

## **EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL**

### **EAST AYRSHIRE COMMUNITY SAFETY FORUM**

#### **MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 4 DECEMBER 2002 AT 1100 HOURS IN THE MEETING ROOM, COUNCIL HEADQUARTERS, LONDON ROAD, KILMARNOCK**

**PRESENT:** Councillors Jimmy Carmichael (Chair), Daniel Coffey, George Smith, William Menzies and Elaine Dinwoodie; Community Representatives Maurice Ashbridge (Kilmarnock Central Local Committee); William Barr (Doon Valley Local Committee); William Lees (Cumnock Area Local Committee); and Frank Dawson (Irvine Valley Local Committee); Linda McFadzean, Ayrshire and Arran Health Board; Nora Solesbury, Ayrshire and Arran Primary Health Care Trust; Duncan Blair and Stephen Logan, Strathclyde Fire Brigade; Chief Inspector Stewart Miller, Strathclyde Police; Jean Smith, East Ayrshire (South) Forum on Disability and East Ayrshire (South) Against Crime; Jean McFarlane, East Ayrshire (North) Crime Prevention Panel; Michael McDonnell, ROSPA; Isabelle Macdonald, Women's Aid; and Bob Patterson, Victim Support.

**ATTENDING:** John Crawford, Head of Protective Services; Alison Smith, Principal Officer - Licensing and Community Safety; Kerr Chalmers, Senior Engineer, Roads Division; Gerald Cummins, Senior Road Safety Training Officer; James Mair, Team Leader, Environmental Health; Angela Paton, Regeneration Officer (Development Services); Liz Burley, Health and Safety Officer (Educational and Social Services); Stuart Nelson, Administrative Officer; and Lynn Chapman, Trainee Administrative Officer.

**APOLOGIES:** Councillor Brian Reeves; Community Representative Joan Wark (Kilmarnock South Local Committee); Superintendent James Thomson, Strathclyde Police; Susan Cockburn, Kilmarnock Town Centre Management Initiative; and Jim Bryan, East Ayrshire (North) Forum on Disability.

**CHAIR:** Councillor Jimmy Carmichael, Chair.

#### **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

1. There were submitted (circulated) and approved as a correct record, the Minutes of the meeting of the East Ayrshire Community Safety Forum held on 25 September 2002.

#### **AMENDMENT TO CONSTITUTION**

2. There was submitted a report dated 20 November 2002 (circulated) by the Director of Community Services to enable consideration to be given to amending the Constitution as it relates to membership of the Forum.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to approve the amendment to Section 5 of the Constitution to provide that membership of the forum shall include one representative from Victim Support; and
- (ii) to accept the nomination of Bob Patterson, Area Co-ordinator as the representative of Victim Support.

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

3. There was submitted and noted a report dated 20 November 2002 (circulated) by the Director of Community Services which advised of developments and initiatives undertaken by the Community Safety Co-ordinator.

Arising from the report, and with regard to the sale of fireworks to the general public, the Chair advised that while guidance had now been produced by CoSLA, this was not as wide-ranging and prescriptive as had been hoped and leaves local authorities with responsibility for the application of licensing arrangements for fireworks displays. However, the Working Group intend to continue to make representations to MSPs, MPs and others involved with a view to promoting the case for the introduction of stricter and more comprehensive measures for controlling the sale of fireworks.

### **ACTIVITIES OF FORUM MEMBERS**

- 4.1 **Cumnock Area Local Committee** - William Lees reported on:-

- the new CCTV Systems which had been installed at houses occupied by elderly/vulnerable people within New Cumnock which he had viewed in operation and were an excellent facility for the householders concerned; and
- the presence of the traffic warden in New Cumnock, on an ad hoc basis and the contribution which the activities of the warden makes towards road/pedestrian safety in the village.

