

MINUTES OF THE **MEETING OF THE POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE** HELD ON **WEDNESDAY 1st NOVEMBER 2017** AT 7.00 P.M. AT THE TOWN HALL, GREAT WESTERN HOUSE, 9 DEVON SQUARE, NEWTON ABBOT

PRESENT: Councillor M Ryan (Chairman)
C N Parker (Vice-Chairman)

Councillors Mrs C Bunday R Jenks
Mrs J Cleave Mrs A Jones (Mayor)
C Coyle-Moore M Joyce
R Hayes K Purchase (Dep Mayor)
M Hocking Ms L Roberts
D Howe T Ward

By Invitation: Inspector Adrian Woon, Devon and Cornwall Police
Ms Rebecca Hewitt, Community Safety and Safeguarding
Manager, South Devon and Dartmoor Community Safety
Partnership

In attendance: Nigel Canham - PR & Communications
Jeremy Newcombe – NAST Trustee

Philip Rowe – Town Clerk
Alex Robinson – Committee Administrator

225. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

The Chairman welcomed Inspector Adrian Woon, Devon and Cornwall Police and Ms Rebecca Hewitt, Community Safety and Safeguarding Manager, South Devon and Dartmoor Community Safety Partnership to the meeting and thanked them in advance of their update to Members.

226. APOLOGIES

None received.

227. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee held on 13th September 2017 were received and signed as a correct record.

228. INTERESTS

None declared.

229. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None.

230. LOCAL POLICING ISSUES IN NEWTON ABBOT - UPDATE

The Chairman introduced Inspector Adrian Woon and Ms Rebecca Hewitt and invited them to update Members, on the local policing issues in the town.

Inspector Woon thanked Councillors for their invitation and raised the following key points:

- ❖ Collaborative working among the Police, Town Council and other agencies in the town being the best approach,
- ❖ Devon & Cornwall area is the 5th safest region in the country, positive compared to 38 regions ranked lower,
- ❖ The outcome of the Crime Integrity Review required more robust recording and for incidents to be logged at the initial reporting of the crime,
- ❖ A 57% increase in crime in Newton Abbot amounting to an increase of 800 incidents in the last 12 months; which were managed with the same policing resources,
- ❖ A 17% increase in crime across the Devon & Cornwall region,
- ❖ Burglary has reduced by 10%
- ❖ By contrast there had been a significant rise in vehicle offences of 260% and a rise in shop lifting offences, by 74% and these has been attributed to drug related offences,
- ❖ Violent crime had increased by 50% (with injury) and 60% (without injury) accounting for incidents involving harassment and malicious communication.

Inspector Woon used the figures to demonstrate the overall change in culture and types of crime faced by communities. The methods of dealing with such matters required a different approach over a much longer period of time to achieve a change in pattern and behaviour types particularly among groups of youths. The expanding use of social media can encourage young people to take risks beyond appropriate behaviour but the police have dedicated technical teams to use the data for both re-educating young people and to gather valuable intelligence.

Inspector Woon explained to Members the significant changes in the criminal justice system, where arrests were now managed by Youth Offending Teams and that they become the decision makers in progressing cases to Court. Substantial supporting information is provided on a case by case basis to facilitate the courts in taking appropriate restorative orders but the process can appear to be protracted and time consuming.

In conclusion, Inspector Woon gave an example of where he had applied additional resources to the town on the 31st October, whereby large numbers of young people moved through the town to celebrate Halloween without disturbance, with the benefit of a noticeable police presence. He emphasised that this is not a resource that could be applied on a daily basis. He added that the Police and Community Safety Partnership had contributed to NAST funding to enable the payment of staff overtime to extend CCTV coverage of the town at peak times. He thanked NAST for the significant contribution that the CCTV coverage made to the town. Inspector Woon then invited Ms Hewitt to update Members on the work of the Community Safety Partnership.

Ms Hewitt provided Members with the context in which the Community Safety Partnership worked; with limited funding they acted as a conduit for partnership working among the many agencies which sought to safeguard and promote resilient, confident young people who are able to deter from anti-social behaviour.

Ms Hewitt emphasised the difficulties in meeting the expectations of the community within the fast changing dynamic of a changing culture within Newton Abbot. She demonstrated that every effort was being made through the schools, police and parenting networks to support the young people, many of whom had experienced

traumatic and anti-social backgrounds from early childhood and would need extensive therapeutic care to restore their natural empathy and their ability to deter from risk taking and anti-social behaviour. A pattern which if ignored, would ultimately result in them resorting to crime in adult life.

