

EAST AYRSHIRE COMMUNITY SAFETY FORUM

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 1 DECEMBER 2005 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, George Smith, William Menzies and Elaine Dinwoodie; Community Representatives John McIvor (Kilmarnock Central Local Committee); Joan Wark (Kilmarnock South Local Committee); Charles M Lindsay (Northern Area Local Committee); William Lees (Cumnock Area Local Committee); and William Barr (Doon Valley Local Committee); Jean McFarlane (East Ayrshire North Crime Prevention Panel); M G Burinski, Ayrshire and Arran Health Board; Trixie Sheddon, Strathclyde Fire and Rescue; Jean Smith (East Ayrshire South Forum on Disability and East Ayrshire {South} Against Crime); Doug Whitton (Victim Support); Nora Solesbury, Primary Care Trust; Dorothy McGowan, Kilmarnock Forum on Disability and Karen Gardiner, Domestic Abuse Forum.

ATTENDING: John F Crawford, Head of Protective Services; Ann Williams, Community Safety Co-ordinator; Eleanor Dewar, Environmental Health Officer; David Johnstone, Licensing and Community Safety Manager; Jim Melville, Senior Road Safety Officer; David Arnott, Analyst (Community Safety) and Jennifer Morrison, Administrative Officer.

APOLOGIES: Councillor Daniel Coffey, Superintendent Elizabeth Weir, Strathclyde Police; Billy Sullivan (Kilmarnock North Local Committee); Frank Dawson (Irvine Valley Local Committee); and Eamonn Lyons, Strathclyde Fire and Rescue.

CHAIR: Councillor Jim O'Neill, Chair.

CHAIR'S REMARKS

1. The Chair welcomed Trixie Sheddon, Strathclyde Fire and Rescue; David Arnott, Analyst (Community Safety) and Jim Melville, Senior Road Safety Officer to their first meeting.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

- 2.1 There were submitted and approved as a correct record, the Minutes of the Meeting held on 21 September 2005 (circulated).

2.2 MATTERS ARISING

Following points raised it was agreed that the Senior Road Safety Officer would request that the Head of Transportation provide responses to John McIvor and Jean Smith, as had been agreed at the last meeting, on the issues of (i) timescales for the kerb lowering works in Gatehead and (ii) the X76 service bus use of the stances at Kilmarnock Bus Station.

Charles M Lindsay reported that the 20's plenty sign in David Dale Avenue, Stewarton was working properly but was now covered in graffiti, and it was agreed to ask the Head of Roads and Transportation to investigate this.

Councillor William Menzies joined the meeting at this point.

ACTIVITIES OF FORUM PARTICIPANTS

3.1 East Ayrshire South Against Crime

Jean Smith reported that the organisation's AGM had taken place on 24 November.

3.2 Easfod

Jean Smith reported that the Council's Service Manager for Older People had attended the group's last meeting to take note and deal with complaints received regarding operational difficulties of the new Meals at Home Service.

The Group had also been consulted recently on 6 different proposals for road calming as well as on the bus corridor route from Mauchline to Cumnock.

3.3 Cumnock Area Local Committee

In response to a point raised by William Lees it was agreed to request that the Head of Roads and Transportation take up with AMEY the performance of the street lighting at Afton Brigend, New Cumnock and respond direct to Mr Lees.

3.4 Kilmarnock Central Local Committee

John McIvor reported that there was no report from the Local Committee on this occasion.

3.5 Doon Valley Local Committee

William Barr reported that the community safety grant award to Drongan Health Initiative had been put towards football, netball and kick-boxing, off road biking sessions and an expressive arts programme.

3.6 Kilmarnock South Local Committee

Joan Wark updated the Forum on the activities of the Sky Project.

It was brought to Joan's attention that applications would be issued after the new year for the Local Action Fund, which could be of interest to the Project.

3.7 East Ayrshire North Crime Prevention Panel

Jean McFarlane reported:-

- (i) that the new Panel Secretary was PC Kerri Martin, Community Safety Department, Kilmarnock;
- (ii) that remaining information leaflets on computer and mobile phone safety would be distributed to the public through a local free newspaper;
- (iii) that funding had been obtained for the purchase of Personal Alarms at a reasonable cost, and these would be available to buy as well as being distributed to vulnerable groups;
- (iv) that the bus pass holders with safety information included would be available again in the coming year;
- (v) that several Panel Members had attended the AGM of Victim Support;
- (vi) that several Panel Members had taken advantage of an invitation to an "Open Day" at Ayr Sheriff Court organised by the Crown Office and the Procurator Fiscal's Office.

Dorothy McGowan and Councillor Gordon Cree joined the meeting during discussion of this item.

3.8 Victim Support

Doug Whitton reported:-

- (i) on the number of referrals received;
- (ii) on the 6 new volunteers recruited;
- (iii) on the funding received from the Community Safety Fund for the “Impact of Youth Crime” project; and
- (iv) on the proposals to recruit two young volunteers who would be able to offer support to young victims.

Discussions then took place on how Victim Support’s Services could be promoted through the Council’s Local Office Network and it was agreed that the Chair would take this matter up with the Local Office and Registration Manager, and that Doug Whitton would arrange to speak to Local Office staff.

3.9 NHS Ayrshire and Arran Health Promotion

M G Burinski reported on several initiatives to support the forthcoming “Smoking in Public Places” legislation:-

- support to employers/workplaces
- a press release

Furthermore, recruitment was currently taking place for the new smoking service to encourage people not to take up or to give up smoking.

