

## **EAST AYRSHIRE COMMUNITY SAFETY FORUM**

### **MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 1 DECEMBER 2004 AT 1000 HOURS IN THE MEETING ROOM, COUNCIL HEADQUARTERS, LONDON ROAD, KILMARNOCK**

**PRESENT:** Councillors Jim O'Neill (Chair), Brian Reeves, Gordon Cree, Harry Wilson, John Campbell, Jim Raymond, and Elaine Dinwoodie; Community Representatives William Barr (Doon Valley Local Committee); William Lees, (Cumnock Area Local Committee); Joan Wark (Kilmarnock South Local Committee); Frank Dawson (Irvine Valley Local Committee); Billy Sullivan (Kilmarnock North Local Committee); and Charles M Lindsay (Northern Area Local Committee); Jean McFarlane (East Ayrshire North Crime Prevention Panel); Nora Solesbury (NHS Ayrshire and Arran Community Division); Richard Duncan, Alex Lindsay, Alan Williams and Gemma Sim (Strathclyde Fire Brigade); Tom Meikle (Promoting Kilmarnock); Jean Smith (East Ayrshire South Forum on Disability and East Ayrshire {South} Against Crime); Wilma Hunter (Women's Aid); and Fiona Andrew, Kilmarnock Forum on Disability.

**ATTENDING:** John F Crawford, Head of Protective Services; John Pilkington, Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy Officer; Sandy Gillatt, Chief Engineer (Roads); Ann Williams, Community Safety Co-ordinator; Eleanor Dewar, Environmental Health Officer; Alan Murray, Team Leader, Community Learning and Development; and Jennifer Morrison, Administrative Officer.

**APOLOGIES:** Councillors Daniel Coffey and William Menzies; Maurice Ashbridge (Kilmarnock Central Local Committee); Karen Gardiner (Domestic Abuse Forum); Victim Support; Mary McGinn (AAHT); Linda McFadzean (Ayrshire and Arran NHS Board); Angela Shevlin (East Ayrshire LHCC); and Elizabeth Lumsden (RoSPA).

**CHAIR:** Jean McFarlane, Vice Chair for Item 1, thereafter, Councillor Jim O'Neill, Chair.

#### **APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR**

1. Following Councillor Carmichael's resignation as Chair of Community Services Committee and consequential standing down as a member of the Community Safety Forum, Jean McFarlane, Vice Chair invited Members to appoint a Chair, and it was unanimously agreed that Councillor Jim O'Neill be appointed Chair.

Councillor Jim O'Neill then took the Chair and paid tribute both to the work done by his predecessor, Councillor Carmichael and to the continuing support given to the Forum by the Vice-Chair, Jean McFarlane.

#### **PRESENTATION ON THE COUNCIL AND STRATHCLYDE POLICE'S ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR STRATEGY**

2. John Pilkington, Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy Officer gave a presentation on the Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy which was a partnership effort being developed and prepared jointly by the Council and Strathclyde Police.

Members of the Forum were then given the opportunity to ask questions on the presentation.

The Chair then thanked the Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy Officer for the presentation.

Councillor Gordon Cree left the meeting at this point.

### **MINUTES OF LAST MEETING**

3. There were submitted (circulated) and approved as a correct record, the Minutes of the Meeting held on 22 September 2004.

### **ACTIVITIES OF FORUM PARTICIPANTS**

#### **4.1 Women's Aid**

Wilma Hunter advised that mobile phones had now been added to the safety package offered by Women's Aid.

#### **4.2 Environmental Health**

Eleanor Dewar advised:

- of a recent seminar organised in conjunction with Healthy Work in Scotland, the Health Board and other Ayrshire Councils when small contractors had been given advice on the new asbestos regulations;
- on recent staff training carried out in food hygiene matters.

#### **4.3 Kilmarnock Forum on Disability**

Fiona Andrew advised that there was nothing to report from the Forum on Disability on this occasion.

#### **4.4 Northern Area Local Committee**

Charles Lindsay advised that the problem of rollerblading in Fleming Drive, Stewarton appeared to have been resolved following a visit by the Community Policeman who had raised the matter at the Local Primary School.

#### **4.5 Irvine Valley Local Committee**

Frank Dawson reported on the success of the Road Runner Initiative which he had attended recently.

