

## **EAST AYRSHIRE COMMUNITY SAFETY FORUM**

### **MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 3 MARCH 2004 AT 1000 HRS IN THE MEETING ROOM, COUNCIL HEADQUARTERS, LONDON ROAD, KILMARNOCK**

**PRESENT:** Jean McFarlane (East Ayrshire North Crime Prevention Panel) (Vice-Chair); Councillors Brian Reeves, Gordon Cree, Harry Wilson, John Campbell, George Smith and Elaine Dinwoodie; Community Representatives Maurice Ashbridge (Kilmarnock Central Local Committee), William Barr (Doon Valley Local Committee), William Lees, (Cumnock Area Local Committee), Frank Dawson (Irvine Valley Local Committee) and Charles M Lindsay (Northern Area Local Committee); Garry Milne (Strathclyde Fire Brigade); Jean Smith (East Ayrshire South Forum on Disability and East Ayrshire {South} Against Crime); Isabelle MacDonald, Women's Aid; F Andrew, Kilmarnock Forum on Disability; and WPC Marie Nichol, Strathclyde Police.

**ATTENDING:** John F Crawford, Head of Protective Services; William Petherick, Assistant Community Safety Co-ordinator; John Pilkington, Best Value Officer; Ann Williams, Community Safety Co-ordinator; Eleanor Dewar, Environmental Health Officer; Jim Richmond, Police Liaison Officer; Gerry Cummings, Senior Road Safety Training Officer; and Jennifer Morrison, Administrative Officer.

**APOLOGIES:** Councillors Jimmy Carmichael (Chair), Daniel Coffey and William Menzies; Joan Wark (Kilmarnock South Local Committee); Michael McDonnell and Elizabeth Lumsden, RoSPA; Nora Solesbury (Primary Care Trust); Karen Gardiner (Domestic Abuse Forum); Alan Williams (Strathclyde Fire Brigade); Bob Paterson (Victim Support); and Derek Spence (Recreation Services, East Ayrshire Council).

**CHAIR:** Jean McFarlane, Vice-Chair.

#### **MINUTES OF LAST MEETING**

1. There were submitted (circulated) and approved as a correct record, the Minutes of the Meeting held on 3 December 2003.

#### **ACTIVITIES OF FORUM MEMBERS**

##### **2.1 Women's Aid**

Isabelle MacDonald reported:

- on the organisation's receipt the previous week of the Community Safety Forum Award which had been appreciated both by the organisation itself, and the women who used its services;
- on information about the "Touch" exhibition which had been held during November/ December and had been contributed to by men, women and children on their feelings about domestic abuse. The exhibition was now being rolled out to various venues in the area;
- on the Zero Tolerance education pack being actively used in several local secondary schools;
- on various training initiatives currently being carried out; and

- on the progress towards the new refuge, where it was hoped that works would commence in July 2004 and be completed either at the end of this year or the beginning of next year.

## **2.2 Kilmarnock Central Local Committee**

Maurice Ashbridge reported:

- on the concerns which had been raised by local residents regarding the safety aspects of certain proposals associated with the B7081 Kilmarnock to Crosshouse Quality Public Transport Corridor;
- on the concerns over the safety implications associated with the proposed rebuild of Grange Academy; and
- on issues relating to the proposed Waste Transfer Station at Moorfield, and the Community Council's concerns.

It was agreed that concerns that had been raised by Mr Ashbridge on behalf of Kilmarnock Central Local Committee would be passed to the relevant Department(s) of the Council.

## **2.3 East Ayrshire South Forum on Disability (EASFOD)**

Jean Smith reported:

- firstly, a request that EASFOD's concerns about advertisement boards and items for sale being placed on pavements be passed on to shopkeepers. Such a practice led to wheelchair users or people with prams having to step on to the road;
- enquired whether the new pedestrian crossings in the district would incorporate the necessary facilities to assist persons with visual/hearing impairments, ie a vibrating panel;
- that together with the support of the Rehabilitation Officers, she had attended Yipworld and Cumnock Academy to give a talk on visual impairment. Should any other group wish a visit they should contact Brenda Morrison, the Information and Advice Worker in Community Care; and
- a request for the training video which was available about "Kassel Kerbs".

