



Introduction

Welcome to our second Police Authority Community (PAC) Newsletter 'Dialogue' aimed at providing you with information on issues that have arisen as a result of our PAC meetings and to alert you to any other information that we think will be of interest to you.

Feedback for our first newsletter was very positive. However, you did express a wish to receive information more relevant to your area. In this edition we take a look at the local policing initiatives underway in your division aimed at reducing anti-social behaviour and criminal damage; as well as ways in which you and your neighbours can become more involved in the decision making of local policing.



Diane Flynn – Member, Chair of Consultation Working Group

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Confidence in the Constabulary Remains High

As you are aware the Police Authority regularly measures the public's confidence in Lancashire Constabulary through its Citizen Panel "Opinion". Our survey in March has shown a slight decrease in public confidence compared to that in November 05, dropping from 90% to 87%.

However, this is still a very positive result considering that around half of the responses were from new members. In fact, confidence levels of new members are higher (90% very/fairly confident) than those of the existing members (85%).

Looking at the figures in more detail tells us that 11% of respondents claim their confidence has increased due to 'active' performance such as a positive and professional reaction, a rapid or quick response, drugs raids and arrests, positive media coverage and an increase in a visible police presence.

However, a further 11% of respondents claim their confidence has decreased as a result from a poor response or insufficient action, a perceived increase in crime and unprofessional behaviour from police officers. Interestingly, a perceived increase in general crime has not previously been included in the main reasons for decreased confidence and therefore, this will be monitored by the Authority in future surveys.

Finally, on a positive note, it is encouraging to learn that the number of respondents experiencing, witnessing or being aware of anti-social behaviour as an issue affecting confidence has drastically decreased since June 2005 (from 18% in June 2005 to 3% in November 2005) and has remained low in this latest survey at 4%.

Public confidence and the reasons for an increase or decrease are regularly monitored and we will continue to keep you informed of the results in future editions of Dialogue.

Force Restructuring off the Agenda

At a meeting with Tony McNulty Policing minister on Monday 10th July, the Minister admitted that he had been unable to provide any solutions to the 'dealbreaker' issue of council tax harmonisation. Lancashire Police Authority is extremely disappointed that the government was unable to provide any solutions to the issue which was always a condition attached to the voluntary merger.

The main aim of the amalgamation was to close the gap in protective services whilst maintaining and if possible improving neighbourhood policing. However the Constabulary remain at the forefront of neighbourhood policing nationally and their track record in delivering protective services is also strong. Lancashire remains of the firm belief that amalgamation would have brought a once in a lifetime opportunity to begin to close the gap in protective services and enhance neighbourhood policing. The government must take on some ownership of the issue of how to close 'the gap' and must work with police forces and police authorities to resolve this and to plan for the future.

Council Tax Harmonisation, the facts

The amalgamation process failed because of the issue over Council Tax capping and the Government's inability to be flexible. Based on a Band D property, the Council Tax in Lancashire is £113 and in Cumbria is £163. A single police force would have needed a single charge and this was likely to be in the region of £126. Whilst this would have meant a drop in Council Tax in Cumbria, it would have meant a rise of around £13 over three years for Lancashire and the Government's limits on Council Tax rises do not allow for an increase of this size. The percentage rise is 12% but the Government's capping limit is 5%, hence the reason it was a 'dealbreaker'.

Neighbourhood Policing... Spotlight on PCSO'S

PCSO's or to use their full title 'Police Community Support Officers' are uniformed police staff who provide community reassurance and tackle anti-social behaviour issues.



PCSOs are highly valued by both the Police Authority and the Constabulary, in fact, there are plans to extend the current number of posts from 195 PCSO's to a recruitment target of 630 posts by April 2008.

PCSOs form part of our Neighbourhood Policing Teams and work within the currently identified 1004 neighbourhoods within the 302 political wards of Lancashire.

Some teams cover more than one neighbourhood and the exact make-up up of a team depends on the size of the neighbourhood or how busy it is but PCSOs find themselves working alongside:

Community Beat Managers - police officers who are responsible for tackling crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour in their own patch. Much of their working hours are spent walking their community beat.

Special Constables - volunteer police officers who have the same powers as regular officers.

Community volunteers - members of the community who carry out some administrative tasks that help officers spend more time "on the beat".

Partner organisations - representatives of neighbourhood watch, people who have community safety accreditation, local authorities, housing authorities.

Response officers - police officers who respond to emergency calls in your area.

If you are interested in becoming a PCSO check out Lancashire Constabulary website for details on vacancies.



