

**MINUTES OF THE BARROW POLICE COMMUNITY LIAISON FORUM
HELD IN FORUM 28, DUKE STREET, BARROW, ON
THURSDAY, 6 JANUARY 2005, AT 7.00 PM**

PRESENT

Members:

Cllr Mr Bill Smith	-	Chairman
Mrs Janet Lashmar	-	Vice-Chairman
Chief Supt Garry Horlacher	-	Cumbria Constabulary, South
Ms Lynne Slavin	-	Cumbria Police Authority
Ms Lynda Shaw	-	CPA
Cllr Mr N Bishop-Rowe	-	Ulverston Town Council
Cllr Mr E Wilson	-	Cumbria County Council
Mr G Appleton	-	Ulverston Trades Council
Ms Thora Wadsworth	-	Ulverston Trades Council
Cllr Mr W Joughin	-	Barrow Borough Council
M/s D Bell	-	Barrow Borough Council
Mr R Turner	-	Scouts Association
Mr Jim Webster	-	CLA / NFU
Mr M Kerr	-	Self
Mr RW Hutton	-	Ainslie Street NWA, Ulverston
Mrs A Booth	-	Furness NWA
Mrs B E Shepherd	-	Secretary

Guests:

DS Mr Michael Unwin	-	CAPU Barrow
Mr Douglas Thomas	-	Treasurer CPA

There were 10 Members of the Public present, as follows:

Mrs A Martin	-	Self
Mr G McCreedy	-	Self
Mrs V Beck	-	Self
Mr W Beck	-	Self
Mrs Marge Arts	-	BAFPA
Mr Ken Arts	-	BAFPA
Diana ?Willoughby	-	Redhand Surveillance
M/s P Goodings	-	Church Street Community Safety Group
North West Evening Mail		
+ 1		

APOLOGIES

Chief Inspector Iain Goulding	-	Cumbria Constabulary, Barrow area
Canon Peter Mann	-	Churches Together
Mr D H Legg	-	Self
Mrs K Robinson	-	Self
Mr H LeRoy	-	BAE Systems
Mr Roger Mallett		

The Chairman opened the meeting by expressing a tribute to Councillor Mr Alf Jarvis, who died recently following a period of illness. Mr Jarvis carried out a great deal of excellent duties for Ulverston, and would be fondly remembered and greatly missed.

The Chairman also apologised for the postponement of this meeting from 9.12.04, which was necessary to allow for preparation of financial input.

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE were then recorded as above.

Mr LeRoy had also tendered his resignation. Secretary to contact BAE for replacement member.

2 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

It was proposed by the Chairman and agreed that the Minutes of the 56th meeting held on 9th September 2004 be adopted.

3 MATTERS ARISING

Minute 6/7 (MA) : It was clarified that Mrs Booth (FNWA) had eventually received a reply to a further letter written to MP John Hutton regarding the Home Office's intention to cap expenditure.

4 DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Detective Sergeant Mike Unwin, Child and Adult Protection Unit (formerly known as the family unit), outlined to the meeting his role as supervisor and gave examples of the nature of his work on a daily basis. He also explained new legislation making protection of adults similar to child protection work.

Although the Unit had named officers, all workers were required to be multi-skilled, having to pick up others' duties where necessary. Domestic violence occurred in any class, plus same-sex relationships, and men were not always the perpetrators.

One-quarter of women suffered in this way at some point; and figures showed that, on average, they had suffered 35 incidents before reporting it, by which time the situation was serious. Other statistics revealed that: (a) two women died each week as a result of domestic violence; and (b) between 36-66% of victims later become abusers.

Previously under-reported, domestic violence incidents were now being given high priority, and police now had extra powers to remove offenders from the scene in order to ensure safety of the victims. ACPO had also produced a domestic violence guide, which was a practical working document giving directions also for future; and resources were available for appropriate training.

Comparing national and local positions, DS Unwin said Barrow CAPU was working with Partner agencies including Social Services Department, Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership, etc, to change the recognition of domestic violence. He said the policy was to make arrests where possible, and also to take responsibility for continuing the prosecutions even if victims withdrew their complaints.

