

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

EAST AYRSHIRE COMMUNITY SAFETY FORUM

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 25 SEPTEMBER 2002 AT 1100 HOURS IN THE MEETING ROOM, COUNCIL HEADQUARTERS, LONDON ROAD, KILMARNOCK

PRESENT: Councillors Jimmy Carmichael (Chair), Daniel Coffey, Harry Wilson and Elaine Dinwoodie; Local Committee Representatives: Maurice Ashbridge (Kilmarnock Central); William Lees (Cumnock Area); Joan Wark (Kilmarnock South); and Matt Donnelly (Kilmarnock North); Norah Solesbury, Ayrshire and Arran Primary Care NHS Trust; Susan Cockburn, Kilmarnock Town Centre Management Initiative; Jan Hay, Ayrshire Chamber of Commerce and Industry; Jean Smith, East Ayrshire (South) Forum on Disability; Jean MacFarlane, East Ayrshire (North) Crime Prevention Panel; Michael McDonnell, RoSPA; Isabelle Macdonald, Women's Aid; and William Houston, Garry Milne and Stephen Logan, Strathclyde Fire Brigade.

ATTENDING: John Crawford, Head of Protective Services; Alison Smith, Principal Officer - Licensing and Community Safety; Ann Williams, Community Safety Co-ordinator; Joe Cassidy, Policy Manager, Homes and Technical Services; Gerald Cummins, Senior Road Safety Training Officer; and Stuart Nelson, Administrative Officer.

APOLOGIES: Councillors George Smith and William Menzies.

CHAIR: Councillor Jimmy Carmichael, Chair.

DEMONSTRATION BY STRATHCLYDE FIRE BRIGADE: CHIP PAN FIRES

1. The members of the Forum received a demonstration by Tony Kane, Community Firefighter and Stephen Logan, Station Officer, both Strathclyde Fire Brigade, using a specialist mobile demonstration unit, which highlighted safety issues relating to chip pan fires. The demonstration took place in the car park at the Council Headquarters and the members then proceeded to the Meeting Room for the rest of the meeting.

The Chair thanked the representatives of the Fire Brigade for the demonstration and there then followed a general discussion on fire safety related issues.

Arising from discussion it was noted that the Assistant Divisional Officer would submit a report to an early meeting of the Forum on the "Domestic Sprinkler Campaign".

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

2. There were submitted (circulated) and approved as a correct record the Minutes of the meeting of the East Ayrshire Community Safety Forum held on 5 June 2002.

PRESENTATION: COMMUNITY PLANNING

3. The Forum received a presentation from Ann Williams, Community Safety Co-ordinator, on Community Planning.

There then followed a discussion during which the Head of Protective Services and the Community Safety Co-ordinator responded to questions put by members of the Forum.

The Chair thanked Ann Williams for the presentation.

ACTIVITIES OF FORUM PARTICIPANTS

4. The Chair welcomed to the meeting William Lees and Joan Wark who were attending their first meeting of the Forum following appointment as representatives for their respective Local Committees.

4.1 **Kilmarnock Town Centre Management Initiative** - Susan Cockburn advised of proposed events/activities to take place within the Town Centre area over the Christmas period, including:-

- “Search for a Star” competition;
- Switching-on of the Christmas lights on Saturday 30 November 2002 and the Whizzy Bear Roadshow on the same day;
- The hoped for provision of Christmas lights within the Portland Gate area for the first time with the assistance of financial support from VICO Properties;
- The provision of a Santa’s Grotto within the premises in Portland Gate which were formerly occupied by the Day and Night Café, again with financial support from VICO Properties, and in this connection Ms Cockburn indicated that volunteers and nominations were being sought for guest Santas;
- The possibility of the local churches being involved in an event within the Town Centre on Saturday 21 December 2002 which would focus upon the Christmas Message;
- An event to replace “Operation Noel” which would not be taking place this year.

Arising from discussion the Head of Protective Services confirmed that a report would be submitted to an early meeting of the Forum on, and when progress had been made relative to, the possible introduction of a “Shopmobility” scheme within Kilmarnock Town Centre.

4.2 **Kilmarnock North Local Committee** - Matt Donnelly reported on issues which had arisen within the Kilmarnock North area relating to drugs use and arising therefrom it was agreed that the Head of Protective Services would take into account the points made by Mr Donnelly relating to lighting within public toilets and the distribution of methadone to individuals.

