Mrs. J. MacLeod (Allerdale Borough Council), Councillor W. Cameron (Cumbria County Council), R. Taylor (Maryport Town Council), L. J. Purser, S. Mounsey, H. Messenger, PA.O'shea plus 3 members of the public who did not sign the attendance register – a total of 18.

WELCOME

Mr. Barry welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced the members of the top table.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from D. Stephenson, Mrs. H. Peacock

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 25th January 2006 in Beacon Hill School were approved and signed as a correct record.

MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising

INDEPENDENT CUSTODY VISITOR REPORT

Dorothy Messenger, one of the Independent Custody Visitors gave the report. She said the Workington station had been visited weekly with the Whitehaven visited fortnightly and the outstations, such as Maryport twice yearly. She said everything had been found to be in good order since the last meeting of the panel and that as an Independent Custody Visitor she found the job to be very rewarding. She continued by saying the Workington custody suite was particularly busy but that she had always found the staff to be both pleasant and efficient.

UPDATE ON POLICING REFORM

Mr. Barry read out the following statement:

At previous meetings the view 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 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 weighed 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.

UPDATE ON BUDGET PROPOSALS 2006-7

Mr. Barry read out the following statement.

At the January meeting of the Forum view were sought on the Authority's budget proposals for 2006-7. On 15th February the Police Authority met and approved the Revenue Budget for 2006-7 and Capital Programme recommended to them by the Authority Treasurer and the Chief Constable.

The approved budget was for £90.32m – a net increase in provision of £3.633m (4.1%) over the adjusted figure of £86.695m for 2005-6. This required a Band D Council tax of £163.08 – an increase of £7.65 (4.92%) over 2005-6 – 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 12 p 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 2006-7 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.

QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Councillor Fee asked about the number of PCSO's in the Workington area. Chief Superintendent Cardwell said the number related partly to finance. However he said they were doing an excellent job and were able to police a specific area. He said there were no minimum numbers for PCSO's and that he was looking forward to getting more with additional funding.

Councillor Kendall raised the problem with victims of crime and questions frequently asked by the public as to the length of time taken to get the cases to court. Chief Superintendent Cardwell said he had a certain sympathy but officers were working hard to address the situation and it was very hard when disappointment is expressed. He said the force worked very hard in partnership with other agencies.

Councillor Humes raised the proposed merger with Lancashire and the need to keep a focus in Cumbria in the form of the headquarters. Chief Superintendent Cardwell said it was a merger and not a takeover and referred to what had been read out at the beginning of the meeting by the Chairman. He said officers were from time to time taken to other parts of the country for various duties and that it did not matter where the headquarters was based but that the important fact was the BCU's (Basic Command Units) and the undertaking that these would not be affected by the merger. Councillor Humes said the Cumbria force had always been well ahead in the league table of forces and he felt that Cumbria would now be a little fish in a big pool and that we should be fighting for the headquarters in Cumbria. Mr. Barry said the points raised by Councillor Humes had all been made at Police Authority meetings and that one of the main concerns was the loss of jobs and he stressed that there was still a lot to resolve and that the force was still very much in the negotiation stage. Councillor Humes then made the comparison with the changes to the Kings Own Border Regiment.

The Mayor of Maryport referred to the frustration of the people of Maryport in the length of time it took to get perpetrators to court. He asked where the police were also frustrated and if so what could they do to alleviate the problem. He also referred to high profile cases on television, some of which were brought to court very quickly. Chief Superintendent Cardwell said there was a sense of frustration but it was a national problem. He also said there were pressures on the police to deliver and get it right and that they had to report to the Criminal Justice Board.

