

**COMMUNITY SAFETY FORUM: LINKS WITH PARTNERSHIP**

**1. BACKGROUND**

- 1.1 At the last meeting of the Community Safety Forum in October it was agreed by members that the Forum in its current form was not sustainable and perhaps needed to become more of a consultative body. The main suggestion of how the forum could take on this role was that it meets twice a year and a much wider range of people and organisations are invited to attend.
- 1.2 The meetings would be a chance for the Crime and Community Safety Partnership to provide information to the public and other organisations about the progress of the strategy. A number of discussion groups/workshops could be held with an opportunity to feedback the outcomes to the partnership.
- 1.3 Two dates were provisionally proposed for the meetings, Saturday 19 February 2000 and Saturday 16 August 2000. If the Forum is to attract as many people as possible then it was suggested that the best day to host it would be a Saturday. Although many people have commitments at the weekends experienced has proved that this is probably one of the better days of the week to undertake this type of event.
- 1.4 In order to attract as many people as possible Forum members felt that a suitable venue needed to be found. For example there were some reservations about hosting it at the Council Chambers. It was suggested that a more “neutral” environment should be chosen. It was also important to promote the Partnership as a “real partnership” and not simply as a Council/police led group.
- 1.5 It was suggested that to encourage public debate and interest the Forum meeting should focus on a specific theme for example anti-social behaviour or young offenders

**2. REQUEST FOR PARTNERSHIP MEMBER ATTENDANCE**

- 2.1 Forum members felt that it was important for the Crime and Community Safety Partnership members to also be present at the Forum meetings. By attending the Forum meetings Partnership members would show their commitment to public consultation and to working with the community to deliver effective crime reduction actions.

- 2.2 This would provide an opportunity for members of the public to ask the Partnership questions and for the Partnership to update the community on the progress of the crime reduction strategy.
- 2.3 The Forum members also suggested that a representative from the Partnership be asked to chair the Forum Meeting.

### **3. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 3.1 That the Partnership nominate a representative to chair the next Community Safety Forum Meeting.
- 3.2 That members of the Partnership be asked to attend the next Community Safety Forum.

Rob Callow  
Community Safety Officer  
22 November 1999