Arising out of his talk, the following matters were discussed:

- There was multi-agency follow-up advice and assistance for released prisoners.
- Intervention of courts did act as catalyst for change, given some variation for demographic reasons.
- Mobile telephones for vulnerable females were provided where necessary, and would also normally be considered as part of any risk assessment. CAPU did not currently require additional telephones.

- The perceived support of the Crown Prosecution Service did play a part in reporting of violence. Mainly, the relationship with the Police was said to be positive, and in recent years had resulted in multi-agency working towards protection of victims.

Detective Sergeant Unwin was sincerely thanked for his presentation. It was agreed that he should be invited to present a follow-up talk on Vulnerable People (provisionally for next meeting).

5 BUDGET OUTLOOK 2005-06

Mr Douglas Thomas, Treasurer, Cumbria Police Authority, tabled a resume of his presentation (also attached in full: Appendix 2). In summary, Mr Thomas noted that central government was imposing greater pressures than ever before, without differentiating between sizes of authorities. The following details were then discussed:

- With further reference to inadequate response regarding non-delivery of targets (Minute 3 above), officers were asked to comment on the purpose of all the country's chief constables attending a funding meeting in October.

Mr Thomas noted that a centrally convened meeting was an invaluable aid to fully inform those in government on the development needs and costs in delivering a modern police service and to help ministers and MPs to appreciate the return on traditional funding, in addition to identifying the need for extra funding. Mr Thomas also identified the roles which the Association of Police Authorities and the Association of Chief Police Officers were taking in promoting the service. CPA had given lengthy consideration to spending plans bearing in mind the frustration that Cumbria had suffered twofold financially: ie, through sparsity factor leading to £800,000 cost to participate in 'Airwaves' project (for which members felt a refund / additional resources should be requested, being free to other areas. (Mr Thomas pointed out that additional resources had been requested without success.); also, tourism's slow recovery from recent Foot-and-Mouth epidemic.

- A suggested scheme for central government to fund police pensions in order to conserve local funds was not an option. However, the government was known to be introducing a new pension scheme, due for 2006/07.
- Members pointed out that Council Tax for policing services had increased disproportionately by 300% over the last decade whilst pensions had increased by only 3% pa in recent years; and it was felt that general rather than local taxation would be a more fair method for this funding.

Mr Thomas pointed out that, although discretion did exist to exceed that figure, it would produce a prohibitively disproportionate 'gearing' effect; also, the remaining three-quarters of that burden *was* in any case raised from national taxation. However, he added that the government was now considering the future financing of local service provision, including the future of Council Tax, following completion of its Balance of Funding Review.

In conclusion, CPA representatives noted that the Chief Constable needed to balance the books regardless of how the position had arisen, expressing concern that the county's police services should not be sacrificed on the issue of Council Tax. The meeting was therefore asked to consider:

- 1) how police services were viewed and valued by the public; and
- 2) whether the public would accept an increase in police element of Council Tax, bearing in mind that reluctance to do so may affect services.

Full discussions surrounding the above report showed general feelings to be that:

- 1) **the police force *was* highly valued – as well as sympathised with in its current financial predicament - by the public; but:**
- 2) **the public remained generally adamant that increases in Council Tax should be kept as low as possible, owing to savage increases in living costs with which pensions etc have not kept pace - although some members would agree up to the 5% increase to avoid a reduction in police services. Further, however:**
- 3) **it was felt that the continually reducing government grant should be challenged.**

The Chairman promised that all views, from this meeting and other similar forums, would be returned to CPA, adding his hopes that local councillors would also pass the views onto their own colleagues.

6 CYCLING ON PAVEMENTS

The meeting agreed to defer this item until next meeting due to Mr Mallett's illness.

