



People for Proper Policing in North Wales

Centre mooted to break barriers

Sep 8 2008 by Deborah James, Daily Post

NORTH Wales Police are backing the creation of a **language and cultural reconciliation centre** to try to cut crime rates caused by language and cultural differences.

If the centre at Nant Gwrtheyrn near Pwllheli becomes a reality it will **emphasise the region's different languages and cultures**. The idea is to help sort out social problems that arise because of the use of different languages - and fostering respect towards different languages, including Welsh.

Deputy Chief Constable, Clive Wolfendale said: *"What we are trying to do here is to deconstruct the Tower of Babel. Linguistic differences can often become a source of tension in society even leading to violent criminality. We would like to explore ways in which we can use language to repair differences rather than provoke them."*

(This link MAY help you understand Wofendale's claim or not as the case may be ...

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tower_of_Babel)

A symposium to consider the centre is being held next month at **Bangor University**. Speakers will include **Chief Constable Richard Brunstrom**, on the subject of **Policing Language**, and **Colin Parry**, who lost his son Tim to an IRA bomb in Warrington in 1993.

The PPP comments Again we say, what are some of our senior officers doing? Wolfendale is at it again, fomenting racial disharmony in Wales. Needless to say Brunstrom will be joining in. Neither of course have any real issues to concern them, like the 15,500 crimes that were reported in the last year and the even greater number that weren't reported because the victims considered it was a waste of time. Of these the force data showed that 125 racial motivated crimes were recorded, 10 of which were Welsh/English language issues and overall 48 were detected. We are aware of the sad loss suffered by Colin Parry but cannot see how it is relevant to North Wales' situation.

The other somewhat pressing problem is that the force member's morale is at rock bottom and has been for many years. In 2004 the Dale Hall survey hinted at the problem in this verbatim extract While it was recognised, of course, that this position is not unique to North Wales, some quite informed people doubted whether – within such a centralised and hierarchic structure – this Chief Constable could ever receive critical or objective advice from subordinate officers whose careers are dependent upon his rating of their qualities.

Participants said very clearly that they thought the primacy of the Chief Constable was too extreme and encouraged his autocratic views. They said that the Chief Constable is responsible for spending the allocated budget, determining force policies and structure, and also for heading administration and human resources – all of which gives him enormous power over his subordinates. So it was questioned whether he ever receives genuinely independent advice from anyone who is not fearful for their jobs? AND nothing has changed.