The Mayor then referred to the proposed new traffic regulations for the town. He said the present system was very difficult to police and that the new system would be even harder. Sgt. Thompson asked where the specific

problems were and what the problems were. The reply was that it was speeding and congestion. Councillor Humes referred to the use of CCTV in the town and an amount recently allocated by the local committee for CCTV in the whole of Allerdale. He referred to the proposal to do away with disabled parking in car parks and he also referred to the proposal to site a permanent gypsy site which he said would relieve officers' time. Chief Superintendent Cardwell parking regulations came under the jurisdiction of the Local Authority. Councillor Humes asked if the police were consulted. Chief Superintendent Cardwell said he was not sure but would check. Councillor Kendall referred to the legal requirements for disabled spaces in car parks and the need to provide the space plus chevrons. He said the discussions were taking place with regard to disabled parking in car parks but that a decision had not yet been reached. The Mayor referred to free bus passes for the disabled but said many disabled people could not walk to the nearest bus stop. It was agreed to send a letter to Allerdale Borough Council expressing concern at the proposed changes.

Councillor Kendall said Maryport Town Council had contributed towards the CCTV cameras for the town and said he understood the cameras were linked to the police station. Chief Superintendent Cardwell said the question of full time manning of the cameras was down to finance. Councillor Kendall then referred to the money spent on the old cinema and the fact that youths were congregating around the cinema and causing problems and he felt the use of the cameras would be beneficial. Chief Superintendent Cardwell said the cameras were a good tool but were not "the end all and be all". Sgt. Thompson said there were nine screens in the station and that they were useful in two areas – prevention of crime and detection of crime. Councillor Fee said he was on the CCTV sub-group and that he would look into the situation.

Again the Mayor referred to serious problems in the town with traffic and he said the public perception of the police was very poor. Chief Superintendent Cardwell said he understood the frustrations but that his officers were working very hard and he was very disappointed to hear the comments voiced. He said one of his officers would contact the Mayor and would go round the areas where he felt the problems to be.

Councillor Humes raised the lack of attendance at meetings by the statutory bodies and asked that a list be brought to the next meeting. He said that unless the meetings were held between 9 and 5 interest was lacking.

POLICE RELATED MATTERS UPDATE

Chief Superintendent Cardwell gave the following statistics for the town up to the end of February:

Burglary – dwellings 30% reduction

Theft of vehicles – increase

Theft from vehicles – 44% reduction – significant improvement

Robbery – 4 so far this year

Violent crime – increase – some of this was due to the way incidents were recorded.

Road traffic casualties – 25% reduction

Overall 26% increase in detections.

Next focus on theft of motor vehicles.

Sgt. Thompson gave examples of some operations currently in progress –

Operation Robot – crack house closures

Youth Disorder in the town

Quad bike/scramblers – zero tolerance.

Councillor Humes referred to the “feel good factor” with drink related issues particularly in Workington and praised the Pub Watch scheme. Sgt.

Thompson referred to three premises in Maryport where there had been after hours drinking and all of which had been dealt with.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

5th July 2006 at St. Michaels Church Conference Centre at 7.30 p.m.

Mr. Barry told the audience there was an opportunity to speak to the officers following the meeting and he wished them a safe journey home.

Meeting ended 8.35 p.m.

MINUTES OF THE BARROW POLICE COMMUNITY LIAISON FORUM
HELD IN FORUM 28, BARROW, ON
THURSDAY, 6 APRIL 2006, AT 7.00 PM

PRESENT

Members:

Mrs Janet Lashmar	-	Cumbria Police Authority (in Chair)
Chief Superintendent Dee Collins	-	Cumbria Constabulary, South
Ms Lynda Shaw	-	Cumbria Police Authority
Ms Lynne Slavin	-	Cumbria Police Authority
Cllr Mr N Bishop-Rowe	-	Ulverston Town Council/SLDC
Mr Ron Turner	-	Scouts Association
Mr Peter Mann	-	Churches Together
Cllr Mr Jack W Rice	-	Ulverston Town Council
Mrs A F Martin	-	Chair, Independent Custody Visiting Panel
Mrs B E Shepherd	-	Secretary

Members of the Public present included the following:

Ms Janet Mann	-	Self
Mr Stephen Mann	-	Self
Mrs V Beck	-	Self
Mr W Beck	-	Self
Mrs Margie Arts	-	Newby Terrace NW Association
Mr Ken Arts	-	BAFPA
Miss M M Crawford	-	Self

APOLOGIES

Ms Edith Walker	-	Acting-Gen.Mgr, Barrow Children's Services
Mr G Appleton	-	Ulverston Trades Council
Mrs Thora Wadsworth	-	Ulverston Trades Council
Mrs M Stainton	-	Cumbria Assn.Local Councils (Bardsea PC)

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE were recorded as above.

