

## **EAST AYRSHIRE COMMUNITY SAFETY FORUM**

### **MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 14 JUNE 2000 AT 1135 HOURS IN THE MEETING ROOM, COUNCIL HEADQUARTERS, LONDON ROAD, KILMARNOCK**

**PRESENT:** Councillors Jimmy Carmichael, Brian Reeves, Daniel Coffey, George Smith and William Menzies; Local Committee Representatives: Charles Calman (Kilmarnock Central); Andrew Nisbet (Irvine Valley); and Matt Donnelly (Kilmarnock North); Tony Kane and Bob Andrews, Fire Safety Officers, Strathclyde Fire Brigade; Chief Inspector James Thomson and Superintendent Alistair McKie, Strathclyde Police; Jean Smith, Cumnock and District Blind Club; Jean McFarlane, Kilmarnock and Loudoun Crime Prevention Panel; Ann Ferguson, Council of Voluntary Organisations; Willie Goudie, Safer New Cumnock; and Mary Reilly, ROSPA.

**ATTENDING:** William Stafford, Director of Community Services; Alison J Smith, Principal Officer (Licensing and Community Safety); Ann Williams, Community Safety Officer; Hugh Mitchell, Police Liaison Officer; Gerald Cummins, Road Safety Training Officer; Dot Grieve, Strategy Development Officer; Eleanor Dewar, Environmental Health Officer; James Crawshaw, Student Environmental Health Officer; Caroline Gordon, Public Relations Assistant; and Stuart Nelson, Administrative Officer.

**APOLOGIES:** Councillors Harry Wilson, Iain Linton and Robert Taylor; Local Committee Representative: Finvola Barnes (Kilmarnock South); Margaret McWilliams, Ayrshire and Arran Health Board; Judith Cunningham, Ayrshire and Arran Primary Care Trust; Susan Paton, Victim Support; Alistair Beckenridge, Ayrshire and Arran Tourist Industry Forum; Janice Cameron, East Ayrshire (North) Forum on Disability; Dr Iain Brown, East Ayrshire (South) Forum on Disability; and Margaret Booth, Safe Barshare.

#### **WELCOME BY WILLIAM STAFFORD, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES AND SECRETARY TO THE FORUM**

1. William Stafford welcomed those present and wished the new Members well in their participation in the work of the Forum.

#### **APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR**

2. William Stafford, Secretary, invited the Members to appoint a Chair and Vice-Chair and it was unanimously agreed that Councillor Jimmy Carmichael be appointed Chair and that Mr Andrew Nisbet be appointed Vice-Chair.

Councillor Jimmy Carmichael then took the Chair.

#### **MINUTES OF LAST MEETING**

3. There were submitted (circulated) and approved as a correct record the Minutes of the meeting of the East Ayrshire Community Safety Forum held on 29 March 2000.

#### **EAST AYRSHIRE COMMUNITY SAFETY LOGO**

4. Alison J Smith, Principal Officer, reported that as there had been no response from the Secondary Schools who had been invited to participate in this competition, the

wider community had been invited to participate by means of advertising in the local press.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to delay the closing date for the Competition to enable local Primary Schools to participate; and
- (ii) that the Secretary submit a report on the outcome to the next meeting.

William Stafford, Secretary, left the meeting at this point.

## **ACTIVITIES OF FORUM PARTICIPANTS**

5. The Forum heard from a number of the participants in the Forum who advised of the activities of their respective organisations over the recent period in relation to Community Safety issues as follows, namely:-

### **5.1 Local Committee Representative (Kilmarnock Central)**

Mr Charles Calman drew attention to issues which had been raised in respect of (a) the possible siting of a temporary fairground at Armour Street, Kilmarnock; and (b) the road safety implications of the siting of a new tyre and exhaust depot at Wellbeck Street, Kilmarnock as highlighted by Piersland and Bentinck Community Council.

It was agreed to request the Head of Planning and Building Control, East Ayrshire Council to discuss with Mr Calman, the implications for road safety of the siting of the new tyre and exhaust Depot, and the representations made in this respect by the local Community Council.

### **5.2 Safer New Cumnock**

Mr Willie Goudie reported on (a) a scheme which had been undertaken by Safer New Cumnock to provide security lighting at houses within the local community occupied by elderly persons; and (b) a further project being promoted by the Group, in partnership with other agencies, for the provision of security Closed Circuit Television at houses occupied by elderly persons within the local community.