INNOVATIVE NEW GATE

Over the years, nuisance motorcyclists are often brought to the attention of the Authority and the Constabulary at PAC meetings.

At the Fylde PAC meeting in June members were informed of an innovative new gate installed by the Fylde Community Safety Partnership, which allows pedestrians, wheelchairs, pedal cyclists and pushchairs to safely pass through the gate, but prevents access to motorcyclists.

The gate, known as a 'K Barrier' is of metal construction which is galvanised after manufacture, has 'tamper proof' stainless steel fixings and makes the gate robust and vandal proof. The use of stainless steel not only makes the squeeze plates smooth and easy to pass through, it also makes them very tough and resistant to cutting and vandalism. Sergeant Bryan Ward, the Local Authority Liaison Officer for Fylde said "Our concern was for the safety of pedestrians using the path and this gate has provided the perfect remedy needed. The residents have now got used to it and there is agreement that it works"

that so many people have handed in their unwanted knives and bladed weapons."

"A wide range of weapons and domestic knives have been handed in across Lancashire including a Viking axe, a tomahawk, a cavalry sword, a large meat cleaver and an Australian spear!"

neighbourhood policing & neighbourhood watch

Over the last 12 months some Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) co-ordinators have expressed a feeling that they have not been given the support they expected from Lancashire Constabulary or, did not understand how Neighbourhood Policing would support them in the future.

Therefore on your behalf, we have spoken to the Lancashire Constabulary who has recognised that this has been an issue. In January 2006, in partnership with the Lancashire Neighbourhood Watch Forum they held a seminar which was attended by nearly 300 Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinators. The conference outlined the principles of Neighbourhood Policing and how NHW could support and in return receive support from Community Beat Managers and Police Community Support Officers.

The delegates heard about examples of good practice such as Savick in Preston where the local NHW has developed alongside the Police and Communities Together (PACT) meetings to deliver programs to reduce anti-social behaviour and crime.



All local Community Beat Managers hold PACT meetings for members of the public to attend and task their Police Officers with issues that affect them. All co-ordinators are invited to these meetings and you can discover who your local police officer is by logging onto www.lancashire.police.co.uk and inputting your postcode. This will give the name of your local police officer and provide details of how to contact them.

Sgt Steve Brown from the Neighbourhood Policing Implementation Team says "Neighbourhood Watch members are a cornerstone of the principles for neighbourhood policing however, I would urge all co-ordinators to make contact with their local Police Officer or PCSO, don't wait for them to contact you. You will then be able to find out how to become part of the neighbourhood policing team".

Keith Warren Chair of Lancashire Neighbourhood Watch Forum says "With the help of Lancashire Constabulary we now have our own

database of members and for the first time we will be able to communicate directly with them. This has been a significant development and we will now be able to tell members about schemes such as Datalink and Next of Kin Cards. I would ask all NHW members to visit www.lnwf.co.uk and register their details. We will then be able to send you newsletters to keep you informed on the latest news".

Keith continued to say "Interest in NHW has never been greater and Lancashire Constabulary continues to support our development. If a co-ordinator feels they are not supported I would be pleased to take up their complaint on their behalf".

knife amnesty



The police have announced that as a result of the recent Knife Amnesty a total of 1525 bladed weapons have been surrendered to local police in the five week period.

The Amnesty specifically challenged the growing knife-carrying culture amongst young adults who feel they need to carry a weapon out of 'fear'. It also aimed to remove as many knives as possible from our streets.

Chief Inspector Val Prince, co-ordinator for the Amnesty said, "I am absolutely delighted with the response to the Knife Amnesty and

Summer Nights Southern Division



"Operation Summer Nights is about letting people know that it is all right to have a good time but not at the

expense of others. Our message is "Drink sensibly this summer."

In this edition we put the spotlight on Southern Division and look at some of the initiatives in operation in order to bring about a change in behaviour.

Project Icarus

This project focus's on alcohol related anti-social behaviour and criminal damage and is an interactive event, which is run in South Ribble. The project is aimed at primary school children that are to make the transition to Secondary School. The event is led by South Ribble Borough Council and is supported by the local police, fire service, drug support team from Youth and Community Service, Environmental Health and local Housing Association Accent Northwest. Each agency runs a scenario and every young person attending the event experiences each scenario. The scenarios focus on criminal damage, arson, underage drinking and anti-social behaviour and children were

Following the success of last years campaign, the Constabulary is running "OPERATION SUMMER NIGHTS" again aimed at reducing Alcohol-related crime and anti-social behaviour, criminal damage and domestic violence until the end of August.

