

## **EAST AYRSHIRE COMMUNITY SAFETY FORUM**

### **MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 21 SEPTEMBER 2005 AT 1000 HOURS IN THE MEETING ROOM, COUNCIL HEADQUARTERS, LONDON ROAD, KILMARNOCK**

**PRESENT:** Councillors Jim O'Neill (Chair), Brian Reeves, Daniel Coffey, Gordon Cree, John Campbell, and Elaine Dinwoodie; Community Representatives Billy Sullivan (Kilmarnock North Local Committee); John McIvor (Kilmarnock Central Local Committee); Joan Wark (Kilmarnock South Local Committee); Charles M Lindsay (Northern Area Local Committee); Frank Dawson (Irvine Valley Local Committee); William Lees (Cumnock Area Local Committee); and William Barr (Doon Valley Local Committee); M G Burinski, Ayrshire and Arran Health Board; Brian Howie and Gemma Sim (Strathclyde Fire Brigade); Sgt Donald McIntosh (Local Authority Liaison Officer); Jean Smith (East Ayrshire South Forum on Disability and East Ayrshire {South} Against Crime); Doug Whitton (Victim Support); and Hazel Leith, RoSPA.

**ATTENDING:** John F Crawford, Head of Protective Services; Sandy Gillatt, Chief Engineer, Roads; Ann Williams, Community Safety Co-ordinator; David Johnstone, Licensing and Community Safety Manager; and Jennifer Morrison, Administrative Officer.

**ALSO ATTENDING:** Kenny Donnelly, Procurator Fiscal.

**APOLOGIES:** Councillors Harry Wilson, Jim Raymond, George Smith and William Menzies; Superintendent Elizabeth Weir, Strathclyde Police; Jean McFarlane, East Ayrshire North Crime Prevention Panel; Nora Solesbury, Primary Care Trust; Dorothy McGowan, Kilmarnock Forum on Disability; and Eleanor Dewar, Environmental Health Officer.

**CHAIR:** Councillor Jim O'Neill, Chair.

#### **CHAIR'S REMARKS**

1. The Chair welcomed Kenny Donnelly, Procurator Fiscal, Hazel Leith, RoSPA and Mary G Burinski, NHS Ayrshire and Arran Health Promotion to their first meeting as well as introducing David Johnstone who had recently taken up the full time Licensing and Community Safety Manager post.

#### **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

2. There were submitted and approved as a correct record, the Minutes of the Meeting held on 1 June 2005 (circulated).

#### **ACTIVITIES OF FORUM PARTICIPANTS**

##### **3.1 East Ayrshire South against Crime**

Jean Smith reported:

##### **Lochwatch**

- That the Lochwatch Initiative was ongoing;
- That the "Vision" Project was ongoing;
- That the women's group continued to make available personal alarms;

- On the ongoing “Drug Proof your Kids” Project; and
- On progress towards a primary schools quiz.

### **3.2 Easfod**

Jean Smith reported:-

- On views submitted by the Access Panel to the Council’s Roads and Planning Divisions following consultation on various issues; and
- That the Forum on Disability did not wish to see removal of the Accident and Emergency Facility at Ayr Hospital, citing a perceived disadvantage to local disabled and elderly persons in the area. The Chair advised that he was aware that this issue was being taken forward elsewhere.

### **3.3 Cumnock Area Local Committee**

William Lees reported:-

- That AMEY had now replaced a section of street lighting at Afton Bridgend; and
- His congratulations to the organisers of the Danger Detectives Initiative.

### **3.4 Kilmarnock Central Local Committee**

John McIvor reported:-

- That the new footway at Crosshouse was going ahead.

### **3.5 Doon Valley Local Committee**

William Barr advised:-

- That there was no report from the Local Committee on this occasion.

### **3.6 Kilmarnock South Local Committee**

Joan Wark:

- Reported on her attendance at the Danger Detectives Initiative;
- Provided an update on the activities of the Sky Project over the summer holidays whilst indicating that the Group’s free rent arrangement would run out in the Spring, and alternative funding would be required;

The Chair advised that arrangements would be made for the Council’s External Funding Officer to make contact with the Group to discuss possible funding sources.

- Voiced her concerns over the possibility of rubbish being left on site following the Travelling Peoples visit to Kilmarnock;

The Head of Protective Services advised that the Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services had visited both groups of Travelling People currently based in Kilmarnock and spoken to each group on this point. The situation was currently being monitored.

- Reported on several traffic management issues in Kilmarnock and it was agreed that the Chief Engineer, Roads would discuss these issues with Joan after the meeting; and

- Raised a problem area at the rear of Shortlees Church in terms of rubbish etc and enquired about both the possibility of a clean up as well as fencing off of the area.

The Head of Protective Services advised that the Council's Hit Squad had been cleaning up Church Areas, and that the Church itself should pursue the fencing issue.

### **3.7 Kilmarnock North Local Committee**

Billy Sullivan:-

- Reported on his attendance at the Danger Detectives Initiative;
- Voiced his concerns over the closure of the Local Office in New Farm Loch; and
- Reported that whilst not resolved there remained dialogue in respect of the issue of the buses in the New Farm Loch Area.

