

EAST AYRSHIRE COMMUNITY SAFETY FORUM

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 2 MARCH 2005 AT 1000 HRS IN THE MEETING ROOM, COUNCIL HEADQUARTERS, LONDON ROAD, KILMARNOCK

PRESENT: Councillors Jim O'Neill (Chair), Daniel Coffey, Gordon Cree, Harry Wilson, John Campbell, George Smith and William Menzies; Community Representatives Billy Sullivan (Kilmarnock North Local Committee), Joan Wark (Kilmarnock South Local Committee), Charles M Lindsay (Northern Area Local Committee), Frank Dawson (Irvine Valley Local Committee), William Barr (Doon Valley Local Committee), Jean McFarlane (East Ayrshire North Crime Prevention Panel), Nora Solesbury (NHS Ayrshire and Arran Community Division), Chief Inspector Robert Brown and Sgt Allan Morley (Strathclyde Police), Jean Smith (East Ayrshire South Forum on Disability and East Ayrshire {South} Against Crime); Doug Whitton (Victim Support) Wilma Hunter (Women's Aid), and Karen Gardiner (Domestic Abuse Forum).

ATTENDING: John F Crawford, Head of Protective Services; Ann Williams, Community Safety Co-ordinator; Bill Petherick, Assistant Community Safety Co-ordinator; Eleanor Dewar, Environmental Health Officer; Gerald Cummins, Senior Road Safety Training Officer; and Jennifer Morrison, Administrative Officer.

APOLOGIES: Councillor Jim Raymond, Maurice Ashbridge, Kilmarnock Central Local Committee; William Lees, Cumnock Area Local Committee; Margaret Campbell, Safer Groups; Elizabeth Lumsden, RoSPA; Kilmarnock Forum on Disability; and Gemma Sim, Strathclyde Fire Brigade.

CHAIR: Councillor Jim O'Neill, Chair.

MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

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

MATTER ARISING

1.1 M77 Slip Roads/Emergency Access

The Head of Protective Services reported that following his intimation to the Head of Roads and Transportation, as agreed at the last meeting, the Head of Roads and Transportation had now written twice to the Scottish Executive with the Committee's concerns over this matter, with no response yet received.

It was noted that the Irvine Valley Local Committee had also added its concerns to those of the Community Safety Forum, submitted to the Scottish Executive.

It was agreed that if necessary a response would be pursued from the Scottish Executive by the Head of Roads.

ACTIVITIES OF FORUM PARTICIPANTS

2.1 East Ayrshire South against Crime

Jean Smith reported:

Lochwatch

- That the Lochwatch AGM had been held on 22 February with new office bearers elected;
- That a successful well attended Competition had been held in October; and
- That a Youth Division Project for the Cumnock and Doon area was planned for later in the year.
- That interest had been expressed from Local Women's Groups for personal alarms;
- That there was one new Neighbourhood Watch Scheme in Cumnock;
- On a "Drug Proof your Kids" joint working initiative with local groups in drugs education for parents. One course had now been completed in Ochiltree with a second course planned for the Cumnock area.
 - That the Panel had applied for funding to provide elderly and vulnerable persons with travel pass folders; and
 - The School quiz was being planned for May.

2.2 Easfod

Jean Smith:

- Spoke about the worrying safety aspects of children going door to door seeking sponsorship;
- Thanked the Council Officers who had judged the recent competition; and
- Reported that updates had been received on recent traffic surveys which had indicated the need for a filter lane from Barrhill Road, Cumnock turning right into Auchinleck Road, as well as the need for a new crossing at Holmhead when the St Joseph's campus had closed. This would assist pupils from Greenmill Primary and Cumnock Academy.

It was agreed that the Senior Roads Safety Training Officer would meet with Jean following the meeting to discuss the relevant Road Safety points she had raised.

2.3 East Ayrshire North Crime Prevention Panel

Jean McFarlane reported:

- That the Christmas Initiative had been a success with eight panel Members attending throughout the day in the Burns Mall with a variety of information distributed;
- On her attendance at the speech making competition for the Andrew Nisbet Trophy at Stewarton Academy;
- That the Panel Initiative for Spring was the inter schools quiz for primary 7 pupils proposed for April in Grange Academy, with sponsorship obtained from Asda, the Odeon Cinema and Loudoun Castle Park;
- That safety alarms were available at Kilmarnock Police Station; and
- That a Group had met to lay the foundations of a Federation of Voluntary Organisations in East Ayrshire (North).

