

EAST AYRSHIRE COMMUNITY SAFETY FORUM – 3 MARCH 2004

DALMELLINGTON GRASS FIRES INITIATIVE

Report by Director of Community Services

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1. To advise the Forum of the Grass Fires Initiative that is taking place in Dalmellington during February.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1. Last year Strathclyde Fire Brigade attended 226 incidents related to secondary fires of which 179 were grass fires. There has been an inherent problem in these area and 2003 was one of the worst years for these types of fires.
- 2.2. A steering group was formed in March 2003 to discuss ways of combating the problem this year and in the future. The steering group consists of members from East Ayrshire Community Safety Unit: Strathclyde Fire Brigade; Strathclyde Police; Forestry Commission Scotland; Scottish Lowlands; the Dalmellington Initiative and local landowner Mark Gibson.

3. SCHOOLS INITIATIVE

- 3.1. An experiential type learning event will be held at Bellsbank IFE wing on 24th, 25th and 27th February. Primary 6 and 7 pupils from Bellsbank; Dalmellington; St Xavier's; Littlemill; Patna and Dalrymple and years 1 and 2 from Doon Academy will attend over the three days.
- 3.2. Agencies taking part are Strathclyde Fire Brigade – video of fires where there are not appliances to attend and the possible consequences; Strathclyde Police – enforcement and the law; Forestry Commission Scotland – desolation, wildlife and the role call of death and Dalmellington Initiative – what can happen to your area if you don't set fires.

4. PUBLICITY

- 4.1. A press release has been issued to the Cumnock Chronicle.
- 4.2. Leaflets are being delivered by the Scouts to all households in the area.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 Projects are financed from existing budgets held by the partnership organisations and from the Scottish Executive Community Safety Awards.

4. LEGAL/ POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1. Nil

5. CONCLUSIONS

- 5.1. Pending the evaluation of this initiative, it is the intention to roll out the event to other areas in the authority where there are similar problems.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6.1. It is recommended that the Forum note the contents of this report.

W Stafford
Director of Community Services

WS/AW

18 February 2004

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

Any person wishing to inspect the background papers listed above should telephone 01563 576111 and ask for Mr John Crawford, Head of Protective Services or email john.crawford@east-ayrshire.gov.uk

Implementation Officer: Ann Williams