It was agreed:

- (i) to note the Senior Road Safety Training Officer's affirmation that the new control boxes at crossings did include the necessary facilities;
- (ii) that the concerns that had been raised with regard to the obstruction of pavements would be passed to the appropriate Department/Police; and
- (iii) that investigations would be carried out with regard to the request for the video.

## **2.4 East Ayrshire (South) Against Crime**

Jean Smith reported:

- on arrangements for the primary school quiz which would be held on 29 April in Cumnock Academy;
- that a number of personal attack alarms had been purchased by the Panel for purchase by individuals;

- that Jim Richmond, the Police Liaison Officer, would attend the next meeting of the Panel to give a talk on the new Neighbourhood Wardens;
- progress with regard to the Bogus Callers Initiative; and
- on the LOCH Watch Scheme which had been formed in the Cumnock Area.

## **2.5 East Ayrshire (North) Crime Prevention Panel**

Jean McFarlane reported:

- that the Panel members had been pleased to learn of the MBE which had been awarded to Max Flemmich of Darvel who was a former Chairperson of the Panel;
- on her attendance at the recent Andrew Nisbet Speechmaking Competition in Cumnock Academy when the winners had been Stewarton Academy;
- on the Community Awards ceremony when she had received, on behalf of the Panel, a Certificate of Acknowledgement to Community Safety;
- that plans were going ahead for the school quiz for Primary 7 pupils on 21 April 2004; and
- that meetings had been taking place with the Crime Prevention Panels throughout Ayrshire to discuss the possibility of a joint venture at the Open Golf Tournament in Troon in July with a view to making crime prevention information available at the Tournament.

The Head of Protective Services reported that Jean McFarlane had won the Scottish Accident Prevention Council Award for 2003 under the 'voluntary' category for her work in the field of crime and accident prevention. The nomination was made by Mairi Fulton on behalf of East Ayrshire North Crime Prevention Panel.

Jean was congratulated by the Forum with Councillor Carmichael's congratulations, through the Head of Protective Services, also being recorded.

## **2.6 Doon Valley Local Committee**

Bill Barr reported:

- on the Cycle Proficiency tests which he was carrying out again this year in Drongan.

## **2.7 Strathclyde Police**

WPC Marie Nichol reported:

- on the work which had been carried out together with Victim Support in an effort to increase referrals, and the success so far as well as the work which was being carried out with the Domestic Violence Unit at Ayr Police Station;
- on the initiative to target young persons under the influence of alcohol; and
- on the Bogus Callers initiative.

## **2.8 Northern Area Local Committee**

Charles Lindsay referred:

- to the Speechmaking Competition which he had attended, with his congratulations going to the winners, Stewarton Academy;

- on the Community Awards Ceremony he had attended on behalf of the Local Committee;
- again, to the speeding in David Dale Avenue, Stewarton and on his request regarding the widening of the corner of David Dale Avenue, matters he had raised at the last meeting with no response received; and
- to problems he had observed locally of leaflets being left protruding from letter boxes, which could be an invitation to burglars, and he passed a photograph round to demonstrate this.

It was agreed that the Head of Roads and Transportation respond to Mr Lindsay about the speeding/road safety issues he had raised.

### **2.9 Irvine Valley Local Committee**

Frank Dawson enquired about the possibility of extending the Twenty's Plenty Scheme to other areas. He particularly cited Catherine Drive, Galston.

It was agreed that the Head of Roads and Transportation be asked to respond directly to Mr Dawson on this point.

### **2.10 Environmental Health**

Eleanor Dewar reported that food safety courses were ongoing.

