

Fermanagh and Omagh District Council
Fermanagh and Omagh Policing and Community Safety Partnership

Minutes of the Fermanagh and Omagh Policing and Community Safety Partnership meeting held, on Tuesday 22 September 2020 at 6 pm via MS Teams.

Present: Councillors

John McClaughry (Chairperson), Paul Blake, Josephine Deehan, Stephen Donnelly, Keith Elliott, Tommy Maguire, Barry McElduff and Thomas O'Reilly.

Independent Members

Noeleen Hayes, Norman Kirkpatrick, Vida Lake, Bernie McCrory, Margaret McCrory, Maria Thompson and Pauline Treacy.

Designated Members

Superintendent Clive Beatty (PSNI), Sinead Dolan (YJA), Brian Hetherington (NIFRS) and Oonagh McAvinney (NIHE).

Apologies: Monica Coyle (Vice Chairperson), Paul Devlin (PBNI) and Michael Curran (NIFRS).

In attendance: Carol Follis (PCSP Manager) and Maggie McManus (Committee Clerk).

PCSP 01/20 **Welcome and Apologies**

The Chairperson welcomed the PCSP Members to the meeting. Apologies were accepted.

PCSP 02/20 **Declarations of Interest**

No declarations of interest were declared.

PCSP 03/20 **Notification of AOB**

Councillor McElduff – ASB at Crevenagh Car Park, Omagh
Councillor McElduff – Street lighting at Woodbrook Village, Omagh
Councillor Elliott – Damage to the Play Park at Fermanagh Lakeland Forum Play Park
PCSP Manager – Meeting with Mr Ciaran McClean

PCSP 04/20 **Minutes**

The minutes of the PCSP meeting held via teleconference on Tuesday 26 May 2020 were considered and approved. Proposed by Councillor O'Reilly and seconded by Councillor Blake.

PCSP 05/20 **Matters Arising**

PCSP 10/20 - PCSP Constitution

The PCSP Manager advised that the Monica Coyle had been re-elected to the position of Vice-Chair.

PCSP 11/20 - PCSP Action Plan 2020-2021

The PCSP Manager informed the Members that all amendments to the PCSP Action Plan 2020-2021 and requests for PCSP funding were approved by the Joint Committee except for the Common Ground project, as it was felt it didn't meet PCSP objectives.

PCSP 06/20

Members Questions

Question

What is the procedure for the return of recovered stolen property to the owner?

What is the procedure for the return of recovered stolen property to the owner where the property has been involved in a criminal act?

Response from Superintendent Beatty

Where any vehicle, trailer or other significant property is recovered by police using specialist recovery operators, e.g. cars, trailers, diggers etc. recovered by a breakdown/road recovery agency/operator, either for the purposes of road safety, safe keeping or forensic examination as a consequence of a criminal act, the owner of the property will be liable for all recovery costs, payable by the owner direct to the recovery company.

Should the property be ordered by police to be recovered for any of the above purposes, the owner should not ordinarily be liable for storage costs, however, the owner will be contacted at the earliest opportunity and advised to recover their property by a given date, after which any failure to expedite recovery may also render them liable for storage costs in addition to the recovery costs.

The purpose of this service wide policy is to ensure that public money is not misspent on excessive recovery or storage costs, when most property of this nature is insured and it is the insurance companies who should be held liable to reimburse the owner.

Whilst we accept that many insurance companies charge an excess on their policies, which may be more than the actual cost of recovery/storage, which may have the effect of persecuting the victim twice, we have put in place this service wide policy to ensure that public money is not misspent and owners of significant property take all necessary measures to safeguard their property and are appropriately insured against theft of their property.

PCSP 07/20

Update from Designated Members

Written updates were received from Oonagh McAvinney (NIHE) and Sinead Dolan (YJA).

Superintendent Beatty provided a verbal update on the key issues impacting on policing in the district:

- During Covid there was a 24.3% reduction in crimes reported. This was to be expected as people were at home more and there was less movement of people.
- Although there is no intelligence to support it experience would suggest that darker evenings could see an increase in burglaries.
- There is a significant amount of counterfeit currency in circulation.
- The increase in the number of ASB incidents can be attributed to in part that Covid related incidents are recorded as ASB.
- The PSNI expect to receive increased reporting of potential Covid breaches as wet pubs reopen and further restrictions are put in place.
- Neighbourhood Policing Teams are back in their roles and undertaking engagement activities.

Councillor Rainey suggested that the PCSP issue a press release warning the community and particularly businesses to be on the lookout for counterfeit notes. This is in addition to the information on the PCSP facebook page.