It brings together agencies from across Lancashire to focus on the negative actions that can result from people drinking too much alcohol, raising awareness that drink-fuelled bad behaviour is not acceptable. It also encourages everyone across the county to respect themselves and others.

In the summer months there is traditionally an increase in crime and anti-social behaviour that is often fuelled by alcohol. In the past these types of problems have been particularly apparent during high profile sporting events such as the World cup.

Spearheading the campaign is Lancashire Constabulary's Assistant Chief Constable, Mike Cunningham, who said:

informed of what could happen to them if they got involved in this kind of activity.

Operation Aerosol

Police in South Ribble have joined forces with the local council to launch a targeted crackdown on graffiti jobs who leave a stain on the local environment.

As part of Operation Aerosol, the council's hit squad is visiting sites in South Ribble where spray can vandals are known to operate. Throughout the summer the team will be out and about using their hi-powered graffiti removal machinery to clear away spray can scribbles – sending a clear sign to those responsible that their anti-social artwork will not be allowed to remain.

But the campaign doesn't stop there. The hit squad is also working closely with the police to gather information about the culprits that could ultimately lead to their arrest. Using digital cameras, the team will be gathering hundreds of photos of the graffiti before its removal. These images will be used, along with other evidence gathered at the borough's few graffiti hot spots, to try to identify the offenders responsible.

Pubwatch Members and Police work together

As part of Operation Summer Nights in a joint police/Pubwatch operation officers along with a dog handler have been visiting licensees to provide them with information as to whether drugs are being used/sold in their premises and to recover any that may be found.

Pool Nights!!

Local Police in Coppull have been holding a regular weekly pool night for boys and girls that are under 17. The Legion has teamed up with the police to help run this event and provides the venue for the evening.

The event was launched by Coppull officers, for anyone under the age of 17 to come along to. Officers knew from talking to young people on the streets that they complain there is nothing to do, so as part of our ongoing work to cut down on anti-social behaviour the event was arranged in partnership with the Legion as a diversionary activity.



Local Councillors and Head Teachers accompany officers on Patrol

Officers in Skelmersdale have been inviting local MP's and Head teachers to come out on patrol with them to show them exactly what is being done in the local area to tackle anti-social behaviour. Partners are able to see for

themselves the high-visibility patrols and the zero tolerance that is adopted to drinking alcohol underage. Some school children have also been quite shocked to come face to face with their school headmaster whilst they have been out on patrol with officers.



Town Centre Banning

Ormskirk Police have adopted a yellow and red card system to ban trouble makers from the Town Centre. The card system is used when disorderly, drunken behaviour is witnessed by police in the town centre. The first stage is that a yellow card is given an offenders are banned from the town centre between certain times. If offenders continue to behave badly they are then given a red card whereby offenders are banned for an indefinite time period. Details are passed to local officers to monitor and members of the local pubwatch schemes.

RAP

RAP otherwise known as the Recreation Activity Programme – involves a whole host of partners and a long list of activities for young people to take part in. The programme is open to anyone and involves small groups of local youngsters organising trips to different places. As well as organising trips themselves local officers from the West Lancs area and other partners also lay on activities.

Talk to the police!

- If you witness a crime in progress that poses danger to life call 999 immediately.
- If it is not an emergency report your experience or what you have witnessed to the police on 0845 1 25 35 45. You can discuss the issues with your neighbourhood policing team. Their contact details can be found at www.lancashire.police.uk or by telephoning 0845 1 25 35 45.
- Come along to your local PACT meeting (Police and Communities Together). This is a meeting held by your local community beat manager every month at a venue in your neighbourhood. It is open to everyone and you can tell your local police about your concerns. The meetings are advertised locally and on the website but you can find out where your nearest one is by calling 0845 1 25 35 45.



Constabulary Contact Details

Lancashire Constabulary
Divisional Headquarters
Lancastergate
Leyland
Lancashire
PR25 2EX
tel: 0845 1 25 35 45

Did you know that of the 269 Anti-Social Behaviour Orders currently in operation in Lancashire, 68% apply to Adults.

Community Volunteers

The Lancashire Constabulary currently has over 500 members of the public from all walks of life who volunteer some of their time to carry out a variety of tasks for the Constabulary. This may include helping neighbourhood policing teams to develop close relationships with their communities, contacting the public to update them on the progress of police investigations or gathering further information.



Considering becoming a volunteer?

Then go for it!

The Constabulary do not ask for any qualifications or specific experience. They are looking for people from all backgrounds with a variety of different skills and experiences to help them in their work.