### **2.11 Homes and Technical Services**

John Pilkington reported:

- on the successful bid under the Building Strong, Safe and Attractive Communities, and the recruitment thereon of the community wardens;
- on the joint mediation service which had been available, together with South Ayrshire Council, for the past two years, and the new funding which had been secured to roll out this initiative, and which would now cover private households as well as Council tenants. Volunteers were sought to be trained up for this new area and anyone who was interested could approach John direct for the five day training course which would be offered during March/April.

### **2.12 Strathclyde Fire Brigade**

Garry Milne:

- thanked the Forum for the Award received last week. He reported that Community Fire Safety Officer Tony Kane had also received a commendation from SAPC;
- that fatalities had dropped during 2003;
- reported on statistics with regard to smoking-related accidents;
- on the mobile incident unit which was located at Kilmarnock Fire Station as part of the anti-terrorist initiative.

## **SAFETY CAMERAS**

3. There was submitted a report dated 17 February 2004 (circulated) by the Director of Development Services which had been submitted following the decision at the last meeting that the Road Division investigate the crash history of Dundonald Road to determine whether consideration as a possible safety camera site was merited.

It was agreed:

- (i) that the Director of Development Services be asked to provide Committee with information as to where the criteria were laid down, as used to determine the siting of safety cameras; and
- (ii) otherwise to note the contents of the report.

#### **PARKING OF MOTOR VEHICLES ON FOOTPATHS**

- 4. There was submitted and noted a report dated 17 February 2004 (circulated) by the Director of Community Services which advised the Forum of the findings in relation to vehicles parking on public footpaths.

#### **ROAD SAFETY PROGRAMME**

- 5. There was submitted a report dated 17 February 2004 (circulated) by the Director of Development Services which informed the Forum of work carried out by Road Safety Training staff in the Department of Development Services.

It was agreed:

- (i) to note that the World Health Organisation were holding a Road Safety Day on 7 April, and that as part of this initiative a baton was going round Scotland A photo call would be arranged for this area;
- (ii) to note that a Keystone Driver Vision Tester had been purchased with the help of Community Safety Small Grants Funding and was available, should Members wish to try it out after the meeting; and
- (iii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

#### **DALMELLINGTON GRASS FIRES INITIATIVE**

- 6. There was submitted and noted a report dated 18 February 2004 (circulated) by the Director of Community Services which advised the Forum of the Grass Fires Initiative which was taking place in Dalmellington during February.

Councillors Reeves and Dinwoodie left the meeting at this point.

#### **SECONDARY SCHOOLS SPEECHMAKING COMPETITION: ANDREW NISBET TROPHY**

- 7. There was submitted a report dated 10 February 2004 (circulated) by the Director of Community Services which advised the Forum of the outcome of the Secondary Schools Speechmaking Competition.

It was agreed:

- (i) to note that the Chair, Councillor Carmichael, together with the Head of Protective Services, would be attending the regional heat of the national competition on 5 March 2004 to support Stewarton Academy; and
- (ii) otherwise to note the contents of the report.

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

8. There was submitted a report dated 18 February 2004 (circulated) by the Director of Community Services which advised the Forum on developments and initiatives undertaken by the Community Safety Co-ordinator.

It was agreed:

- (i) that the possibility of including the problem raised earlier in the meeting about literature in letter boxes be taken up as an initiative; and
- (ii) otherwise to note the contents of the report.

Councillor George Smith joined the meeting during discussion of this item.

**ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS**

**WOMEN'S FORUM WORKING GROUP**

9. The Head of Protective Services reported, and the Forum noted, on the series of events which had been arranged to mark International Women's Day on 8 March, and he encouraged members to pick up leaflets at their local library or local office, to find out about some of the events which were being held, some of which covered community safety issues.

**SPRINKLER SAFETY**

10. Following various points which were raised about the importance of sprinkler systems, it was agreed that the Committee receive a presentation at the next meeting from the Fire Brigade on sprinkler safety.

The meeting terminated at 1108 hrs.