7 POLICING : UPDATE AND ISSUES

Chief Superintendent Horlacher opened his talk firstly with good news, concentrating locally in Barrow area - which he was pleased to note had (of necessity) a greater number of community constables. 259 surveys had been carried out around the county, and responses to their wide variety of questions showed public perception of policing to be generally improving.

CS Horlacher's priorities remained drug suppliers, violence, burglary of dwellings and youth disorder, regarding all of which the force remained pro-active. Specifically, there had been a successful Christmas anti-violence campaign, together with partners on a multi-agency basis, 340 licensed premises had been visited, handouts distributed etc, and fixed penalties for alcohol-related offences had also been issued. Press and schools etc were included in the blanket coverage; and results from the summer campaign in Barrow showed the message was being received and understood.

Statistics, however, revealed that further work was needed towards reducing the number of fatalities attributed to drink-driving accidents.

Statistics generally showed Barrow area to be performing reasonably well overall. For the period April-November 2004, the following figures were tabled:

Total number of offences had reduced by about	1.7%
Theft offences	“ “ “ 10%
Vehicle crime	“ “ “ 43%
Burglary of dwellings	“ “ “ 17%
Other burglary offences had increased by	8%
Violent crime	“ “ “ 16%

The latter increase was felt to be due in part to a proactive campaign encouraging reporting; further, whilst minor intervention arrests were increasing, serious assaults showed a reduction.

Concluding, the Chief Superintendent said that comparisons with other areas showed South Cumbria to have greater numbers of drug dealing arrests, adding that the battle regarding drugs would continue and would incorporate a national drugs campaign which was now beginning and in which Cumbria Police would play their part.

Questions and comments arising out of this update included:

- Members agreed that the reason for additional arrests may reflect increasing public trust in police response to genuine reports.
- Fly-tipping was an issue remaining to be dealt with, but as and when allowed bearing in mind other priorities.
- The promotion system, together with general support available to ethnic minority employees, was queried; also whether such racial issues had become unbalanced. CS Horlacher remained confident that (a) officers were promoted on ability only, but that (b) differences in support were occasionally necessary to answer, for instance, the differing responses to ethnic officers from members of the public.
- A public member queried whether the bylaw re spitting in streets had been erased? She added that pavements were often extremely dirty with discarded chewing gum etc, leading to a health hazard.

The Chairman then warmly thanked CS Horlacher plus all speakers for their positive reports.

8 INDEPENDENT CUSTODY VISITING SCHEME

- 8.1 A meeting of the above panel was scheduled for Wednesday, 12.1.05, in Barrow, co-ordinated by CPA's Deputy Clerk Mr Stuart Edwards.
- 8.2(i) ICV Chairman Mrs Martin submitted a report of a recent visit to Barrow Custody Suite. No complaints noted.
- (ii) Mrs Martin did refer to an unusually low architrave in the custody suite which was considered to be a hazard.
Noted by Police who would investigate this report.

9 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- 9.1 A member complimented the force on their overwhelmingly responsible attitude at a recent public event in Ulverston attended by 20,000, many of whom made favourable comments and expressed their gratitude for such response.
The Chief Superintendent would ensure this was fed back to Inspector Richard Vernon the co-ordinating officer.

9 DATE AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

Thursday, 14th April 2005, Dalton-in-Furness (venue and topics tbc).
(Subsequently booked in St Mary's Parish Church Hall, Dalton.)

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.50 pm.

**MINUTES OF SOUTH LAKELAND POLICE COMMUNITY LIAISON FORUM
HELD IN ARNSIDE EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTE, ARNSIDE, ON
THURSDAY, 13 JANUARY 2005, AT 7.30 PM**

PRESENT

Members:

Cllr Mr I Stewart	-	Chairman
Cllr Mr J Nicholson	-	Vice-Chairman
Chief Supt. Garry Horlacher	-	Cumbria Constabulary, South
CI (Operations) Kevin McGilloway	-	Cumbria Constabulary, South
Sergeant Mark Jacobs	-	Local Policing Team
Mrs J Manners-Armstrong	-	Cumbria Police Authority
Mrs Sue Harrison	-	CLA
Cllr Richard Rollins	-	South Lakeland District Council
Mr M J Sherriff	-	Holme Parish Council
Mr Colin Postle	-	Beetham Parish Council
Mrs B E Shepherd	-	Secretary