If anyone is interested in becoming a Community Volunteer or requires further information please contact the Volunteer Co-ordinator on 01772 413013 or visit the Constabulary's website www.lancashire.police.uk



Could you be a Community Support Officer?

Average earnings £17,000 rising to £18,000 (inclusive of shift allowance and weekend working enhancements)

Whether you are dealing with a victim of crime, trying to solve community concerns or helping local people in their daily lives, it's YOU that makes the difference. To become one of our Community Support Officers, you'll need to be able to adapt to all kinds of circumstances and lots of different people with a positive approach and the dedication to make a real difference to lives and communities.

Working in partnership with local people, your police colleagues and other agencies, you will bring reassurance where it is needed and help to address anti-social behaviour, fear of crime, environmental issues and other factors that affect the quality of life in your community.

Experience of working with the public and solving problems is essential; as is the ability to use your initiative, demonstrate sound judgement and work as part of a team.

If this sounds like YOU, then apply now to become one of Lancashire's committed Community Support Officers and start making a difference.

For an initial telephone interview, please call a member of the Recruitment Team on 01772 410429 between 08.30 and 17.30 Monday to Friday.

Lancashire Constabulary welcomes applications from all sections of the community and operates a no smoking at work policy.



Crime & Disorder Reduction Partnerships

One of the key ways in which the Police Authority works with partner organisations is through the local Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships. These partnerships were established following the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. The aim of the partnerships is to bring together local public, private and voluntary sector organisations under one umbrella to work together to develop and implement a strategy to reduce crime and disorder locally.

The Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships for the Southern Division covering the West Lancashire, South Ribble and Chorley area are:-

West Lancashire

Mr B Lussey
Community Safety Officer
West Lancashire District Council
PO Box 16
52 Derby Street
ORMSKIRK L39 2DS
Email: brian.lussey@westlancsdc.gov.uk

South Ribble

Ms A Hatton
Community Safety Officer
South Ribble Borough Council
Civic Centre, West Paddock
LEYLAND PR25 1DH
tel: 01772 625337
email: ahatton@southribble.gov.uk

Chorley

Mrs A Harrison-Bryant
Community Safety Officer
Chorley Borough Council
Town Hall, CHORLEY PR7 1DP
tel: 01257 515335
email: audrey.harrison@chorley.gov.uk

Contact your local police officer

Did you know that if you have access to the internet you can find the name of your local police officer and contact details or read about what's happening in your area simply by entering your full post code or the name of your street?

For more information please visit the Lancashire Constabulary Website at www.lancashire.police.uk

Your Involvement is essential

The Authority has long held the belief that involving the public in decisions about local policing is essential. Therefore, it was disappointing to learn that in a recent "Opinion" survey 83% of respondents told us that they did not feel involved in decision-making about local policing and 73% did not feel they can influence decision-making.

However, the results did show us that those surveyed were aware of various opportunities available to become more involved and indicated which of those they were most likely to become involved in. The highest awareness was shown in relation to becoming a special constable (54%), police volunteer (47%) and joining a community safety group (43%), while awareness of more local opportunities for involvement was lower – Police And Communities Together meetings (30%), joining a community safety panel (23%) and attending a Police Authority Community meetings (22%).

As you are aware, the Police Authority Community Meetings (PACs) represent a partnership of community residents, Police Authority Members and senior Police Officers playing an important role in enabling the community to become involved in the decision making of local policing and influencing the way your community is policed.

They provide the opportunity to respond to your concerns relating to crime and public safety; give up to date information relating to the implementation of crime prevention initiatives in the area; and provide you with the opportunity to raise issues and concerns related to crime, community safety and other general policing issues direct to senior Police Officers.

You will appreciate that the success of holding these meetings therefore, depends largely, on the active participation of members of the local community. The Police Authority would be grateful if you could help to publicise the meeting by displaying a poster which will be enclosed with your Agenda papers at a suitable location prior to the day of the meeting.

If you would like to help please contact Ian Dickinson on (01772) 533462 or e-mail on: ian.dickinson@lpa.lancscc.gov.uk

**'We don't feel involved in how decisions are taken in regard to local policing'
'How can I express my views about policing?'**

Did you know...

You can voice your views on policing in Lancashire from the comfort of your own home?

Our website www.lancspa.gov.uk provides you with the opportunity to electronically send your views to us if you don't have the time to attend a public meeting.

There are also online questionnaires for you to complete at your leisure and the opportunity to read up to the minute press articles and releases on the work of the Authority, not to mention access all kinds of information from a copy of the annual policing plan to the latest edition of Newsbeat.

