

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

COMMUNITY SAFETY FORUM – 7 JUNE 2006

SCOTTISH ACCIDENT PREVENTION COUNCIL - WATER AND LEISURE SAFETY COMMITTEE

Report by Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To advise the Forum of the business dealt with at the last meeting of SAPC Water and Leisure Safety Committee which is chaired by Janet Castro of the Royal Life Saving Society.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Water and Leisure Safety Committee meets quarterly and the last meeting was held on 5th April 2006 in the Dower House, Dean Castle Country Park, Kilmarnock. East Ayrshire Council was represented at the meeting by Councillor J O'Neill and the Licensing and Community Safety Manager, who deputised for the Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services.

3. DISCUSSION

3.1 Presentation

- 3.1.1 The scheduled presentation on Fire and Rescue Service response to incidents occurring on water had been cancelled due to a bereavement.

3.2 Business of the meeting

3.2.1 SAPC Schools' Public Speaking Competition

In regard to the poor response by schools to the Schools' Public Speaking Competition, Councillor O'Neill considered that the timing of the event may clash with preliminary examinations. Further discussion ensued regarding timing, relevance and subject matter. The Chair agreed to take this matter to the next meeting of the SAPC Executive.

3.2.2 SAPC Executive

The Chair provided a resume of the latest SAPC Executive Committee meeting held on 22 February 2006 at Paisley.

3.2.3 SAPC Review

The Chair also indicated that an external review of SAPC was now underway. It is hoped that the review will clearly identify the worth of SAPC and its constituent committees.

3.2.4 Fireworks safety

Councillor O'Neill spoke on the topic of fireworks safety and asked if the current Scottish Executive initiative had addressed the situation as perceived by the public. There was general acceptance that the new legislation had helped but had not fully resolved the ongoing random and inconsiderate use of fireworks. Councillor O'Neill also asked if there had been any monitoring of the situation and what would happen later this year. The Chair agreed to progress the matter.

3.2.5 SAPC Conference

Members were reminded that the Annual Conference would be held at Crieff Hydro on 11 and 12 September. The Depute Minister for Justice had been approached to deliver the keynote speech. The proposed workshop session was discussed and a number of topics advanced which will be taken to the next SAPC Executive Committee meeting.

3.2.5 Matters arising from 2005 Conference

The Chair asked Councillor O'Neill if he would be prepared to address the matter of 'toddler safety' which was raised at the 2005 Conference. Councillor O'Neill agreed to progress this issue once directorial changes in East Ayrshire Council had been given suitable time to bed in.

4. FINANCIAL/POLICY/LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Nil.

5. CONCLUSIONS

5.1 The members discussed a range of issues, in particular the proposed workshop session of the 2006 Conference.

6. RECOMMENDATION

6.1 Members of the Community Safety Forum are invited to note the content of this report.

William Stafford
Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services
WS/DJ May 2006

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

1. Water and Leisure Safety Committee papers issued by Melville Mitchell, Secretary, on 20 March 2006.

Implementation Officer – johnfcrawford@east-ayrshire.gov.uk