4.3 **Department of Homes and Technical Services** - Joseph Cassidy reported on progress with the Pilot Care and Repair Project which would be based in Dalmellington, explaining that the objectives of the Project are to enable elderly and disabled people in the private sector to remain in their own homes through the prevention of admission to hospital, the facilitation of hospital discharge back to suitably adapted accommodation in the community and the establishment of a small repair service. Depending upon the outcome of the Pilot Project it may be appropriate to consider extending the Care and Repair Initiative to cover the whole of East Ayrshire.

4.4 Cumnock Area Local Committee - The Chair reported on progress with regard to a project being carried out within New Cumnock for the installation of CCTV cameras at the homes of certain elderly or disabled persons, the system enabling the occupant to identify on a TV screen located within the property who is calling at their front door. The cost of the initial project has been met with funding from the Chief Constable's Challenge Fund and consideration is being given to sources of funding which could be accessed to meet the cost of expanding the project within the community of New Cumnock.

Arising from discussion it was noted (a) that the Chair would provide further information to Councillors Daniel Coffey and Harry Wilson on this project, after the meeting; and (b) that a report providing more detail on the project would be submitted to a future meeting of the Forum.

4.5 East Ayrshire (South) Forum on Disability - Jean Smith reported on:-

- The forthcoming Information Day organised by the Cumnock and Doon Valley Access Panel, which would be taking place on Thursday 31 October 2002 in the Dalmellington Area Centre and would be targeted at those with an interest in disabled persons issues and would feature demonstrations by, and information from, a wide range of relevant organisations and agencies.
- An Awareness Training Initiative undertaken by Cumnock and District Blind Club involving pupils at Castle Primary School, New Cumnock.

4.6 East Ayrshire (South) Against Crime - Jean Smith reported on the distribution of information packs dealing with crime prevention/community safety issues to primary schools within the Cumnock Area the cost of which had been met from grant funding from the Cumnock Area Local Committee; and advised that funding had now been secured from the Doon Valley Local Committee for a similar initiative for primary schools within the Doon Valley area.

4.7 East Ayrshire (North) Crime Prevention Panel - Jean MacFarlane reported on:-

- The involvement of the Panel in the recent Strathclyde Police Open Day at the Police Station in Kilmarnock;
- The involvement of the Panel in the Danger Detectives Experiential Learning Event 2002 held for the benefit of young people which had taken place at the Dean Castle Country Park during the latter part of September;
- Consideration being given to setting a date for the Crime Prevention Panel Quiz for Primary 7 pupils;
- Liaison with local schools regarding initiatives which the schools may have in relation to Crime Prevention;
- The nature of information provided to the Panel by Strathclyde Police in relation to crime in the local area which will in future be focussed on issues rather than statistics, it being anticipated that this approach would assist the Panel in identifying where initiatives should be targeted;
- A recruitment campaign to be undertaken through the local press, and other avenues including approaches to local schools with a view to encouraging participation from young people;

- Crime/Safety issues highlighted by the Panel regarding the sale/use of fireworks, in the period around 5 November.

Arising from discussion it was noted that Mrs MacFarlane would contact representatives of the local Victim Support Group with a view to submission of a request to the Secretary that the organisation be represented on this Forum.

4.8 Kilmarnock Central Local Committee - Maurice Ashbridge raised, and there were noted, concerns which have been expressed locally regarding a planning application for a Waste Transfer/Processing Unit. In this connection, the Head of Protective Services referred to the planning process which would be undertaken in relation to this application being dealt with by East Ayrshire Council and the licensing arrangements which would apply if the application were to be approved.

None of the Elected Members present commented in any way on the merits or otherwise of the planning application to which Mr Ashbridge had referred.

4.9 Women's Aid - Isabelle Macdonald reported on:

- A conference on domestic abuse which had been held recently at Rugby Park, Kilmarnock and had been attended by approximately 200 delegates;
- Progress with recruitment of a Domestic Abuse Strategy Implementation Officer;
- The ongoing work of Women's Aid generally and the continuing programme of activities at the Women's Centre.

4.10 Ayrshire and Arran Primary Health Care NHS Trust - Norah Solesbury reported on:

- a project being undertaken by the Trust to promote the safety of staff both within and outwith Board Premises;
- the continuing problem of vandalism to the Trust's properties which can have safety implications; and acknowledged the contribution being made by Strathclyde Police to tackling this problem.