We welcome comments and views from the people of Lancashire as the Authority wants to ensure that your policing service is efficient and effective.

Log on now... www.lancspa.gov.uk

zone 4 youth
www.zone4youth.co.uk

Get in the Zone

The Authority has also launched its youth focussed website www.zone4youth.co.uk which gives younger Lancashire residents an opportunity to have their say on policing. Similar to the Authority site, young people can email us to ask questions or post a message on the graffiti wall to let us know what they think of policing.

Please encourage young people to visit the site and have a look at the site yourself... you could be surprised at their views! For example, many young people are generally supportive of the police and have respect for the job they do, in addition they do understand that the way they meet together, dress and socialise could be viewed as intimidating by other residents. However, it's important that adults and the police realise that many young people often feel criminalised by the police and the media and believe that the police are biased towards the views and opinions of adults. In addition they want the police to interact with them on a more day-to-day basis rather than in conflict situations – for example just being asked to move on or having to explain why they were in a particular area.

Remember Not all young people cause trouble or act anti-socially, it's a small minority. Think before you make up your mind about a group of young people... are they really acting in an anti social manner or just meeting together? Remember your own youthful misdemeanours... perhaps behaviour wasn't as perfect as you'd like to think it was!

POLICE AND COMMUNITIES TOGETHER

PACT meetings are held by your Neighbourhood Policing Team every month and provide you with the chance to meet the team, have your say on what you want the team to focus on and monitor the Constabulary's performance.

You can find out when your next PACT meeting is by entering your postcode into the "My Neighbourhood" panel on the Lancashire Constabulary's website www.lancashire.police.uk

At the PACT meeting you can tell your neighbourhood policing team about what issues concern you. After discussion, a smaller group called a PACT panel decides on the top three policing priorities for the month which are then acted upon by the policing team.

The neighbourhood policing team will then report back to the next meeting on progress on solving the issues – sometimes working with other agencies.

Remember - PACT meetings are open to everyone.



highway issues

Highways related issues are often raised at the PAC Meetings. Issues relating to enforcement quite rightly should be brought to the attention of the Constabulary to answer but, when the issues are about highways engineering issues (traffic calming, speed limits, junction arrangements etc) it would be better if they were directed to your local councillor or officers at the service directorates at the County or District Councils.

The next round of PACS are now booked, check here for the dates relating to your area.

District	Venue	Date	Time
Lancaster	Ellel St Johns Primary School, Chapel Street, Galgate, Lancaster, LA2 0JS	Tuesday 5th September	19:00
Ribble Valley	Mellor Methodist Church, Mellor Lane, Mellor	Wednesday 13th September	19:00
Preston	Cottam Primary School, Haydocks Lane, Cottam, Preston, PR4 0NY	Monday, 18th September	19:00
Blackpool	Park School, 158 Whitegate Drive, Blackpool, FY3 9HF	Thursday, 21st September	19:00
West Lancashire	Tarleton High School, Hesketh Lane, Tarleton, Preston, PR4 6AQ	Monday, 25th September	19:00**
Wyre	The Marine Hall, The Esplanade, Fleetwood, FY7 8HE	Wednesday, 27th September	19:00
South Ribble	Hutton Grammar School, Liverpool Road, Hutton, Preston, PR4 5SN	Thursday 28th September	19:00
Chorley	Brindle Community Hall, Water Street, Brindle Chorley, PR6 8NH	Monday, 2nd October	19:00
Blackburn-With-Darwen	Darwen Community Centre, Knott Street, Darwen, BB3 2RN	Monday, 9th October	19:00
Fylde	Lytham Assembly Rooms, Dicconson Terrace, Lytham, FY8 5JY	Thursday, 12th October	19:00**
Burnley	The Enterprise Centre, Valley Street, Burnley, BB11 5LZ	Monday, 16th October	19:00
Hyndburn	Rhyddings High School, Howarth Street, Oswaldtwistle, Accrington, BB5 3EA	Thursday, 19th October	19:00**
Pendle	Trawden Community Centre, Church Street, Trawden, Colne, BB8 8RZ	Monday *23rd October	19:00
Rossendale	Whitworth Community High School, Hall Fold, Whitworth, OL12 8TS	Thursday, 26th October	19:00**

* CHANGE OF DAY ** NEW TIME

Contact Details

In an emergency when you need an immediate response dial 999

Police Non emergency number - 0845 1253545

Crimestoppers – a confidential phone line - 0800 555 111

Lancashire Police Authority - 01772 533462