M G Burinski agreed to investigate for Jean Smith the source of the information she had received regarding wheelchair maintenance.

3.10 Northern Area Local Committee

Charles M Lindsay advised of hoardings left at the corner of Fleming Drive, Stewarton, and it was agreed to pass this matter to the Head of Roads and Transportation for necessary investigation.

3.11 Kilmarnock Forum on Disability

Dorothy McGowan reported that KFOD was still looking for new members.

The Forum also noted that a report would be submitted to the next round of Local Committees regarding the proposed site of the new Shopmobility premises.

3.12 Strathclyde Fire and Rescue

Trixie Sheddon reported:-

- On the promotion of home fire safety visits available to anyone in the Strathclyde area, where advice would be given to the householder and smoke detectors if required supplied and fitted free of charge
- On the issues surrounding secondary fires; and
- On the grass fires campaign which would involve visits to primary and secondary schools throughout East Ayrshire.

Councillor Harry Wilson raised two issues which had been highlighted by Newmilns & Greenholm Community Council the first related to problems being caused by a directional parking sign at Craigview Road, Newmilns, and the second with regard to the position of the new Bus Shelter in Main Street, Newmilns. It was noted that

Councillor Wilson had passed both matters to the Head of Roads and Transportation for attention.

PRESENTATION

4. The Forum received a presentation from Karen Gardiner, Domestic Abuse Forum on the East Ayrshire Domestic Abuse Strategy 2005/2008.

The Forum members then had the opportunity to ask questions on the presentation. Thereafter the Chair thanked Karen Gardiner for the very interesting and informative presentation.

Councillors Brian Reeves and Elaine Dinwoodie as well as Jean McFarlane left the meeting at this point.

LIAISON WITH PROCURATOR FISCAL SERVICE

5. There was submitted a report dated 18 October 2005 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services which advised the Forum of the outcome of a meeting with the Procurator Fiscal Service.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to note that following the offer made at the last meeting by the outgoing Procurator Fiscal, Councillor O'Neill had met with representatives of the two Fiscal Services in Ayrshire on 14 October 2005. Inspector McArthur from Strathclyde Police Community Service had also attended the meeting;
- (ii) to note that the contribution to the meeting by the Fiscal Service and the Police was very positive, and the Council's approach had been agreed with an undertaking from the Fiscal Service to pursue non-payment of Fixed Penalty Notices in relation to littering, fly tipping and dog fouling fines issued by Council staff; and
- (iii) otherwise to note the contents of the report.

FIREWORKS SAFETY CAMPAIGN

6. There was submitted and noted a report dated 16 November 2005 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services which advised Forum members of the firework display which incorporated a Firework Safety Initiative on 5 November 2005.

SMOKING IN PUBLIC PLACES – IMPLEMENTATION OF SMOKE FREE PROVISIONS

7. There was submitted a report dated 15 November 2005 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services (i) which advised the Community Safety Forum of the legislation in relation to the prohibition of smoking in enclosed public places and (ii) which updated the Community Safety Forum of the proposed implications of the smoke free provisions.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to note the implementation date of the smoking ban;
- (ii) at a local level to support the proposals in terms of improving public health;

- (iii) to note that the Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services would make suitable arrangements regarding implementation and enforcement of the smoking ban;
- (iv) to note that Environmental Health Officers had been tasked to enforce the legislation and would provide advice to businesses and the public; and
- (v) otherwise to note the contents of the report.

Councillor Gordon Cree left the meeting at this point.

HOME SAFETY PACKS TO VULNERABLE YOUNG FAMILIES

8. There was submitted and noted a report dated 16 November 2005 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services which advised the Forum of an initiative to introduce Home Safety Packs to vulnerable families with young children in the Netherthird Area of Cumnock.

Arising from discussion of this report it was agreed to pass information on this initiative to the Scottish Accident Prevention Home Safety Committee for reporting to their next meeting.

SCOTTISH ACCIDENT PREVENTION COUNCIL – WATER AND LEISURE SAFETY COMMITTEE

9. There was submitted and noted a report dated November 2005 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services which advised the Forum of the business dealt with at the last meeting of the Scottish Accident Prevention Water and Leisure Safety Committee.

ROAD SAFETY PROGRAMME

10. The Forum received a report from the Senior Road Safety Officer when the following issues were raised:-
- (i) the Kerbcraft Scheme had seen an additional 137 children begin practical training since the previous meeting in September;
 - (ii) that it was hoped to establish a Road Safety Educational Programme for all ages; and
 - (iii) that young drivers and passengers had been identified as a priority and in relation to this (a) Pre-Driver Training Courses had been arranged with Auchinleck Academy (b) support and advice had been offered to YIPWORLD in Cumnock regarding a course for young drivers; and (c) a joint venture was being investigated with South Ayrshire Council which would be offered to all East Ayrshire secondary schools.

Councillor William Menzies left the meeting at this point.

COMMUNITY SAFETY CO-ORDINATOR – REVIEW OF EVENTS AND INITIATIVES

11. It was submitted and noted a report dated 16 November 2005 (circulated) by the Executive Head of Neighbourhood Services which advised Forum members of Developments and Initiatives which were undertaken by the Community Safety Co-ordinator.

PROTECTIVE SERVICES COMPOSITE REPORT – REVIEW OF EVENTS AND INITIATIVES

12. There was submitted and noted a report dated 16 November 2005 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services which advised Forum members of Developments and Initiatives undertaken by the various sections within Protective Services.

The meeting terminated at 1200 hrs.