2 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

It was proposed by the Cllr Mr Bishop-Rowe and agreed that the Minutes of the 60th meeting held on 5th January 2006 be adopted.

3 MATTERS ARISING None.

4 POLICING ISSUES *(discussed at this stage, to allow CS Collins' urgent attendance elsewhere)*

Chief Superintendent Dee Collins gave a short overview of the situation in the area, together with an indication of figures pending their finalisation.

Domestic burglary was a priority, and had reduced its target of 382 for the year by 29 incidents – which was less than one per day for the whole of south Cumbria. Drug offences was also a priority: last year's target was 132

offences, but actually dealt with 100 above that figure. Robbery was another key area - with target of 23 offences, this figure had been reduced by four: ie, only 19 offences for the whole of south Cumbria. Car crime's target was 660 offences for the year, and this had been reduced by at least 166 incidents. Some concern remained regarding violent crime (although its anomalies had been previously explained). Anticipated 10-15% above target, this actual figure was 8% - but was still too high and would continue to be addressed.

Taking all figures into consideration, CS Collins noted that the rate of increase in crime had slowed, with a predicted increase of 3% over the whole of the south. However, although overall a satisfactory performance, further improvements would be sought, and next year's focus would include reducing criminal damage by 5%.

Concluding, CS Collins wished to place on record the thanks of the Police to members of the public for their support in continuing to provide information together with witness statements.

Questions were then invited and answered as follows:

- Figures for domestic violence incidents not immediately to hand. CS Collins assured the meeting that work on domestic violence was ongoing as it remained in 'top 10' priorities. She would present figures to next meeting.
- The impact of the Home Secretary's instructions that imposing of prison sentences should be reduced was queried, as this was felt inappropriate and 'giving the wrong message'.
It was noted that the prime aim was to reduce the number of offences, and sentencing guidelines gave a greater range of available sanctions than the more traditional prison. Also, there were a number of community services through which criminals could 'right their wrong'; also, where appropriate, it had proved useful for victims to engage in dialogue with the offenders.
- CS Collins accounted for the improvements in figures mentioned above, given that no extra staffing had been available, by a combination of:
 - > hard work and greater partnership working;
 - > information sharing, plus targeting known offenders; and
 - > citizenship working in schools -and a member complimented both police and the authority.
- CS Collins accepted that, for instance, vehicle crime might be reducing because of (i) wardens' presence; and (ii) owners taking more responsibility for their own property; but was encouraged that people were becoming more security-conscious.
- Information regarding offences was available on court summary sheets.
- The anomalies of sentencing regarding relatively minor offences (say) involving council tax was raised.
CS Collins and CPS Officers accepted the views, but noted that this was not an issue for police services to address.
- A member queried how police could get involved in resolving youth disorder leading to vandalism currently in Roosegate area, where residents were afraid to report incidents and/or act as witnesses in fear of reprisals.
CS Collins said that residents would need to form a 'team', agreeing between themselves to report all incidents, adding that a report from 'a street' rather than one individual would become a more tangible issue to deal with – and could be addressed through the existing 'Streetsafe' project.

- A public member raised cycling on pavements, citing incident/s where no apparent action had been taken by police in area at the time. CS Collins noted that entirely legitimate reasons could exist for an officer being unable to respond immediately; however, she would investigate any incident/s for which details were provided.
- Concern was expressed at the tolerance level for shoplifters by major retailers who did not report all offences, thus reducing opportunities for police intervention and prosecution.
To consider arranging training sessions for retailers as appropriate.
- A public member queried situation regarding alley-gates' project. Although not a police matter, CS Collins said it was supported by them; and she understood the 'rights of access' issue had been resolved and that additional funds had been secured to widen the project. Time scale not known at this stage.
- A member complimented Police for their officers' continuing work recently during numerous difficult transition phases.