Guest:

Mr Michael Thompson	-	Director of Finance, CPA
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There were 3 Members of the Public present, including:

Mrs M J Sherriff	-	Self
Mr Terry Lindsay	-	Self
+ 1		

APOLOGIES

PC Belinda Friend	-	Cumbria Constabulary South
Cllr Mrs Avril Dobson	-	South Lakeland District Council
Cllr Mr Tony Rothwell	-	South Lakeland District Council
Mrs Freda Kitching	-	Westmorland NUT
Cllr Mrs Wendy Thompson	-	Windermere Town Council
Mr R K Bingham, CC	-	Cumbria County Council

- 1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE were listed above.

The Chairman was pleased to welcome to the meeting Guest Speaker Mr Michael Thompson.

- 2 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

It was proposed by the Chairman and agreed that the Minutes of the 56th meeting held on 16th September 2004 be adopted as a correct record.

- 3 MATTERS ARISING

Minute 6/7(p.4) : CS Horlacher reported that Cenacolo had subsequently won its appeal to establish the centre. However, Skelsmergh local public had arranged a meeting last week to address any issues, which may have alleviated some concerns.

Following introduction by the Chairman, **Mr Michael Thompson, Director of Finance CPA**, then explained the Government Grant for Policing in 2005-06 and the impact that this may have on the budget together with the level of Council Tax increase required for Policing in Cumbria next year. His report was tabled (attached in full - see Appendix 1), after which matters arose and were dealt with as follows:

- It was noted that rural areas, being mainly Council Tax Band D, paid proportionately more yet received less services, and an improved formula to address this issue was suggested.

Mr Thompson said that rural policing grants were received – although it was felt they neither fully met needs, nor were inflation-linked, and thus in real terms were reducing year by year.

CS Horlacher added that the government also profited from forced introduction of the ‘Airwaves’ radio programme, leaving Cumbria £800,000 out of pocket which could have been spent on policing; and Cumbria force had protested in writing about its disadvantage in this respect against other areas to which the introduction was free.

- It was still felt the majority of public wished to see increased policing, as the area still had only eight officers.

The Chairman reminded the meeting that the ‘vision’ had been for a dedicated police officer within each council ward, but that unfortunately the government maintained its support for that programme.

Mr Thomas added that a greater policing presence was possible through a national target for 20,000 civilian support officers; two bids for this funding had resulted in a total allocation of 18 civilian support officers across Cumbria, with two for South Lakeland.

The Chairman emphasised that the responsibility for increased Council Taxes rested firmly with the government, which it was felt the public may not appreciate, and he promised to ensure the public was made aware of this. In the meantime, however, as the public did not wish to pay more than necessary yet did not wish diminution in services, a balance had to be found. Thus, the decision now required was whether a 3% or 5% increase in Council Tax was acceptable, which would equate to losing approximately 35 or 15 police officers respectively – although among many contradictions it was noted that cuts in police officers numbers rather than administrative staff would lead to a proportionate reduction in grant from government (who had forced agreement to a proportion of officers carrying out front-line support duties).

The meeting was therefore asked to consider:

- 1) whether services currently provided by the police represented value for money;
- 2) public willingness to continue to support increased Council Tax for next year;
- 3) whether support existed for CPA to seek possible dispensation from government.

The general view from the meeting was summarised as follows:

- 1) that there was overwhelming public support for police service, which gave value for money and met demands as far as possible within current strictures;**
- 2) whilst having concerns about the effect on services, the public would prefer the lowest increase of 3%;**
- 3) increases in other main source/s of government funding should be explored.**

The Chairman promised that all above views, from this meeting and other similar forums, would be returned to CPA, promising that the authority would seek to ensure the public continued to receive the best possible value for money.