### **5.3 Local Committee Representative (Kilmarnock North)**

Mr Matt Donnelly highlighted concerns which had been expressed in the local area regarding (a) the poor condition of the Burns Monument at the Kay Park, Kilmarnock; (b) the general lack, and poor condition, of the facilities provided at the Kay Park and the possible use of monies from the former Kay Park Trust to fund a programme of improvements, Mr Donnelly expressing the view that funding for this purpose should be found from East Ayrshire Council's own budgets; and (c) the public perception that the programme of road works being undertaken within Kilmarnock Centre on behalf of the West of Scotland Water Authority, had been poorly publicised and that implementation had been badly managed.

### **5.4 Kilmarnock And Loudoun Crime Prevention Panel**

Mrs Jean McFarlane (a) acknowledged the difficulties for drivers arising from the roadworks within Kilmarnock Centre as highlighted by Mr Donnelly above, but indicated that difficulties for vehicles in gaining access to the south part of the town were now easing; (b) reported that the adult experiential learning course which was scheduled to take place between April to June had been postponed and would now take place in the Autumn; (c) advised that the School Watch Campaign would be

proceeding following the Summer holidays and would include experiential learning activities for teenagers; and indicated that an interesting point arising from the input from young people thUs far was the perceived threat/risk to young people from their peers; and (d) reported that she had recently attended an event at Glasgow Cathedral as representative of the Crime Prevention Panel which had proved to be very interesting and informative.

#### **5.5 Cumnock And District Blind Club**

Mrs Jean Smith (a) indicated that she had participated in visits to local primary schools with Officers from East Ayrshire Council's Sensory Impairment Team which have proved to be very useful in making children aware of the issues and circumstances which need to be addressed by persons with sensory impairment; and (b) advised that East Ayrshire (South) Against Crime, of which she is a member, had made progress, in liaison with Strathclyde Police, towards the production of a new leaflet which will focus on "Spotlight" activity undertaken by the Police.

#### **5.6 Strathclyde Fire Brigade**

Bob Anderson, Fire Safety Officer (a) advised of an Open Day which would be taking place at Kilmarnock Fire Station on Saturday 17 June 2000 which would include tours of the Fire Station, enable the public to inspect fire appliances and would feature a number of "hands on" activities; and (b) confirmed the ongoing involvement of Officers of the Brigade in promoting experiential learning activities, often in conjunction with other agencies.

#### **5.7 Rospa**

Mary Reilly (a) provided details of the Scottish Accident Prevention Council Annual Conference and encouraged all Organisations/Agencies involved in, or with an interest in, Community Safety to be represented at the Conference, if possible; and (b) outlined the progress being made in the field of Home Safety with particular reference to the appointment of dedicated Home Safety Officers by Scottish Local Authorities, and the Home Safety Committee's position that Home Safety should be a mandatory function for local authorities.

#### **5.8 East Ayrshire Council - Roads And Transportation: Road Safety**

Gerald Cummins, Road Safety Training Officer made reference to a number of road safety related initiatives, viz:- (a) cycle training courses, undertaken in conjunction with over 30 local Schools, for the benefit of young people, which also include checks on the condition of bicycles; (b) the implementation of walk to school initiatives in Fenwick; (c) road engineering improvements at Crossroads and at Crosshands, both on the A76 route; (d) provided an update in respect of the proposed M77 extension and indicated that in the meantime funding had been made available by the Scottish Office to undertake accident prevention measures on the A77; and (e) traffic calming measures in Kilmaurs, Newmilns and within the Kilmarnock area.

Arising from discussion it was agreed that Mr Cummins would arrange for information on the traffic calming works at Newmilns to be provided to Mr Andrew Nisbet; and at Wellpark, Kilmarnock to be provided to Mr Charles Calman.

#### **5.9 East Ayrshire Council - Environmental Health**

Eleanor Dewar, Environmental Health Officer reported on the involvement of her Section in the provision of food hygiene training to the local community; this years

National Spring Clean which involves the local community in projects aimed at cleaning up the local area; the “Homelands” music event at the Dalleagles, New Cumnock; and experiential learning initiatives.

#### **5.10 East Ayrshire Council - Education: Community Learning**

Dot Grieve, Strategy Development Officer reported on (a) works undertaken with young people in respect of drugs issues, young people and authority and on the National Youth Summit in Motherwell with a further shadow event to be held locally; and (b) experiential learning projects for teenagers.

#### **5.11 Strathclyde Police**

Superintendent Alistair McKie advised of the publication of the latest edition of Strathclyde Police Annual Report and drew attention to statistics contained within the report which indicated substantial increases in charges relating to drugs and drink related crimes; (b) made reference to the ongoing Spotlight Initiative being undertaken within Kilmarnock Town Centre in conjunction with the Kilmarnock Retail Traders Association which is considered to be a key factor in the decrease in the incidents in crimes of violence and disorder in the Town Centre; and (c) highlighted that there had been an increase in the recorded incidences of house-breaking within the area.