Responding to a question from Councillor Donnelly if restrictions in households gathering would be likely to push young people outside, potentially increasing ASB Superintendent Beatty informed the Members that as part of its planning the Police identified the main congregation areas and increased patrols by LPTs, NPTs and the Vulnerability Team in those areas.

Councillor Blake queried if current legislation around social distancing is enough of a deterrent for young people not to do it again. In his response Superintendent Beatty stated that education of the legislation has worked well with some but not many penalty notices issued.

Councillor O'Reilly asked for information on pubs not adhering to restrictions and if the PSNI were a bit 'heavy handed' in its approach when dealing with publicans. Superintendent Beatty responded that there was some confusion on the interpretation of the guidance for the reopening of wet pubs leading to frustrations over what they could and could not do. PSNI officers visited licensees to clarify the guidance – some chose not to heed the advice and were reported to the PSNI for potential breaches to Covid-19 regulations to which the PSNI responded and where breaches were found enforce the regulations resulting in several prohibition notices being served. The number of complaints received for potential breaches has reduced with none received in the past eleven days.

Councillor Deehan commented on concerns that the restrictions on households mixing introduced at 6 pm Tuesday 22 September 2020 may encourage more people to go to pubs.

Recommended:

1. That the Partnership notes the report.
2. That the PCSP issue a press release relating to the circulation of counterfeit notes.

PCSP 08/20

PCSP Activity Reporting April – September 2020

The PCSP Manager issued an Activity Report for the period April to mid September 2020. In the report the Manager advised Members that PCSP activity is subject to Covid-19 restrictions/guidance impacting on the delivery of the Action Plan.

In the discussion on the Activity Report Councillor O'Reilly asked if there are any plans to install more RAPID Bins in the district. In her response the PCSP Manager informed the Members that the PCSP is actively looking for new locations which are subject to a risk assessment from both the PSNI and Fermanagh and Omagh District Council. The PCSP Manager asked that the Members forward any suggestions they have for potential locations for a RAPID Bin.

Responding to a question from Councillor O'Reilly the PCSP Manager said that the RAPID Bins are not suitable for the disposal of knives and that if the Members wished a report on the installation of knife disposal bins be brought to a future PCSP meeting. The Members agreed that the report should be completed.

Recommended:

1. That the Partnership notes the report.
2. That the Members report suitable locations for a RAPID Bin to the PCSP Manager.
3. That the PCSP Manager bring a report on the installation of knife disposal bins to a future PCSP meeting.

PCSP 09/20

PCSP Community Cash

The PCSP Manager provided a report on Community Cash. The number of applications received was lower than expected; feedback from groups revealed that many were unwilling to commit to a project not knowing what restrictions may be in place impacting on delivery. In total, 21 applications were received with fifteen going through to Round 2 Video Assessment. At this stage in the meeting Councillor O'Reilly declared a potential conflict of interest with the application from St. Kevin's PTFA as he is a member of the St Kevin's Board of Governors. The PCSP Manager clarified that the application is from the PTFA which is a separate organisation and that decisions on funding awards were for noting at the meeting decisions having been made previously. The Chairperson informed the meeting that there was no conflict of interest and Councillor O'Reilly did not exit the meeting for this agenda item.

The PCSP Manager informed the Members that of the 15 applications thirteen had passed the funding threshold and would receive funding from Community Cash. The Chairperson told the meeting that some exciting projects had come through the process and commended all applicants on the work they had put into the video presentations. Superintendent Beatty supported those comments adding that the exercise reinforced the need for projects to have a clear community safety focus and be very clearly aligned to PCSP themes.

Recommended:

That the Partnership notes the report.

PCSP 10/20

PCSP Security Equipment Grant

The PCSP Manager informed the Members that due to lower than expected applications to Community Cash there is an underspend of £32,000. Projected underspends in staff travel and member travel budgets, £10,000 in total, are also proposed to be reprofiled to the PCSP Security Equipment Grant.

The Security Equipment grant, up to a maximum of £5,000 per application, would be available to community owned facilities to install items such as replacement doors, fencing, sensor lighting making them more secure. Clarification was given that CCTV is not an eligible item for the grant.

A Task and Finish Group consisting of PCSP Chairperson and Vice Chairperson, Councillor Elliott, Councillor O'Reilly and Norman Kirkpatrick was nominated to oversee the implementation of the grant on behalf of the Partnership.

The PCSP Manager sought Member approval for the PCSP Security Equipment Grant to be submitted to the Joint Committee as a Change Control Request. Proposed by Vida Lake and seconded by Councillor Blake.

Recommended:

That the Partnership approve a change control request for the projected underspend of £32,000 in the Community Cash budget and £10,000 from staff and member travel budget to the PCSP Security Equipment Grant to be submitted to the Joint Committee.