4.11 Road Safety - Gerald Cummins reported on:

- The involvement of his Section in the Danger Detectives 2002 Initiative;
- The activities of Barbara Sutcliffe in relation to, amongst other things, Child Pedestrian Training within the Better Neighbourhood Services areas;
- The attendance, and participation of his Section in various exhibitions and events within the local area over the recent period;
- Proposals to extend the Child Pedestrian Training Programme;
- Pre-Driver Education for secondary school pupils;
- Provision of cycle shelters at specified locations;
- The visit of the Children's Traffic Club for Scotland to the local area which had been well received;
- Road Safety plays for senior secondary school pupils;
- The availability of a play entitled "The Elderly Driver" which is aimed at the over 55s and can be performed for local groups who may be interested;

- Publicity on the road safety theme under the “BRAKE” Campaign;
- The continuation of the “Walk to School Week” this year and the proposed expansion of this scheme during 2003.

4.12 Strathclyde Fire Brigade - William Houston reported on:

- The involvement of the Fire Brigade in the Danger Detectives 2002 Initiative;
- The activities of the Cadet Unit based at Kilmarnock Fire Station with regard to activities to commemorate the events of 11 September 2001 and outward bound activities;
- Grass fires in the Dalmellington area with regard to which the Fire Brigade were liaising with Strathclyde Police and Trading Standards to identify ways in which incidents of wilful fire raising could be tackled;
- A fund raising car wash which had been held recently by the retained fire fighters at Cumnock the proceeds of which were used to purchase smoke detectors given to school pupils for their individual use;
- The ongoing work of the Brigade in relation to community liaison, providing information and advice to the public on fire safety and responding to call outs;
- Progress in relation to dealing with increasing incidences of attacks on fire crews attending calls;
- On the matter being raised by Councillor Wilson, the installation of domestic sprinklers at properties in South Ayrshire and Inverclyde.

Jan Hay left the meeting during the Assistant Divisional Officer’s report and Matt Donnelly left the meeting following the report.

COMMUNITY SAFETY CO-ORDINATOR - REVIEW OF EVENTS AND INITIATIVES

5. There was submitted and noted a report dated 12 September 2002 (circulated) by the Director of Community Services which advised of developments and initiatives undertaken by the Community Safety Co-ordinator.

SCOTTISH ACCIDENT PREVENTION COUNCIL (SAPC) HOME SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING: 4 SEPTEMBER 2002

6. There was submitted and noted a report dated 6 September 2002 (circulated) by the Head of Protective Services which advised of the business transacted at the Scottish Accident Prevention Council Home Safety Committee Meeting held on 4 September 2002.

SCOTTISH ACCIDENT PREVENTION COUNCIL (SAPC) ROAD SAFETY SUB-COMMITTEE: 8 MAY 2002

7. There was submitted and noted a report dated 8 May 2002 (circulated) by the Director of Development Services which informed of matters discussed at the most recent meeting of the Scottish Accident Prevention Council’s Road Safety Sub-Committee held on 8 May 2002.

SECONDARY SCHOOLS SPEECHMAKING COMPETITION: ANDREW NISBET TROPHY

8. There was submitted a report dated 11 September 2002 (circulated) by the Director of Community Services which advised of the arrangements for the Scottish Accident Prevention Council's Annual Public Speechmaking Competition and proposed that this again be linked to the local competition in which secondary schools compete for the Andrew Nisbet Trophy.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to approve the proposals contained within the report;
- (ii) to nominate Councillor Jimmy Carmichael, Chair, to act as a judge; and
- (iii) to authorise the Secretary, in consultation with the Chair, to proceed with the necessary arrangements.

IDENTIFICATION MARKING ON LICENSED PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLES

9. There was submitted and noted a report dated 6 September 2002 (circulated) by the Director of Community Services which advised of an initiative approved by the East Ayrshire Licensing Panel designed to improve the safety of passengers using licensed private hire vehicles.

CHRISTMAS SAFETY

10. On the matter being raised by the Chair, it was agreed to promote the production of a pack to be made available to the public which would provide information and advice on safety issues with particular relevance to activities over the Christmas and New Year period; and it was noted that the Community Safety Co-ordinator would be making contact with members of the Forum with a view to establishing a sub-group to progress this project.

NEXT MEETING

11. It was noted that the next meeting of the Forum will take place on Wednesday 4 December 2002 commencing at 1100 hours in the Meeting Room, Council Headquarters, London Road, Kilmarnock.

The meeting terminated at 1252 hours.