#### **4.6 NHS Ayrshire and Arran Community Division**

Nora Solesbury advised on the recent appointment of a Disability Discrimination adviser who was hoping to cover the whole of the area.

#### **4.7 Promoting Kilmarnock**

Tom Meikle reported on the recent switching on of the Christmas lights in Kilmarnock, the only issue of note was the misuse of aerosol sprays including snow and glitter sprays.

The Chair advised the Forum that he had the previous day issued a press release on the matter, which included an appeal to shopkeepers to comply with the ban on the sale of spray paint to under 16s.

#### **4.8 Kilmarnock North Local Committee**

Billy Sullivan reported:

- (i) that the Director of Postwatch Scotland had given their support against the closure of the Lindsay Drive Post Office;
- (ii) that following a recent meeting with Councillor McIntyre and Councillor Cree and the Head of Roads and Transportation about the amount of buses going

into the schemes in New Farm Loch a letter was being sent to Stagecoach requesting a meeting to discuss the matter;

It was noted by the Forum that the local MP, MSP and Councillors were against the closure of the Post Office.

#### **4.9 Kilmarnock South Local Committee**

Joan Wark provided a full report on the activities of the Sky project which had been set up recently for young people in the Shortlees area.

#### **4.10 Doon Valley Local Committee**

Bill Barr reported:

- on the success of the Road Runner Initiative which he had recently attended, intimating that this would be a worthwhile project to roll-out throughout East Ayrshire should finances be available;
- that the height of some road signs at junctions obscured visibility for drivers.

The Chief Engineer reported that any such instances with regard to road signs be reported to the Head of Roads and Transportation in order that appropriate action could be taken, where necessary.

#### **4.11 Cumnock Area Local Committee**

William Lees reported on various issues in the area including (i) road markings in New Cumnock (ii) the new houses being built at Ronald View, Auchinleck and whether a new footpath was to be built and (iii) the problem of the utility companies digging pavements and not allowing enough room for access for people and wheelchairs.

It was agreed that the Chief Engineer would speak to William Lees after the meeting to take a note in full of the above points.

#### **4.12 East Ayrshire South Against Crime**

Jean Smith reported:

- on the success of the Loch Watch junior fishing competition;
- that new fishing clubs had expressed an interest in participating in the Loch Watch project;
- that the Panel was investigating the possibility of local banks incorporating the "East Ayrshire South Against Crime" logo on the folders they issued for use with bank cards.

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

Jean Smith:

- reported on her ongoing attendance at local organisations to give talks on visual impairment;
- reported that local organisations had approached the Forum on Disability for advice on the regulations associated with the Disability Discrimination Act;
- reiterated the point raised by William Lees about the utility companies blocking footpath access and furthermore complained about the length of time the obstructions were left in place.

The Chief Engineer advised that he would report these issues to the Roads Inspector.

It was agreed that the Forum receive a report at a future meeting on the new laws which would be coming into force to improve the co-ordination of roadworks by the utilities. Meanwhile, the Chief Engineer would raise the matter at the East Ayrshire Roads and Utilities Liaison Group.

#### **4.14 Strathclyde Fire Brigade**

Gemma Sim reported:

- on the successful East Ayrshire Challenge Fund bid resulting in the purchase of more smoke alarms for vulnerable people;
- on the launch of the Nursery Packs Initiative;
- on the success of the fireworks display stand at the Kay Park on November 5.

The Forum expressed its appreciation of the bravery of the officers from the fire service who had attended the fire at the Kay Park monument and wished the officers who had been injured a speedy recovery.

The representatives from the Fire Brigade thanked the Forum for its good wishes, which would be passed on to the officers involved.