Due to the highly sensitive nature of safeguarding; often involving very young children and adolescents meant that much of the work undertaken could not be in the public domain but that both she and Inspector Woon appreciated the support of the Town Council in understanding the efforts that were being made and that over time they could achieve a shift change in the town. Ms Hewitt reported that extensive research and support was being gleaned from other towns across the country which had successfully supported the young people and reduced overall crime.

The Chairman thanked Inspector Woon and Ms Hewitt for their thorough and informative update and invited questions from Members, which raised the following points:

- The pressure on young children and adolescents to use 'social media'
- The risks that young people are exposed to through social media and the subsequent increase in cyber-crime through risk-taking,
- Education of year 6 students as part of their transition to secondary school to promote resilient confident young people,
- Importance of collaboration among agencies and partners to achieve change with decreasing resources,
- Concern at the limitations of the criminal justice system to deter future crime or repeated offences,
- Impact on the community and the understanding that a changing pattern of crime requires a different approach,
- Members of the Town Council offered support and collaborative working and would convey a positive message to the community of the extensive work being carried out despite it not being in the public view,
- Encouraged early intervention and support to prevent future offenders,
- Visible policing makes a very positive difference to the town and dismay at decreasing resources,
- Conflicting priorities for police responding to incidents such as those involving highly vulnerability compared to vehicle offences, and
- The long-term generational change in attitude needed to restore positive behaviour and resilience among the young people involved.

The Chairman noted that councillor Mike Joyce had been nominated as the Town Council Advocate to liaise with the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner and once information became available he would be in a position to circulate contact details to Members.

The Chairman thanked both Ms Hewitt and Inspector Woon for taking questions and following the discussion he invited Members to contact the Town Clerk if they wished to be included in a further meeting with the Police and Community Safety Partnership. Where upon Inspector Woon and Ms Hewitt were invited to leave the meeting.

231. SUB COMMITTEES/WORKING PARTIES/FORUMS

(i). NEWTON'S PLACE PROJECT BOARD – 28th SEPTEMBER 2017

Arising from the consideration of the report of the meeting it was,

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Newton's Place Project Board – held on 28th September 2017 be hereby approved and adopted and it being noted that the Professional Services Appointments had been made to include; the Project Manager, Architect, Structural Engineer, Quantity Surveyor, Principal Designer, Mechanical and Electrical Engineer and Museum Designer which now completed the complement of contractors needed to support the project through to completion.

(ii). NEWTON'S PLACE PROJECT BOARD – 26th OCTOBER 2017

Arising from the consideration of the report of the meeting it was,

RESOLVED that

- a) the minutes of the Newton's Place Project Board - held on 26th October 2017 be hereby approved and adopted;
- b) that a café should not be included in the premises but there should be provision for a small refreshment area included; and
- c) that the Organ, which was not included as part of the original project plan, be removed/relocated from the premises.

232. INCOME & EXPENDITURE

A. Income & Expenditure Statement - 1st April – 31st September 2017

The Committee received and noted the overview of Income and Expenditure statement for Policy and Resources Committee for the Period 1st April – 31st September 2017. Following consideration, it was

RESOLVED that the Income and Expenditure Statement for the Policy and Resources Committee for the period 1st April – 31st July 2017, be hereby, approved and signed by the Chairman of the Policy and Resources Committee.

B. Budget Requirements for 2018/19 Budget

The Town Clerk reported that no additional projects had been identified for the forthcoming year as the Council's main priority remained as the Newton's Place Project.

The Clerk added that there may be additional expenditure incurred in the refurbishment of the War Memorial and that he awaited the results of specialist survey reports on the financial implications for such works. The Clerk would advise Members of the outcome of the survey reports, prior to the Budget Meeting at the end of November.

233. REPORTS FOR INFORMATION

The Chairman thanked Councillor Mike Joyce on behalf of Members for his time in visiting the South Western Ambulance Headquarters; the Devon and Cornwall Police control room; and Newton Abbot College and for his subsequent thorough and informative site visit reports, previously circulated.

234. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting would be Wednesday 21st February 2018.

CHAIRMAN