

EAST AYRSHIRE COMMUNITY SAFETY FORUM

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 22 SEPTEMBER 2004 AT 1000 HOURS IN THE MEETING ROOM, COUNCIL HEADQUARTERS, LONDON ROAD, KILMARNOCK

PRESENT: Councillors Jimmy Carmichael (Chair), Brian Reeves, Daniel Coffey, Gordon Cree, John Campbell, Jim Raymond, George Smith and William Menzies; Community Representatives Maurice Ashbridge (Kilmarnock Central Local Committee), William Barr (Doon Valley Local Committee), William Lees, (Cumnock Area Local Committee), Joan Wark (Kilmarnock South Local Committee), Frank Dawson (Irvine Valley Local Committee) Billy Sullivan (Kilmarnock North Local Committee) and Charles M Lindsay (Northern Area Local Committee); Jean McFarlane (East Ayrshire North Crime Prevention Panel); Nora Solesbury (Primary Care Trust); Duncan Blair (Strathclyde Fire Brigade); Constable Robert Stewart and Police Cadet Michelle McCreadie (Strathclyde Police); Tom Meikle (Kilmarnock Town Centre Management Initiative); Jean Smith (East Ayrshire South Forum on Disability and East Ayrshire {South} Against Crime).

ATTENDING: Fiona Lees, Chief Executive; Elizabeth Morton, Depute Chief Executive/Executive Director of Corporate Support; John Clayton, Head of Corporate Development and Communication; John F Crawford, Head of Protective Services; William Petherick, Assistant Community Safety Co-ordinator; Sandy Gillatt, Chief Engineer (Roads); Alison Smith, Licensing and Community Safety Manager; and Jennifer Morrison, Administrative Officer.

ALSO ATTENDING: Lyn Chidwick, Community/School Pathways.

APOLOGIES: Councillors Harry Wilson and Elaine Dinwoodie; Fiona Andrew (Kilmarnock Forum on Disability) and ROSPA.

CHAIR: Jimmy Carmichael, Chair.

MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

1. There were submitted (circulated) and approved as a correct record, the Minutes of the Meeting held on 2 June 2004.

ACTIVITIES OF FORUM PARTICIPANTS

2.1 Kilmarnock Central Local Committee

Maurice Ashbridge:

- highlighted again the issue of cycling on footpaths. Following advice from the Chair it was agreed that it was inappropriate at this time for the Forum to take a collective view on the matter given that the Council was currently carrying out a public consultation on the sharing of footways by pedestrians and cyclists. The Chair encouraged the individual groups represented on the Forum to use the consultation exercise to submit their views.
- reported that some pedestrian crossings locally were not suitably equipped for use by persons with a sensory impairment.

It was agreed that the Executive Director of Development and Property Services submit a report on this matter to the next meeting.

2.2 East Ayrshire (North) Crime Prevention Panel

Jean McFarlane reported:

- on the open event she had attended in June 2004 in the Park Hotel to identify East Ayrshire North Social Inclusion Initiative priority issues and assess the level of support for a Community Federation in the North of East Ayrshire;
- that the Panel had participated in Darvel Gala Day in August promoting the work of the Panel;
- that as the year progressed the Panel hoped to attend events in other locations within the district, as well as participating in Christmas initiatives;
- that the Panel had made a financial contribution to “Danger Detectives” Initiative and whilst had not be represented at the Initiative, noted that reports indicated that the presentations given had been very successful and worthwhile;
- that the Panel was in the process of updating its constitution; and
- on her attendance at the recent AGM of Victim Support.

2.3 Kilmarnock South Local Committee

Joan Wark reported:

- on the new disabled access and toilets installed at Shortlees church; and
- on the new Sky project for young people which had been set up in the Shortlees area, with information leaflets being made available to Members at the meeting.

2.4 East Ayrshire South Forum on Disability (EASFOD)

Jean Smith reported:

- on her ongoing attendance, along with sensory impairment staff, to local primary schools and after school clubs to give talks on visual impairment;
- on the recent competition to design a bin suitable for persons with a sensory impairment, which was still to be judged; and
- that the traffic lights at the Tanyard Crossroads did not give enough time for people with a disability to cross safely and it was agreed that the Chief Engineer (Roads) would arrange for an Officer to meet onsite with Jean Smith to assess the situation.

2.5 East Ayrshire South Against Crime

Jean Smith reported:

- on the progress to date with Loch Watch’s administration of their own funding;
- on personal safety talks given following which interest had been expressed in the purchase of personal alarms;
- on two new Neighbourhood Watches in Cumnock;
- that arrangements were ongoing for a future Drugs Awareness Initiative for school pupils to be run in conjunction with Strathclyde Police and the Community Safety Officer.

2.6 Kilmarnock North Local Committee

The Chair welcomed Billy Sullivan to his first meeting of the Forum.

Billy Sullivan then addressed the following points:

- that the new mail delivery time by the Post Office was causing problems for residents of Maisonettes who did not want the intercom system shut down for a longer period to accommodate this.

It was agreed that the Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services be asked to investigate with this matter.

- the proposed Post Office closure in Lindsay Drive, Kilmarnock, and the safety implications thereon for disabled and elderly persons having further to travel to the nearest Post Office.

Agreed that the Secretary to the Forum write to the Post Office on this point.

- the amount of buses going into the schemes in New Farm Loch, and it was agreed that this point be passed on to the Executive Director of Development and Property Services for inclusion in the consultation process currently being carried out.