5 POLICING : UPDATE AND ISSUES

- 5.1 **CS Horlacher** referred to anti-violence campaign launched by the government, in which Cumbria was the on the first BCU's in the country to offer to take part. He outlined a number of operations over the recent Christmas period with a view to highlighting the issues of binge drinking and young people and develop relations with licencees and the Local Authority, particularly as the magistracy was soon to relinquish licensing to local authorities.

Statistics revealed that, out of 12 recent fatal accidents, eight had been alcohol-related; but an increase in alcohol driver-checks showing that only 50 out of 1,340 tested were over-limit was seen as some success.

In addition, a national drugs campaign which had just begun this month would receive full support of Cumbria Police. CS Horlacher was also keen to keep domestic violence issues to the fore; he added that positive action was required of Police Officers attending such reports and as a result would expect an increase in arrests.

- 5.2 CS Horlacher then introduced new **Chief Inspector Kevin McGilloway** together with **Sergeant Mark Jacobs**. CI McGilloway had worked his way around the country's police since 1979 and arrived in South Cumbria in October 2004. As Operations Manager within South Lakeland, his task would focus on drug supply, violence on the streets and in the home, burglary in homes and youth disorder. Although impressed with activities existing as well as the high-quality staff, he was pleased to note a sizeable increase in staff in addition to Local Policing Teams; adding that Kendal rural office now had 28 staff, who would be made fully accountable.

CI McGilloway was keen to ensure that there would be no short cuts wherever policy and procedures existed. Together with Sergeant Jacobs, who would police the local area, his intention was to develop contacts further, working with community and partner agencies to achieve standards being set; they were also keen to resolve public frustration by keeping people informed about issues, and would ensure that the public was given names of officers dealing with an enquiry plus information on how it was developing. In conclusion, the public was reminded of the need to let the police know where problems existed.

The Chairman then thanked the speakers, seeking questions from the meeting which were discussed as follows:

- A member raised the issue of poaching, regarding which there was said to be a lack of response from police.
In reply, it was noted that officers - who may not always be armed or firearms' trained - arriving at such incident must first ensure the situation was as safe as possible in the prevailing circumstances. Prioritisation was also a consideration, especially given that such incidents did not usually involve threat to human life. However, intelligence-gathering as with 'Operation Stag' was being carried out, and would lead to identification of offenders and execution of warrants for poaching and possession of illegal firearms.
- It was felt that police presence was not necessary at a forthcoming meeting regarding anti-foxhunting legislation.
- It was reported that lorries at a local hauliers created a problem at night through frequent loading/unloading with lights being left on full beam.
Member requested to discuss issue after meeting with Sergeant Jacobs, who may first speak to drivers concerned before considering enforcement.
- South Cumbria's contingency plans in event of serious road accidents were queried, noting incidents which were taking longer to clear and causing major problems, with a recent delay of 20 hours for travellers involved in the aftermath of an accident on the A&\$ outside Carlisle, who felt communication was the main need.
Officers agreed that basic facilities, such as blankets/hot food etc, should be provided; adding that the Highways Authority was holding a briefing meeting in February. It was noted this incident was not in South Cumbria policing area

- CS Horlacher referred to 'Voice Connect': Neighbourhood Watch's new electronic system to automatically 'snowball' messages, which it was hoped would be working shortly and was expected to revolutionise the scheme.
- It was agreed that feedback to the public remained an issue, in that more information should be disseminated to update the public and improve its perception of police operations following reporting of incidents etc: ie, that follow-up reports could appear in parish council newsletters, notice-boards, shop windows, lampposts etc. It was also noted that parish councils may take on local liaison roles.

6 INDEPENDENT CUSTODY VISITING SCHEME

No matters to report from panel.

CS Horlacher noted that Kendal would be providing support as a central point for custody overspill purposes during refurbishment in adjacent areas.

7 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

To be discussed.

8 DATE AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, 13th April 2005, in Staveley (venue to be confirmed).

Addendum: Meeting subsequently transferred to Ambleside (details tbc).

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.10 pm.