### **3.8 Local Authority Liaison Officer**

Sgt Donald McIntosh reported:-

- On the voluntary Code of Practice for licensed premises with over 140 visits to premises over the summer by Police and Trading Standards Officers;
- On the discussions taking place between the Local Police and Ayrshire Council for Alcohol seeking a six month trial of an Alcohol Liaison Officer in Cumnock;
- On the quarterly drugs offences figures; and
- On the 320 warnings given to motorists following the acquisition earlier this year of speeding enforcement equipment.

Charles M Lindsay reported on a set of 20 mile per hour flashing signs which appeared not to be operating properly and it was agreed that the Chief Engineer, Roads would investigate this matter.

### **3.9 Strathclyde Fire Brigade**

Assistant Divisional Officer Brian Howie reported:-

- On progress towards the next grass fires Initiative;
- On a "rubbish fires" Initiative;
- On visits to Nursery, Primary and Secondary Schools;
- On the Fire Cadets Scheme; and
- On arrangements for the forthcoming restructuring of the fire brigade.

Following a point raised by the Chair that this was the last Forum meeting before Bonfire Night, Gemma Sim, Strathclyde Fire brigade outlined the measures proposed by the Fire Service in respect of the promotion with regard to the control and safety of fireworks. It was also agreed that the Forum members take the firework safety message back to their individual organisations.

### **3.10 Victim Support**

Doug Whitton reported:-

- that referrals were up by more than 2000 on the previous year, consequently more volunteers had been brought in;
- that the Service required larger premises however funding remained a problem; and
- that an anti-social behaviour protocol was being drawn up.

Following a point raised about the poor state of repair of the office used by Victim Support in Cumnock Town Hall it was agreed that the Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services assistance be requested with regard to the identification of an alternative venue.

### **3.11 Procurator Fiscal**

Kenny Donnelly the Procurator Fiscal was welcomed by the Chair. Mr Donnelly advised that he would like to attend the Forum Meetings in order to engage with Local Groups, and to answer any questions raised.

Dog fouling was highlighted by Forum Members as an area that needed addressed by the Courts. The Procurator Fiscal outlined the balance which had to be struck between the prioritisation of serious crime and the crimes such as dog fouling which were a nuisance to a Community.

It was agreed that a meeting be set up between the Chair of the Community Safety Forum and the Procurator Fiscal and appropriate Officers to discuss the issue of dog fouling with a report on the outcome to be submitted to the next Forum meeting.

Councillor D Coffey raised a point that although the Council's Local Committees received information about drugs related offences, information was not supplied with regard to the outcome. Following advice from the Procurator Fiscal on the matter it was agreed that the Procurator Fiscal and the Police would liaise with Councillor Coffey with a view to establishing a pilot Initiative to address this point.

### **3.12 Irvine Valley Local Committee**

Frank Dawson reported:

- that the introduction of new street lighting in Galston had improved safety and security;

### **3.13 Northern Area Local Committee**

Charles M Lindsay:-

- Reported on a recent meeting at Crosshouse hospital to push for a resident neurologist specialising in Parkinson's Disease; and
- highlighted works required to right 2 road signs in Stewarton, which works the Chief Engineer made note of.

### **3.14 NHS Ayrshire and Arran Health Promotion**

M J Burinski reported:-

- On the support given to the "In Town without my car day";
- On the "walk to school week" following the success of which a re-run was planned for October in line with the international event.

### **3.15 ROSPA**

Hazel Leith reported:-

- On RoSPA's recent move to the Heriot Watt Research Park in Edinburgh;
- On progress towards wider availability of Clinical Data; and
- On the Child Safety Action Plan.

It was noted that Hazel would take back to RoSPA the Committee's support for a West of Scotland Venue for the Accident Prevention Conference.

Councillors Brian Reeves and Gordon Cree left the meeting at this point.

#### **ROAD SAFETY PROGRAMME**

4. There was submitted and noted a report dated 31 August 2005 (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.

#### **ROAD SAFETY PROGRAMME AND WEST WESTRANS FUNDING FOR 2005/06**

5. There was submitted a report dated 26 August 2005 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Development and Property Services which informed the Forum of measures included in the East Ayrshire Road Safety Programme for 2005/06. It was noted that the Development Services Committee meeting of 28 June 2005 had agreed that copies of this report be submitted to the Community Safety Forum for information.

Following points raised by Forum Members John Mclvor and Jean Smith it was agreed:-

- (i) to request that the Head of Roads and Transportation write to Gatehead and Crosshouse Community Councils regarding the proposals for the introduction of a new footway between Gatehead and Crosshouse;
- (ii) to request the Head of Roads and Transportation write to Mr Mclvor regarding the likely timescale for works to lower kerbs in Gatehead; and
- (iii) that the Head of Roads and Transportation would take up with both Stagecoach and SPT the safety issue raised in relation to the X76 service bus use of the stances at Kilmarnock Bus Station, and respond thereafter to Jean Smith.

#### **SCOTTISH ACCIDENT PREVENTION COUNCIL – WATER AND LEISURE SAFETY COMMITTEE**

6. There was submitted and noted a report dated 6 July 2005 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services which advised the Forum of the business dealt with at the last meeting of the Scottish Accident Prevention Council Water and Leisure Safety Committee.

**COMMUNITY SAFETY CO-ORDINATOR – REVIEW OF EVENTS AND INITIATIVES**

7. There was submitted and noted a report dated 7 September 2005 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services which advised Forum Members of Developments and Initiatives which had been undertaken by the Community Safety Co-ordinator.

The meeting terminated at 1113 hrs.