



People for Proper Policing in North Wales

Another case of Antisocial Policing 2/02/07 via Hywel Trewyn & the Daily Post

A **PENSIONER** was breathalysed and read her rights following a minor bump with an **unmarked Police car**. She was forced to drive to her local police station after the low speed impact on Bala High Street. The 70-year-old claimed... *there was no signs of a scratch or a dent on the police vehicle. She was reversing her Volvo car "very slowly" out of a parking space when she "touched" the unmarked police car. He said with some authority 'I am a police officer, you have just crashed into my car. Pull over down the road'. **The officer was very officious.** There wasn't any damage. If it had been a private citizen we wouldn't even have exchanged insurances.* *The police officer claimed he'd used his horn to warn her, something she denied.* *She said: "I'm not deaf, I didn't have the radio on and I didn't hear him. He then directed me to the local police station saying that as he was a policeman in a police car, it was necessary to proceed further with the incident. she waited **45 minutes at Bala police station for a traffic officer to arrive from Dolgellau 18 miles away.** On his arrival I was breathalysed, cautioned, read my rights and told I was not under arrest.*

Both her breath test **and the police officer's** proved **negative**.

She declined to make a statement and was asked to return another day with her documents. She returned twice but was unable to get in and eventually had to call Dolgellau police station to arrange a third visit.

The pensioner hasn't heard anything since and said she is now considering making a complaint. A **North Wales Police spokeswoman** said last night: "**This incident was dealt with according to force policy in relation to collisions involving police vehicles.** The spokeswoman added: "Unfortunately we are currently experiencing technical difficulties with the telephone system at Bala police station. "We are working to get this rectified as soon as possible and apologise for any inconvenience caused to the public."

The PPP comments... Is the **handling** of this 'type' of incident **AND the officers attitude FORCE POLICY!?.** A 70 year old lady pensioner should have been shown more respect and consideration. Minor collisions of this sort are common occurrences **AND** sadly, occasionally, **lead to incidents of road rage.....**the force must set an example... and so should we all. Why does the press listen to these so called spokespersons who trot out excuses & platitudes.**The Officers in Charge of Bala Ward are the Community Beat Manager : PC 1659 Richard Hughes & The NWPF website says about his commander..The District Commander is Inspector Meirion Ellis who is based at Dolgellau. Promoted to Inspector in 1996, Meirion has been in his current post since June 2000 and has many years of previous policing experience within the Meirionnydd area. The many Police and Community Partnership Forums currently operating within the area aim to develop even further the inclusiveness of the community in the policing of their locality.** Both these Officers are responsible to Chief Inspector Operations, Richard Brough and Divisional Commander Chief Superintendent Gareth Prichard. It also obvious that the response to a **serious incident** in **BALA** (a bank/post office robbery!!) is going to be **VERY SLOW!!** The Police Authority member responsible is **Mr J V R Anderson JP, Chair of the Professional Standards Committee.**

