

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SCRUTINY
HELD AT FOLLATON HOUSE, TOTNES ON THURSDAY, 23 NOVEMBER 2006**

MEMBERS

* Cllr S M Fairman - Chairman

* Cllr B C Evans - Vice-Chairman

* Cllr G J Fielden

∅ Cllr G Rothwell

* Cllr P W Hitchins

* Cllr J W Squire

* Cllr C M Pannell

* Cllr J T Pennington

* Denotes attendance

∅ Denotes apology for absence

Officers in attendance:

Community Safety and Emergency Planning Officer

Also in attendance at the invitation of the Chairman:

Cllr D W S Thorning

SC.38/06 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of Scrutiny held on 26 October 2006 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

SC.39/06 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members were invited to declare any interests in the items of business to be considered during the course of the meeting. There were no such declarations.

SC.40/06 COMMUNITY POLICING IN THE SOUTH HAMS

Members considered a presentation by Acting Chief Superintendent Barry Marsden and Acting Chief Inspector Mark Backhouse from the South Devon Basic Command Unit (BCU) who then answered questions.

During the presentation and discussion, reference was made to:-

- (i) the need for and success of Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs);
- (ii) the posts of Police Licensing Officers and Crime Prevention Officers to be civilianised;

- (iii) working in partnerships to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour to ensure public confidence in the Police ;
- (iv) that the perception of crime was greater than the actual reality, especially in the South Hams;
- (v) strategic realignment of neighbourhood Beat Managers (NBMs);
- (vi) creation of four new Sergeant posts within the South Hams to assist with neighbourhood policing objectives;
- (vii) ongoing recruitment of PCSOs to assist in community policing and the recruitment of PCSOs for schools;
- (viii) all neighbourhoods to have a named contact point;
- (ix) more complaints being received by the public concerning highway obstruction, dog fouling, litter and noise than actual crime.

RESOLVED

That Scrutiny welcomed the presentation and thanked the Police Officers for their attendance.

SC.41/06 PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

Members felt that there was insufficient time to consider this report and requested that it be deferred to the meeting of 20 December 2006.

SC.42/06 AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS OF SCRUTINY

Members discussed additional items to be included as future agenda items. The following items were considered and agreed:

- (i) that an updating report on domestic household waste and refuse collection be delivered for the meeting of 20 December 2006;
- (ii) that a report concerning domestic household waste & refuse collection should be brought forward from 22 February 2007 to a special meeting of Scrutiny;
- (iii) that a report be delivered at a special meeting of Scrutiny on 26 January 2007 concerning Development Control and the impact of work commitments on the Legal and Development Control Sections, especially with regards to project work.

(Meeting commenced at 10.00 am and finished at 1.35 pm).

Chairman