



People for Proper Policing in North Wales

Colwyn Bay needle machine must be blocked by council

Oct 9 2007 by Roland Hughes, Daily Post

A public inquiry into proposals for a needle exchange machine in Colwyn Bay will take place next month. But the plans by the police could be blocked for good on Thursday if Conwy County Borough Council have their way. The planned site can be accessed only over a strip of land belonging to Conwy Council, if they decide they are against the plan at a cabinet meeting on Thursday, they will seek ways of blocking the public from getting near the machine. A report detailing this is to go before cabinet and it is probable that the council could prevent access to the needle exchange and thus render North Wales Police's proposal unworkable.

In January last year, Conwy's planning committee rejected the proposal, with the news being called "a big victory" for Colwyn Bay. Conwy councillors must now agree whether they are against the machine on a corporate level, and not just on planning grounds. North Wales Police announced they would appeal in June, leading to the public inquiry in Llandudno. The inquiry is set to cost taxpayers thousands of pounds but could effectively be rendered irrelevant by Thursday's ruling. **A North Wales Police spokeswoman** said: "The appeals procedure is now running its course."

Clwyd West AM, and Conwy councillor, Darren Millar said he hoped any rejection of the scheme by Conwy would lead to an annulment of the inquiry and mean that the development is stopped once and for all. Members of the public have been against it, elected members have been against it and councillors have been against it from the very first moment.

The PPP comments ... It is absolutely clear that Conwy Councillor's will be totally responsible & accountable if this machine IS INSTALLED.

The deliberate encouragement of drug use in Colwyn Bay by Brunstrom's Policy is not new and across North Wales drug dealing is clearly visible to residents in those areas and police resources have NOT been directed at these activities. We are pleased to report that The Western Division under Gareth Pritchard are NOW getting stuck in to the problem in several areas including Holyhead, Llangefni and Penmaenmawr.

It is most important that residents report these activities to their local area Inspector and to the PPP via our contact e.mail system