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

Jean McFarlane:

- paid tribute to Councillor Carmichael's term as Chair of the Community Safety Forum, thanked him for his support and spoke of his particular interest and work in connection with Sprinkler Safety;
- referred to the recent sudden death of Forum member Bob Paterson, Victim Support who contributed greatly to the growth and success of Victim Support in this area. She had sent a letter of condolences to Bob's widow on behalf of the Crime Prevention Panel and the Forum;
- advised that the Panel constitution had been updated and should be endorsed at the next meeting in January;
- intimated that a particular goal this year for the Panel had been to publicise its work by attending as many public events as possible. As a result four new members had joined. The next event would be on Saturday 11 December when members would be in attendance at the Burns Mall distributing information on Crime Prevention;
- reported that the Panel had made a financial contribution towards the purchase of an updated "drugs case" for use by the drug education officer when giving talks in schools or to interested groups;
- that the improvement in the use of fireworks this year was dramatic, and that the Official Fireworks Display in the Kay Park had been greatly enjoyed by the Public;
- reported that she had attended a meeting to continue discussions towards the establishment of a Federation of Organisations for East Ayrshire (North);
- reported on her attendance at the Road Runner Initiative which had been a success;

- on the forthcoming "Big World" Initiative.

The Chair echoed Jean McFarlane's condolences to Bob Paterson's widow.

Councillor Raymond left the meeting during this item.

### **ROAD SAFETY PROGRAMME**

5. There was submitted a report dated 17 November 2004 (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 Chief Engineer would include the suggestion made about the provision of zig-zag lines at David Dale Avenue, Stewarton when considering the measures to be taken at all schools; and
- (ii) otherwise to note the contents of the report.

### **PEDESTRIAN CROSSINGS**

6. There was submitted and noted a report dated 17 November 2004 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Development and Property Services which advised the Forum of the upgrading of pedestrian crossings for use by persons with a sensory impairment.

### **M77 SLIP ROADS/EMERGENCY ACCESS**

7. There was submitted a report dated 17 November 2004 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Development and Property Services which advised the Forum on the implications for emergency access to the M77 should the south facing slip roads at the Kingswell Junction not be constructed.

It was agreed:-

- (i) that the Forum Secretary write to the Head of Roads and Transportation requesting that he in turn write to the Scottish Executive conveying the Forum's concerns following the new information which had emerged at the meeting that Strathclyde Fire Brigade whilst accepting that the motorway conformed with guidelines, would prefer these slip-roads to be constructed; and
- (ii) otherwise to note the contents of the report.

### **ROAD RUNNER INITIATIVE**

8. There was submitted a report dated 16 November 2004 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services which informed the Forum of the Road Runner Experiential Pilot event which was held on Tuesday 16 November 2004.

It was agreed:-

- (i) that the Forum would welcome the extension of the Road Runner Initiative or similar to other schools throughout the district, and this was supported in principle by the Head of Protective Services whilst acknowledging that funding would require to be identified;

- (ii) to recognise the work done by the emergency services and that the Secretary be authorised to write letters of thanks to the relevant officers for their contribution to the initiative;
- (iii) to send a special letter/gift of thanks to Mr and Mrs McKenzie for volunteering to come forward in an effort to prevent more young deaths on the road;
- (iv) to note that the Forum would receive an update report once the school pupils involved in the project had reported back with their comments on the Initiative; and
- (v) otherwise to note the contents of the report.

#### **FIREWORK SAFETY CAMPAIGN**

9. There was submitted a report dated 17 November 2004 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services which advised Forum members of the firework display which had incorporated a Fireworks Safety Initiative on 5 November 2004.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to thank members of the Forum who had agreed to take part in the working Group for Firework Safety Initiatives;
- (ii) to note that a report on Fireworks Injuries would be submitted to the next meeting; and
- (iii) otherwise to note the contents of the report.

#### **NURSERY PACKS TO PRE-5 ESTABLISHMENTS**

10. There was submitted a report dated 16 November 2004 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services which advised the Forum on an Initiative to introduce safety through play into all pre-5 establishments in East Ayrshire.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to note that further to the Fire Service's contribution that the other emergency services would be invited to add to the packs in future; and
- (ii) otherwise to note the contents of the report.

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

11. There was submitted and noted a report dated 17 November 2004 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services which advised the Forum of the business dealt with at the last meeting of the SAPC Water and Leisure Safety Committee.

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

12. There was submitted and noted a report dated 15 November 2004 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services which advised Forum members of developments and initiatives undertaken by the Community Safety Co-ordinator.

**DATES OF FUTURE MEETING**

13. The Forum noted that meetings next year would be held on Wednesday 2 March 2005, Wednesday 1 June 2005, Wednesday 21 September 2005 and Thursday 1 December 2005, all meetings at 1000 hours.

The meeting terminated at 1150 hours.