

Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Gina Maddison

North Wales Police and the events wc 29th July

I had hoped to bring this NOM in respect of North Wales Police to the September meeting, but illness prevented it. However, in some ways, it does seem appropriate as we approach Christmas, when many of us think on those we have lost, who have spent Christmas with us in the past. The empty place at the table on Christmas Day. Christmas Day, a time of loneliness and isolation for many. And also as we approach the New Year, and reflect on the events of the year that has passed.

Referencing the events of 29th July 2024 in Southport, I know that the hearts and thoughts of all present are always with the families of:

Alice da Silva Aguiar, aged 9. One of her schoolteachers, who has recently given birth, has called her daughter Alice, in remembrance.

Elsie Dot Stancome, aged 7. So nicknamed "Because Mummy says I'm just a little dot."

Bebe King, aged 6. Described by her family as full of light, joy and love.

Dropping the children, the grandchildren, the nieces and nephews, the children of friends and neighbours, off at the summer playscheme, the dance class, is something we have all done, in the confident expectation that they would have a safe and enjoyable time. Never dreaming that tragedy would burst in.

I visited a Food and Fun session at a local school that week, to find a police car outside the school. A police officer told me, "We're driving round to check them all."

In the terrible week of rioting that followed, some 110 police officers and police dogs and horses were injured. We have all seen the awful scenes in which they were attacked, as items such as fireworks, bricks and bins were hurled at them. Particularly heartbreaking for me, a former children's librarian, was the burning down of a children's library in Liverpool.

Over 40,000 officer shifts were worked during this week, and 6,600 public order officers deployed on one day alone. All leave and rest days were cancelled, and additional hours worked.

Merseyside Police sent out a call to Cheshire, Greater Manchester, North Wales and Lancashire Police for assistance.

This NOM is to thank North Wales Police who answered the call, to provide mutual aid and support. Their presence also enabled a peaceful week in North Wales, amidst rumours of planned riots.

I would be grateful if you can all support me in this notion, that we ask our CEO and our Leader, at the turn of the year, to write a formal letter of thanks to NWP, on behalf of officers and members, for their actions during this terrible time.