5 POLICE FORCE RESTRUCTURING – AMALGAMATION OF CUMBRIA AND LANCASHIRE CONSTABULARIES

CPA's Ms Lynne Slavin 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."

Ms Slavin added that the position had moved on since the above report. CPA had received a clear indication that failure to volunteer for merger by end of February would result in a forced merger by 1st March. Negotiations with the Home Office had resulted in a firm funding offer which met CPA's requirements – as a result of which it was felt no other option but to vote: 9 in favour, 5 against and 1 abstention. Unless withdrawn in the meantime, this vote would be confirmed at a final meeting scheduled for 26th April. Ms Slavin further explained that joint membership would become 27, with Cumbria's share negotiated up from 6 to 10. The programme for amalgamation would begin with five members from each force forming a Management Board, with a strategic authority formed in June - whilst at the same time retaining normal policing functions. A 'neutral' site for the new HQ was currently being sought; and one of the first tasks was to appoint a new Chief Constable.

This outcome was presented as constructive and positive, with Cumbria and Lancashire becoming the 'pathfinder model' for change and thus securing a more advantageous financial position.

Further points arose as follows:

- Consideration requested regarding whether the high cost of last year's radio licence would be shared.
- Concern expressed that the new force would be one of the smallest combined authorities covering the largest geographical area.
- The ratio of PA representatives was calculated by proportionality; they were elected via press advertising/shortlisting etc, and application was open to all.
- Community and neighbourhood policing would remain as at present.

6 POLICE BUDGET 2006/07 – FEEDBACK

The Acting-Chair also 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.”

On behalf of members, Ms Slavin thanked Mr Thomas, who she said had performed a stirring job in this connection bearing a great deal of responsibility.

7 INDEPENDENT CUSTODY VISITING SCHEME

7.1 Chairman Mrs Martin reported that the only complaints made had concerned microwaved meals; and that detainees were mostly satisfied with their treatment. In response, the option for detainees to request food from external contacts was noted.

7.2 Mrs Martin reported details of a recruitment drive starting in May for new ICVs – who were needed especially given that new guidelines required weekly rather than monthly visits. Anyone interested was advised to follow press advertising or contact Stuart Edwards at CPA HQ.

8 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

8.1 A public member felt the new non-emergency telephone number 0845 3300247 was less memorable than previous number (01229 824532), recommending an ‘easier’ number if more reporting of crime is to be encouraged. Mrs Lashmar would report back to HQ on this request. However, it was noted that the new number was intended to suggest 24-hour availability, ie ‘24/7’.

9 DATE AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

To be arranged after consultation with the Chairman.

The Acting-Chair declared the meeting closed at 8.50 pm.

CUMBRIA POLICE AUTHORITY

CARLISLE AREA COMMUNITY LIAISON FORUM

Minutes of a Meeting of the Carlisle Area Community Liaison Forum held on Monday 24 April 2006 at 7.00 p.m. at Longtown Memorial Hall, Longtown, Carlisle

Present: Mr R Watson, Cumbria Police Authority (Chairman) J Taylor
Ch Supt Andy Davidson, Cumbria Police L Robinson
Sgt A Quin, Cumbria Police Y Robertson
Fiona Macleod, News & Star L Campbell
Julien Lucking, Nether & Upper Denton P.C. M Graham
George Beck, Irthington P.C. J Watson
Helen Hinvest, Clerk

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1. **Apologies** were received from Frances Westmorland, Cllr D Morton, Mr P Farmer, Mrs C Egan (CPA) and Wendy Aldred.
2. **Minutes** of the meeting held on 12 January 2006 were signed as a correct record, with the addition of the note in Matters Arising (3) below.