#### **5.12 Police Liaison**

Sergeant Hugh Mitchell (a) referred to recent publicity given to the East Ayrshire Drugs and Alcohol Forum and highlighted the need for community support and endorsement of the work and activities of the Forum; (b) advised that an anti-drugs initiative being promoted jointly by Kilmarnock Football Club, East Ayrshire Council and Strathclyde Police had received funding of £24,000 from Scotland Against Drugs; (c) confirmed involvement in the amendment and resubmission of the bid for funds to facilitate the provision of security CCTV at houses occupied by elderly persons in New Cumnock, as referred to previously by Mr Willie Goudie; (d) reported on initiatives on the production of information cards for elderly persons and to encourage proper behaviour by youths attending football matches; and (e) advised of involvement in the School Watch Campaign and in discussions with Social Inclusion Teams on Community Safety Initiatives.

On the matter being raised during discussion by Mrs Jean Smith, it was agreed (a) that the Secretary write to the Manager of the recently opened Tesco store in Auchinleck regarding concerns which the Forum have about the siting of display boards at designated disabled persons car parking bays within the Car Park at the store; and (b) Eleanor Dewar, Environmental Health Officer would arrange to pursue this matter with the Store Manager through the Environmental Health Service.

### **COMMUNITY SAFETY OFFICER'S REPORT: REVIEW OF EVENTS AND INITIATIVES**

6. There was submitted and noted a report dated 5 June 2000 (circulated) by the Director of Community Services which provided an update on developments and initiatives undertaken by the Community Safety Officer.

**SCOTTISH ACCIDENT PREVENTION COUNCIL: HOME SAFETY COMMITTEE**

7. There was submitted and noted a report dated 2 June 2000 (circulated) by the Director of Community Services which advised of the business discussed at the meeting of the SAPC Home Safety Committee on 31 May 2000.

**SCOTTISH ACCIDENT PREVENTION COUNCIL: WATER AND LEISURE SAFETY COMMITTEE**

8. There was submitted and noted a report dated 6 June 2000 (circulated) by the Director of Community Services which advised of the business discussed at the meeting of the Water and Leisure Safety Committee on 31 May 2000.

**SCOTTISH ACCIDENT PREVENTION COUNCIL: ROAD SAFETY SUB-COMMITTEE**

9. There was submitted and noted a report dated 6 June 2000 (circulated) by the Director of Development Services on matters discussed at the meeting of the SAPC Road Safety Sub-Committee on 3 May 2000.

**PRODUCTION OF A COMMUNITY SAFETY BOOKLET**

10. There was submitted a report dated 5 June 2000 (circulated) by the Head of Protective Services which sought the Forum's view on the production of a booklet designed to raise awareness in East Ayrshire about Community Safety issues.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to support, in principle, the proposed production and distribution of a booklet as suggested;
- (ii) that the Director of Community Services submit a further report to an early meeting providing details as to how the proposal could be progressed, including funding arrangements;
- (iii) that any booklet to be produced be made available in a range of formats to suit the needs of persons with sensory impairments;
- (iv) that the Secretary make representations to East Ayrshire Council with a view to a dedicated "Community Safety" section being included within the next and subsequent issues of "Headlines"; and
- (v) that, on the matter being raised by Mr Matt Donnelly during discussion, the Secretary make representations to the Director of Homes and Technical Services of East Ayrshire Council regarding the possibility of the installation of water sprinkler systems within Council houses to combat fire hazard.

Mr Charles Calman and Mr Matt Donnelly left the meeting at this point.

**VOLUNTARY REGISTRATION SCHEME FOR BONFIRE AND FIREWORKS DISPLAYS**

11. There was submitted a report dated 6 June 2000 (circulated) by the Director of Community Services which advised of the Voluntary Registration Scheme currently being promoted by four English Unitary Authorities in the area covered by the Avon Fire Brigade and which sought the views of Members of the Forum on the introduction of a similar scheme within East Ayrshire.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to approve, in principle, the introduction of a Voluntary Registration Scheme for firework and bonfire displays;
- (ii) that a small Working Group be established, to include representatives from Strathclyde Fire Brigade, Strathclyde Police and appropriate East Ayrshire Council Departments, to discuss the adoption of a scheme with a view to implementation prior to bonfire night in November this year; and
- (iii) that the Secretary report to a future meeting on progress.

### **KEY ISSUES SEMINAR**

- 12.** There was submitted a report dated 6 June 2000 (circulated) by the Director of Community Services on the Key Issues Seminar which took place on 13 April 2000 in Cumnock Town Hall.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to note the terms of the report; and
- (ii) that the Officers concerned should give consideration to transport arrangements for events such as this which are to be held in future, although the Members of the Forum acknowledged that there may be significant financial issues to be addressed.

The meeting terminated at 1305 hours.

**AGENDA**