

EAST AYRSHIRE COMMUNITY SAFETY FORUM – 5 MARCH 2003

COMMUNITY SAFETY CO-ORDINATOR - REVIEW OF EVENTS AND INITIATIVES

Report by Director of Community Services

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1. To advise Forum members of developments and initiatives undertaken by the Community Safety Co-ordinator

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1. In accordance with East Ayrshire Council Community Safety Strategy a Community Safety Co-ordinator was appointed to implement the strategy and to co-ordinate and drive forward safety initiatives.

3. DISCUSSION

- 3.1. **Community Plan:** Community Safety theme within the Community Plan has concentrated on three key issues: Preventing Crime; Improving Public Safety and Improving Neighbourhoods and Homes.
- 3.4. **Multi-Agency Domestic Abuse Forum:** Meetings have taken place with Women's Aid and the Wise Group with a view to installing security equipment in the houses of those who are most at risk of domestic abuse.
- 3.5. **Community Health Improvement Project (C.H.I.P. van):** The Community Safety Co-ordinator continues to visit communities throughout East Ayrshire.
- 3.6. **Scottish Home Safety Officers Group:** The Group continue to meet and discuss ways of taking home safety issues forward. The next meeting of the Group was on Wednesday 26 February 2003 at Paisley.
- 3.7. **Scottish Local Authorities Community Safety Forum:** The next meeting of the Forum will be on 7th March. A Community Safety Conference will be taking place, organised by SLACS, in November at Stirling. The Conference will deal with issues such as Health Improvement; Education; Youth Justice, Community Planning and Street Wardens.
- 3.8. **Firework Safety:** See attached note for update on the sale of fireworks.

3.9. **Speechmaking Competition:** Unfortunately, two teams withdrew from the competition at the 11th hour and it had to be cancelled. The only remaining team from Cumnock Academy will go forward to the regional heats to be held on Tuesday 11 March at Parklands Country Club, Newton Mearns.

3.10. **S.A.P.C. Accident Prevention Awards:** An application has been submitted on behalf of Mr Kevin White, Hillhead New Community School for setting up a mock road accident that involved all of the emergency services.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1. Projects are financed from existing budgets held by the partnership organisations and from the Scottish Executive Community Safety Awards.

6. LEGAL/POLICY IMPLICATIONS

6.1. Nil

7. CONCLUSIONS

7.1. The Community Safety Co-ordinator will continue to liaise with other departments and outside organisations to promote the initiatives described in the report.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1. The Forum is invited to note the contents of this report

W Stafford
Director of Community Services

WS/AW

20 February 2003

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

1. For further information please contact John Crawford, Head of protective Services on 01563 576111 or email: john.crawford@east-ayrshire.gov.uk
2. Implementation Officer: Ann Williams

Friday, 14 February, 2003, 13:19 GMT

Firework crackdown on way

A proposed crackdown on sales of fireworks has won government support.

Fireworks would only be allowed to be sold for three weeks around 5 November.

' This will promote the responsible use of fireworks by confining general sale to the public to a relatively short period before 5 November "

Bill Tynan

Sales would also be restricted to packs costing at least £10, under MP Bill Tynan's proposal.

His private members bill aims to reverse the trend towards year-round firework displays and general nuisance which cause misery to residents, pets and wild animals.

The bill will also make the noisiest fireworks illegal, ban the use of fireworks late at night and impose stricter rules on the training of those who give professional displays.

New powers

People wanting fireworks for cultural festivities, such as New Year's Eve, Diwali or weddings, will have to go to retailers with a higher form of license.

Consumer Minister Melanie Johnson said the Control of Fireworks Bill has government support and "will provide a raft of new powers to control the misuse of fireworks".

"It aims to put an end to neighbourhood nuisance and anti-social behaviour that is so often seen around bonfire night and beyond, and I welcome it wholeheartedly," she said.

"I know the misery that fireworks can cause. There is too much noise, with fireworks being let off late into the night and lasting for far too long beyond the traditional fireworks season."

Mr Tynan, Labour MP for Hamilton South, has been working on the bill with the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities (CoSLA) Fireworks Task Group and the Guide Dogs for the Blind Association.

"The misery caused to the general public and domestic and wild animals by the misuse of fireworks is a growing problem all over the UK," he said.

Lack of licensing of retail outlets, periods of sale and noise levels, together with problems with importation, distribution and storage, all contribute to the nuisance use of fireworks.

"This will promote the responsible use of fireworks by limiting the hours of the day, confining general sale to the public to a relatively short period before 5 November."

Every year, Guide Dogs for the Blind have to retire four animals because of stress caused by fireworks. Another 150 dogs need further training to deal with problems related to loud bangs.

The Bill is set to receive its second reading on 28 February.

(Source: BBC News/Politics/Firework crackdown on way).