2.7 Doon Valley Local Committee

- William Barr reported on the success of the Danger Detectives Initiatives which he had recently attended.

2.8 Cumnock Area Local Committee

William Lees reported:

- that no response had been received as yet from Amey regarding the traffic calming on the trunk road;
- that the SIP/Yipworld car park in Cumnock was being used by parents picking up/dropping off at the school, and that the parking bays were not being properly observed. Furthermore the one way system in operation was also not being observed.

It was agreed that a letter be sent to Head Teacher in order that through the School Board, parents could be reminded to observe these points.

2.9 Irvine Valley Local Committee

Frank Dawson reported on the Danger Detectives Initiatives which he had attended recently.

2.10 Northern Area Local Committee

Charles Lindsay:

- raised the matter of the construction of the new M77, the lack of south bound slip roads, and the possible safety implications thereon in respect of emergency vehicle access.

It was agreed that the Head of Roads and Transportation provide a report on the matter to the next meeting.

- referred to the resurfacing of Fleming Drive, Stewarton and the danger of children using the Drive for rollerblading etc.

It was agreed to notify Strathclyde Police of these concerns.

2.11 Primary Care Trust

Nora Solesbury referred to the proposed events to mark European Safety Week in October.

2.12 Kilmarnock Town Centre Management Initiative

Tom Meikle introduced himself to the meeting as the new manager promoting Kilmarnock Town Centre, and outlined events which he hoped to arrange over the Christmas period in consultation with the Council and Emergency Services.

2.13 Strathclyde Fire Brigade

Duncan Blair referred:

- to the activities currently being carried out in East Ayrshire;
- to the problem of malicious calls which was being taken forward as an item to the next Improving Community Safety Implementation Group.

2.14 Strathclyde Police

Constable Robert Stewart reported:

- on the forthcoming "Big World" event to be held in November in Troon;
- on the "Citizen and the Law" Initiative involving nursery, primary and secondary school children, a partnership approach between Strathclyde Police and the Department of Educational and Social Services.
- on the re-establishment of some Neighbourhood Watch schemes.

COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP – LOCAL ACTION FUND

3. There was submitted a report dated 6 September 2004 (circulated) which advised the Forum of the Scottish Executive's allocation of Youth Justice/Anti-Social Behaviour resources for 2004/05 and 2005/06, and the way in which the funding allocated to Community Safety Partnerships had been awarded.

It was agreed:

- (i) to note that the Head of Protective Services was happy to speak to any member of the Forum who wished more information about the unsuccessful funding bids; and
- (ii) otherwise to note the contents of the report.

COMMUNITY SAFETY CO-ORDINATOR – REVIEW OF EVENTS AND INITIATIVES

4. There was submitted a report dated 10 September 2004 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services which advised Forum members of developments and initiatives undertaken by the Community Safety Co-ordinator.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to note that any member interested in participating in the Working Groups' on (1) Christmas Initiatives (2) Fireworks and (3) Grass Fires should contact Bill Petherick the Assistant Community Safety Co-ordinator;

- (ii) that following the points raised about the possibility of installing CCTV cameras in the Netherthird area, to note that the Head of Protective Services would take this issue forward to the next meeting of the Officer Working Group which dealt with such matters;
- (iii) that Sergeant Stewart would investigate the possibility of introducing an adult version of internet safety (a children's version was available through the Danger Detectives Initiative) for use by lunch clubs etc; and
- (iv) otherwise to note the contents of the report.

Councillor Raymond left the meeting during discussion of the above item.

PETITION TO THE SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT

5. There was submitted and noted a report dated 10 September 2004 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services which advised Forum members of the submission to the Scottish Parliament by the Home Safety Committee of the Scottish Accident Prevention Council of a petition calling for the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Executive to place a statutory requirement on all Local Authorities to employ Home Safety Officers, and to provide the necessary funding to achieve this.

ROAD SAFETY PROGRAMME

6. There was submitted and noted a report dated 8 September 2004 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Development and Property Services which informed the Forum of road safety education initiatives, which were currently being carried out by the Department of Development and Property Services.

IMPROVING COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLEMENTATION GROUP

7. There was submitted and noted a joint report dated 6 September 2004 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services and Superintendent Liz Weir, Strathclyde Police "UC" Sub-division which advised the Forum of the outcome of the Improving Community Safety Implementation Group: Community Planning – Improving Community Safety Action Plan.

SAPC HOME SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING ON 1 SEPTEMBER 2004

8. There was submitted and noted a report dated 1 September 2004 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services which advised the Forum of the business dealt with at the last meeting of the SAPC Home Safety Committee.

NEW CORPORATE ID BADGE PUBLICITY CAMPAIGN

9. The Head of Corporate Development and Communication formally launched the new Corporate ID Badges for East Ayrshire Council staff, and outlined the consultation measures which had been carried out in developing the badges as well as the security measures incorporated into the new badges.

The Head of Corporate Development and Communication then reported that the badges would be promoted through the "If in doubt, keep them out" campaign.

It was agreed that an article publicising the launch of the badges be included within the taped version of the Local Committee "Grapevine" newsletters which was currently issued to East Ayrshire South Disability, for distribution to local blind clubs.

The Committee then thanked the Head of Corporate Development and Communication for his presentation with a photograph session being arranged thereafter with the local press.

The meeting terminated at 1115 hours.