3. **Matters Arising**

A questioner from the floor asked about the inconsistency between reports in the Press that all materials and papers had been recovered from Rickergate in 3 months of the floods, whereas Ch Insp Graham said it had taken six months. Ch Supt Davidson explained that the report in the local newspapers had probably only referred to recovered materials relating to criminal justice cases.

4. **Independent Custody Visitor Reports**

The Clerk gave a brief report on visits made by the Independent Custody Visitors (ICVs) to detainees in cells at the Crown Court, Carlisle and Hunter Lane and Magistrates Court in Penrith. Conditions continue to give cause for concern and ICVs were pleased to learn at their recent Panel Meeting that a new fit-for-purpose Custody Suite is to be built on a site at Durranhill in Carlisle, with a proposed completion date of October 2006.

ICVs continue to assist Cumbria Police with the training of Custody Suite officers at Appleby police station.

A recruitment campaign is to be held in May 2006 to raise the numbers of ICVs from the current 9 to the target figure of 15.

5. **Police Force Amalgamation with Lancashire**

The Chair read Mr Alcock's paper to the meeting, and went on to further explain that the shadow authority will start on 1 June 2006, and negotiations with Lancashire are progressing well.

In answer to a question from the floor, the Chair explained that the shadow authority members are appointed by the Cumbria Police Authority and the Lancashire Police Authority, made up of political representatives, independent members, and members from the Magistrates Service. The Chairman also replied to a question about the HQ base for the new authority and said that this decision had not yet been made, so the existing HQ facilities will be used for the present time.

A comment from the floor was that Cumbria was the only force that has agreed to amalgamation, and the Chairman explained that Cumbria was the only police force which volunteered to amalgamate, and by doing so received considerable financial grants.

A question from the floor relating to the membership of the new police authority was answered by the Chairman; from a total of 27 members, 17 will be from Lancashire and 10 from Cumbria, 5 of whom will be County Council appointees, and the other 5 will be made up of independent members and Magistrates representatives.

6. **2006/07 Budget**

The Chairman referred the meeting to the report submitted by Mr Douglas Thomas, Treasurer, regarding the update on the Police Budget 1006/07.

Crime Statistics for North Cumbria

7. Ch Supt Davidson reported that a new initiative "Get Respect – Give Respect" had been launched today in Cumbria, aimed at engendering a culture of respect in communities in Cumbria. It aims to address issues such as criminal damage, anti-social behaviour and violence. This will be a county-wide initiative in local communities, and working with partner agencies to coordinate all activities, not just amongst young people but tackling antisocial behaviour in all its forms. The Respect initiative is about education, not just enforcement, and will encourage people to report issues and to support initiatives to address underlying causes of concern. Supt John Rush is the local police contact for this operation.

Ch Supt Davidson reported that the total number of crimes reported had fallen over the last 12 months, including those for **burglary dwellings**, with a reported figure of less than 20 in March 2006. Individual prolific offenders have been targeted and this strategy has proved very successful and will continue. **Robberies** are very few and are often at the lower end of the scale e.g. theft of pedal cycles; however, Cumbria Police are not complacent and are aiming to reduce these crimes. **Violent crime** reduction is the main priorities of the Crime & Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP) which is made up of Cumbria Police, Local Authorities, Cumbria Fire & Rescue Service, and other partner agencies, and reported crimes are falling.

Dedicated problem solvers have been attached to Local Police Teams (LPTs) and will initially target criminal damage and violent crime in support of the 'Respect' campaign.

Thefts of quad bikes from rural areas and farms continues to be a major problem, also stolen motorbikes which are often used for "joy riding" before being abandoned. Ch Supt Davidson reported on a number of recent successes with regards to arrest and detection of related crimes.

Ch Supt Davidson said that Cumbria Police will continue to give high priority to reducing reported crime further, by knowing and understanding prolific offenders and deploying a joint-agency approach to dealing with these criminals.

