

DEVON & CORNWALL CONSTABULARY

PRESTON WARD MANAGEMENT MEETING – FRIDAY 14TH NOVEMBER 2003

Venue: Paignton Police Station

Chairperson: Not appointed at this time.

Secretary: Not appointed at this time.

Attended by: PC 4948 COWELL, Jean TURNBULL, Joan HAMMOND
and Ian OXLEY.

Apologies: PC 3963 REED and another.

Item .1. **INTRODUCTIONS AND ROLES**

This was the first Ward Management Meetings (WMM) to take place under the appointed Neighbourhood Beat Manager (NBM) for the area – PC 3963 REED. Unfortunately, due to work commitments – PC REED was unable to attend. Hence his apologies are noted. Therefore, in his absence the attendees' roles in the community were defined and the concept of WMM's was discussed. However, it was felt that without PC 3963 REED and a better attendance, neither a chairperson nor a secretary would be appointed at this stage. PC 4948 COWELL has minuted this meeting on this occasion in order to brief her colleague PC REED. The timing and frequency of the meeting was discussed and it was felt anytime may be good or bad! Quarterly meetings were likely to be adequate.

Item.2. **FUTURE MEETINGS AGENDA & ACTIONS**

The basis for an agenda for future meetings was agreed as follows: Attendance/Apologies, Crime Statistics, Traffic Issues, Youth Issues, Any Other Business/concerns and Date of Next Meeting. Actions from previous meeting would be reported in subsequent meetings as agreed at time of action. Meetings will be held quarterly, the next meeting likely to be February. However, the date of next meeting was not set at the request of the Ward Management Team but it was agreed PC COWELL would request PC REED to arrange one at his convenience.

Item.3. **CRIME STATISTICS**

Statistics were obtained courtesy of Philip VANDENHOVE. They covered the period 01/04/03 – 30/09/03 for the Preston Area (FP2A). Overall there were 350 crimes recorded for the Preston ward. The figures were discussed and the format was accepted. It was felt that it would be useful for each of the management team to have a copy. There was also a liking for reports back on the clear-up rate. The figures reflect national concerns in as much that Violence, Vehicle Crime and Burglaries make up 175 out of the 350 crimes. Whilst it was noted that Drug offences stood un-reported it cannot be underestimated that the crime recorded may well be drug related.

JOAN HAMMOND highlighted one Neighbourhood Watch scheme for the co-ordinators enthusiasm. The contact for this scheme is a lady called Marion of (addresses can be obtained through LSP Officer Group). Also mentioned was the strong level of the Victim Support Scheme in the area.

Item.4. **TRAFFIC ISSUES**

The main area of concern for all those at the meeting was the blatant disregard for the DYL's on Manor Road at the junction with Torquay Road (outside the Chocolate Box in particular). This is not confined to the rush hours in the morning and evening but appears to be a problem throughout the day. Action taken by PC 4948 COWELL to liaise with PC REED in order to arrange a day of constant patrols in the area with a view to ticketing those who offend. Further congestion is caused around the corner of this junction where Panda Pizza employees are also showing no regard for the DYL. It was felt this was unnecessary as they have a rear access alongside the Ship Inn.

Ocombe Valley Road was discussed. PC COWELL was able to say that PC REED had spoken to the owner of the several vehicles parked in this road which has caused problems for the residents in the area. Advice has been given.

Other areas where vehicle offences are apparent include Cedars Road, St Pauls and Adelphi Road, Southfield Road, Laura Grove and Winsu.

Item.5. **YOUTH ISSUES**

Youths and their skateboards are still causing a problem for Oldway Mansions. It is a general meeting place for youths who have caused damage in the past. There was a general concern at the lack of youth provision in the area.

Item.6. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Councillor TURNBALL raised the issue of regular phonecalls to her address whereby the caller subsequently hung up without uttering a word. PC COWELL was not aware of any trend in this area. The possibility of mass dialling was discussed in order to explain this problem and a contact was put forward in an effort to solve it. Councillor OXLEY has dealings with Telesales staff regarding this very problem who have admitted they are often responsible for this practice. The contact put forward by Joan HAMMOND is an organisation called Telephone Preference Service (TPS) H/A 5th Floor, Haymarket House, Oxendon Street, London FW1Y 4EE who she states has greatly reduced the number of telephone calls she has received from sales personnel.

Preston Toilets and the homosexual activities associated with the toilets remains an area of concern for the Councillors. It is recognised that the issue tends to be reported more often in the summer months and therefore the early closure, which occurs in the winter months, should ease the problem. The difficulties of policing this were understood and accepted. This issue will be discussed further with the Diversity Officer for the area.

Item.7. **NEXT MEETING**

No date and time set on this occasion. The Ward Management Team have requested to wait until PC REED returns.