2.4 Kilmarnock South Local Committee

Joan Wark:

- Reported on the new street lighting erected at Marchdyke Crescent/Caprington Avenue;
- Queried whether part of a grassed area of land to the rear of a block of flats at Marchdyke Crescent could be converted for use for parking;
- That the Sky Project continued to go from strength to strength; and
- Enquired about the possibility of a crossing on Ayr Road, Kilmarnock.

It was agreed that the Senior Road Safety Training Officer would speak to Joan following the meeting regarding the crossing enquiry.

2.5 Kilmarnock North Local Committee

Billy Sullivan:

- Referred to the closure of the Lindsay Drive Post Office but thanked the Local MP, MSP and Councillors for adding their support to the campaign for its retention;
- Reported on the continuing problems with the buses in an area in New Farm Loch leading to a request to Margaret Jamison for a Public Meeting; and
- Reported on local concerns on a proposal by Vodafone to erect a mast in Grassyards Road.

2.6 Victim Support

Doug Whitton introduced himself to the meeting as the new Victim Support Co-ordinator. He then went on to report:

- that current figures showed an increase of 20% in referrals;
- that it was hoped to expand the organisation and provide a stronger service; and
- that Victim Support had just celebrated 15 years established.

2.7 Doon Valley Local Committee

William Barr advised that there was no report from the Local Committee on this occasion.

2.8 Irvine Valley Local Committee

Frank Dawson advised that there was no report from the Local Committee on this occasion.

2.9 Northern Area Local Committee

Charles M Lindsay reported on a number of issues relating to Road Safety matters in Stewarton, and clarification was given on one point with regard to conditions which could be attached to Planning Consents to require Developers to provide Road Safety Measures.

2.10 NHS Ayrshire and Arran Communities Division

Nora Solesbury reported:

- that a disability awareness advisor was now in post; and

- that the Facilities Department was making progress to improve access to facilities in order to be Disability Discrimination Act compliant.

2.11 Women's Aid

Wilma Hunter reported that Women's Aid had provided approximately 70 safety packs to women throughout East Ayrshire.

2.12 Domestic Abuse Forum

Karen Gardiner reported:

- that the organisation had began to set its objectives for the next three years;
- on a recent seminar with Local Employers on how they could support their staff;
- on the plans to pilot in November a tool kit to a few Local Companies;
- on free multi-range training which was on offer with booking forms available from the Organisation's Office; and
- on a public awareness raising campaign currently being worked on.

2.13 Environmental Health

Eleanor Dewar reported a new member of staff who had joined the team.

ROAD SAFETY PROGRAMME

3. There was submitted a report dated 15 February 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.

It was agreed:

- (i) that the Senior Road Safety Training Officer would take up the point with the Headteacher of Darvel Primary School about the use of the road humps by pupils for crossing the road, after he had taken advice on the matter from the Roads Engineers; and
- (ii) otherwise to note the contents of the report.

SECONDARY SCHOOL SPEECHMAKING COMPETITION: ANDREW NISBET TROPHY

4. There was submitted a report dated 14 February 2005 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services which advised the Forum of the outcome of the Secondary School Speechmaking Competition.

It was agreed:

- (i) that the Secretary to the Forum write a letter of encouragement on behalf of the Forum to Stewarton Academy, the winners of the Andrew Nisbet Trophy, in respect of their forthcoming participation representing East Ayrshire at a regional heat of the national competition in March; and
- (ii) otherwise to note the contents of the report.

COMMUNITY SAFETY CO-ORDINATOR – REVIEW OF EVENTS AND INIATIVES

5. There was submitted a report dated 14 February 2005 (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 the Chair had agreed that the Forum would receive at a future meeting a presentation on the Road Runner Initiative; and
- (ii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

IMPROVING COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLEMENTATION GROUP

6. There was submitted a report dated 21 February 2005 (circulated) by Superintendent Liz Weir: Lead Officer Community Safety which advised the Forum of the ongoing actions within the improving Community Safety Implementation Group in response to the Community Plan Action Plan on Community Safety.

It was agreed:

- (i) to note that Forum Members could continue to submit views on Community Safety issues to the Implementation Group; and
- (ii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

DONATION TO DANGER DETECTIVES INITIATIVE

7. The Forum noted that the Vice Chair Mrs Jean McFarlane had donated £150 to the Council's Danger Detectives Initiative. This donation was made following the money she had received from the Scottish Accident Prevention Council as part of her award for 2003 under the Voluntary Category for her work in the field of Crime and Accident Prevention. A photocall session then took place with the Local Press in recognition of this kind gesture.

The meeting terminated at 1108 hrs.