In answer to a comment from the floor regarding the 29% detection rate Ch Supt Davidson reminded the meeting that this was an aggregate figure over the year, and in modern policing terms this was considered to be a high detection rate. The detection rate in North Cumbria had risen by nearly 8% over the past 12 months.

Ch Supt Davidson was asked if political correctness was having an effect on police work, and in reply he stated that the police have to work within strict policy guidelines

In answer to a question regarding the local focus of policing after amalgamation, Ch Supt Davidson confirmed that local policing is sacrosanct to government thinking and to Cumbria Police and the LPTs will continue and expand, and local policing will continue to be at the forefront. It is acknowledged that whilst Cumbria is strong on local policing, concern has been expressed by regulatory bodies about their capacity to manage protective service issues which included major organised crime.

A question from the floor regarding the down-grading of certain crimes such as shoplifting, was explained by Ch Supt Davidson by reference to new disposal methods such as the issue of fixed penalty tickets for certain crimes, and other ways of dealing with the offenders. It is the Crown Prosecution Service which is responsible for deciding whether an individual should be charged with an offence, and what charge should be brought.

In answer to a question about longer licensing hours, Ch Supt Davidson confirmed that so far there have been no adverse effects.

The Chairman thanked Ch.Supt. Davidson for his report.

Question Time

8. A questioner from the floor asked why there were no replies to the list of questions noted in the minutes of the last meeting, and he was reminded that although every point raised had been recorded, and answered verbally by the Chairman during the general discussion about the proposed custody suite at Houghton, the minutes were not a verbatim report.

The Chairman informed the meeting that the Police Authority had not submitted an appeal against the decision of Carlisle City Council Planning Department refusal to grant planning permission for a proposed new custody suite at Houghton. He was pleased to report that a new fit-for-purpose Custody Suite was to be built on land at Durranshill.

A representative from Upper and Nether Denton Parish Council asked about communications within Cumbria Police, and with neighbouring police forces, following a serious road traffic accident on the A69 on the border between the two counties, when considerable time was lost due to lack of communication. Ch Supt Davidson agreed that this had been an unfortunate incident and he would make further enquiries. He went on to explain that the new Airwave communication system would enhance communications between all police officers throughout the country and across police borders.

Next Meetings

9. Thursday 13 July 2006 – Morton Community Centre, Carlisle
Thursday 12 October 2006 - Irthing Valley Centre, Brampton

The meeting closed at 2025.

CUMBRIA POLICE AUTHORITY

EDEN AREA COMMUNITY LIAISON FORUM

Minutes of a meeting of the Eden Area Community Liaison Forum held on 27 April 2006 at 7.00 p.m. at the Centenary Methodist Hall, High Street, Kirkby Stephen

Present: Mike Ash, Cumbria Police Authority (Chairman)
Supt Jon Rush, Cumbria Police
Insp Lee Skelton, Cumbria Police
P C Roly Earl, Cumbria Police
Simon Kelly, Group Manager, Cumbria Fire & Rescue Service
Dr C P Albon (Kirkby Stephen Town Council)
Sheila Wilkinson
Pamela Rose
Michael Rose
Keith Hewitson
Jill Hay, Culgaith Parish Council
Peter Derry, Brough Sowerby Parish Council
Alex Birtles, Kirkby Stephen Town Council
T W Robinson
Craig Hall
Philip Cooper
+ 7 other members of the public
Helen Hinvest, Clerk

The Chairman welcomed all the members to the meeting.

Apologies were received from Ch.Supt. Andy Davidson (Cumbria Police), Gary Strong.

Minutes of the meeting held on 11 January 2006 were signed as a correct record. There were no matters arising.

Independent Custody Visitors (ICVs)

The Clerk gave a brief report on visits made by the Independent Custody Visitors (ICVs) to detainees in North Cumbria. It was reported that a new custody suite is to be built at Durranhill in Carlisle. Currently there are 9 ICVs and a recruitment campaign will be run in May 2006 to bring the number up to 15.