PCSP 11/20

PCSP Neighbourhood Watch Scheme Re-accreditations

The Members considered the applications for the re-accreditation of the following schemes:

Fermanagh

Ashbourne Manor	Drumbroughas North	Mill Hill Road
Belleisle	Drumcose	Mountview
Burfitts Hill	Drumkeen	Silverhill & Devenish
Cashel	Drumlyon	Tattynuckle
Corsenshin	Grosvenor	Tedd
Corn Mill	Lisnarick	The Beeches

Omagh

Brookmount Heights	Coolnagard Meadows	Riverview & Edinburgh Park
Campsie Residents Association	Coolnagard Way	Seskinore Village
Cannon Hill & Coolnagard	Fox Park & Drumnakilly	Shandon Park
Coolnagard Grove	Racrane Court	Woodvale Park

Proposed by Councillor Elliott and seconded by Vida Lake.

Recommended:

That the applications for re-accreditations as detailed be endorsed.

PCSP 12/20

AOB

Vehicular ASB at Crevenagh Road Park and Share, Omagh

Councillor McElduff informed the meeting that he had received complaints from residents living in Crevenagh Hall, Omagh and asked the Members for their thoughts on how this could be addressed. Superintendent Beatty provided some context informing the Members that towards the end of the

summer there was a marked increase in vehicular asb at the Great Northern Retail Car Park. The PSNI responded to calls and secured agreement from the management agent to close off the car park at night should this be deemed necessary. With this the 'racers' moved to the Plaza and the PSNI worked with Translink to limit activity. The 'racers' have now been displaced to Crevenagh Road. The PSNI understand that meets are organised events with people travelling from outside the Omagh area to attend.

In discussing a way forward, the PCSP Manager confirmed that the car park is owned by the Department for Infrastructure. Reference was made to events held in Quay Lane, Enniskillen which brought agencies together to promote road safety awareness. Brian Hetherington NIFRS confirmed NIFRS support for any such event organised. The PCSP Manager to investigate the possibility for an event at Crevenagh Road.

Community Safety at Woodbrook Village, Omagh

Councillor McElduff raised an issue of street lighting at Woodbrook Village. Residents in the development are concerned that several of the street lights are not switched on making it unsafe and unwelcoming for residents some of whom have complex health needs. Representations to the developer, Bayswater Homes, have not been responded to and residents have approached Councillor McElduff for assistance. Councillor McElduff asked the Members if the Partnership consider sending a letter to the developer requesting that all the street lighting is operational as this is a community safety issue. In response the Chairperson said that if proposed by Members such a letter would be issued. Proposed by Councillor McElduff and seconded by Councillor Deehan.

Damage to the Play Park at Fermanagh Lakeland Forum Play Park

Councillor Elliott raised the issue of ASB and vandalism at play parks after the damage/graffiti caused at the Fermanagh Lakeland Forum play area the previous weekend. After posting a message on his facebook page he had received reports about vandalism at other play parks in the district.

Councillor Maguire concurred with Councillor Elliott, commenting on complaints he had received and queried what could be done to make play areas more inviting spaces. He asked when responding to calls if PSNI officers engage with the people involved. Superintendent Beatty responded that it is the it is always the intention of the PSNI to look at how to prevent incidents rather than to react to them.

Meeting with Mr Ciaran McClean

The PCSP Manager informed the Members that herself, the Chairperson and John Boyle Director Community, Health and Leisure FODC had attended a meeting with Mr Ciaran McClean and Mr Gordon Dunne. The meeting was held in response to email communication from Mr McClean to the PCSP Manager regarding PCSP response to goldmining in Greencastle and Rouskey. The Manager gave a brief outline of Mr McClean's concerns mainly that the PCSP is ignoring heightened community tension in the area stemming from a lack of community confidence in policing. Mr McClean confirmed that he was not speaking on behalf of any community group and that he felt it his duty to bring this issue to the attention of the PCSP. Mr

McClean was informed that any concerns over policing operations in the area should be directed to the PSNI Ombudsman.

Councillor Donnelly queried why Mr McClean had not submitted a question to the PCSP to which a formal response would be made. The Manager responded that he had been invited to do so but no question had been received.

Recommended:

1. That the PCSP Manager investigate the possibility for a road safety awareness event at Crevenagh Road Park and Share.
2. That a letter be sent to Bayswater Homes reference street lighting at Woodbrook Court.

PCSP 13/20

Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the PCSP will take place on Tuesday 24 November 2020 – venue/format to be confirmed.

RISING:

The Committee rose at 7.43 pm