Police Re-structuring

The Chairman reported on the latest position regarding the amalgamation with Lancashire Police. A shadow authority will start on 1 June 2006 Assurances were being sought from the Home Office in order to achieve the best possible solutions for policing in Cumbria. A questioner from the floor asked if the merger would mean more police officers on the streets rather than in patrol cars and in reply Supt Rush said it should remain the same. The amalgamation should not result in any lessening of neighbourhood policing, but will give increased protective services capability to deal with serious crimes and terrorist incidents.

Another question from the floor related to tiers of management. Supt Rush explained that the current management structure centred around Basic Command Units (BCUs) is likely to remain for the present time.

2006/07 Budget

The Chairman referred the meeting to the report submitted by Mr Douglas Thomas, Treasurer, regarding the update on the Police Budget 2006/07.

Cumbria Fire and Rescue Service – ‘Working in Your Community’

Simon Kelly, Community Safety Manager for Cumbria Fire and Rescue Service, gave a presentation detailing the ways in which the Fire Service are working with partner agencies to improve the safety of people in Carlisle and Eden.

At a local level, a Community Action Plan is being drawn up for Kirkby Stephen and residents are involved in determining what should be included in the Plan.

Mr Kelly outlined the way in which the Fire Service are working with several different groups of people, including the elderly (through Age Concern), Young Farmers Clubs, women’s groups, and young people to make them aware of the dangers from fire, and giving fire prevention advice. They are working with the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP) on the “Crash” initiative which encourages young drivers to be more responsible. They also run courses for “Young Firefighters” aimed at vulnerable young people.

The Chairman thanked Mr Kelly for his excellent presentation and for all the work that the Fire and Rescue Service in doing in conjunction with their partners.

Crime statistics

Supt Rush said that overall it had been a positive year in the Eden area with an 18% reduction in burglaries. In the Appleby Local Policing Team (LPT) area there had been 30 burglaries in the year to 30 March 2006. Theft of Motor Vehicles had resulted in a 8.5% reduction (26 vehicles stolen in the Appleby LPT area during the course of the year to 31 March 2006). Robberies were also down but violent crime, which includes incidents of domestic violent, has seen an increase of 9% (153 victims of violent crime in the Appleby LPT area in the year). Burglaries from sheds and outbuildings has seen a 25% reduction (100 break-ins in the Appleby LPT area during the year).

Supt Rush confirmed that 1 in 3 crimes are detected; this is a 35% detection rate which is considered to be satisfactory.

Priorities this year are to tackle violent crime, criminal damage and anti-social behaviour. He outlined the aims and objects of the recently-launched “Get Respect – Give Respect” campaign, aimed at engendering a culture of respect in communities in Cumbria. It aims to address issues such as criminal damage, anti-social behaviour and violence. This will be a county-wide initiative in local communities, and working with partner agencies to coordinate all activities, not just amongst young people but tackling antisocial behaviour in all its forms. The Respect initiative is about education, not just enforcement, and will encourage people to report issues and to support initiatives to address underlying causes of concern. Supt Rush is the local police contact for this operation.

The Chairman thanked Supt Rush for presenting these figures.

Question Time

Drug related crimes and drug offences were discussed, and Supt Rush confirmed that all these incidents are taken very seriously, and given a high priority. There has been a significant increase in drug supply offences but most incidents are in the Carlisle area. Current legislation is used to ensure that premises where drugs are found to be in use are closed down. Insp Skelton asked that members of the public inform the police if they become aware of any premises where drugs are

being used, so that warrants can be issued to search the property, and every time intelligence is received it is acted upon.

A request was made that crime statistics be provided in a more simple manner, preferably in the form of a graph. Supt Rush agreed to obtain this for the next meeting.

The Neighbourhood Watch text messaging service was discussed and Insp Skelton agreed to make arrangements to refine the service so that local coordinators received only local calls, and not messages from the whole area.

Next Meetings

Wednesday 12 July 2006 at Penrith

Wednesday 11 October 2006 – venue to be advised

The Chairman thanked all speakers and members of the public for attending the meeting, which closed at 2030.