- 4.2 **East Ayrshire (North) Crime Prevention Panel** - Jean McFarlane reported on:-

- the "Making U Aware Project" which is aimed at promoting drugs awareness particularly amongst the youth population;
- a visit to Kilmarnock Police Station and a presentation on drugs awareness;
- the "Motorvation" campaign which is aimed at promoting public awareness of issues relating to, and reducing, car crime;
- newsletters and leaflets being distributed with the Free Press over the Christmas period to promote crime prevention;
- a campaign being undertaken through the local press and in schools to recruit new members to the Panel;
- the Crime Prevention Panel Quiz for Primary 7 pupils being held around Easter 2003 although a date was still to be confirmed;
- the sudden death of a senior panel member.

- 4.3 **Kilmarnock Central Local Committee** - Maurice Ashbridge drew attention to:-

- support expressed by Grange Howard Community Council for the "Twenty's Plenty" initiative; and
- the need for safety issues, including those relating to construction works and road safety to be borne in mind in respect of the proposed upgrading of Grange Academy.

#### 4.4 **Women's Aid** - Isabelle Macdonald highlighted:-

- the successful launch of the Domestic Abuse Strategy at Crosshouse Hospital;
- various events taking place in conjunction with the Domestic Abuse Strategy, including the White Ribbon Campaign, which had been running in the United Kingdom since 1998;
- statistical information relating to domestic violence.

Councillor Menzies joined the meeting at this point.

#### 4.5 **Victim Support** - Bob Patterson provided an overview of the organisation and operation of Victim Support in the local area and amongst other things confirmed that the organisation:

- deals with victims of violence or people who are affected by violence;
- currently has 20 trained voluntary visitors;
- receives the majority of its referrals from the Police, but also from the Social Work and health services and in addition approaches can be made directly by individuals.

#### 4.6 **East Ayrshire (South) Forum on Disability** - Jean Smith reported:-

- that prizes would be presented later today to pupils at Castle Primary School, New Cumnock, who had submitted the winning entries to a competition held as part of an awareness training initiative which recently took place at the school.

#### 4.7 **East Ayrshire (South) Crime Prevention Panel** - Jean Smith reported:-

- on Community Grants received by the Panel from both Cumnock Area Local Committee and the Doon Valley Local Committee, part of which had been used for the purchase of UV Pens which have been distributed to primary schools in the Local Committees' areas.
- that the Panel had received £1,800 lottery funding to purchase a computer system, laminator and marquee.

#### 4.8 **Road Safety** - Gerald Cummins reported:-

- on project work being delivered at all schools;
- on various plays being provided at secondary schools, primary schools and elderly groups;
- on funding received from the Scottish Executive for a child protection post to encourage road safety in schools;
- that arrangements were being made to fill the post of Child Pedestrian Training Co-ordinator to be provided under the Better Neighbourhood Services Fund and explained the role of the postholder;
- on various exhibitions throughout East Ayrshire;
- on various campaigns including those relating to drink driving, stepping off buses and school parking;
- on the distribution of reflectors to nursery children and children attending playgroups.

- on progress with the Safer Routes to School Survey;
- on work being undertaken with various partners including Strathclyde Police and Strathclyde Fire Brigade on a pre-driver education for secondary school pupils;
- on road safety issues relating to the Balmoral Centre.

#### **4.9 RoSPA - Michael McDonnell reported on:-**

- consultation on the National Strategy for the use of Mobile Phones When Driving and RoSPA's position that a total ban should apply whilst recognising that this may be difficult to enforce;
- RoSPA's support for a reduction in the drink driving limit from 80mg to 50mg of alcohol per 100ml of blood;
- the Drug Driving advertisements currently on television, and the impact these were having in East Ayrshire;
- the "Foolspeed" campaign which would be re-launched next year;
- the launch of the Festive Safety Campaign;
- safer driving issues, in particular, bad parking;
- funding which had been made available by the Scottish Executive for the production of SAPC Leaflets;
- the public speaking competition final which would take place on 25 March 2003 in Dumfries.

#### **4.10 Strathclyde Fire Brigade - Stephen Logan reported on:-**

- the ongoing activities of the Brigade during the current period of Industrial Action;
- concerns over hoax calls during and outwith the Industrial Action;
- concerns over attacks on the Brigade en route to, and attending, fires.

#### **4.11 Strathclyde Police - Chief Inspector Stewart Miller reported on various activities and initiatives with which Strathclyde Police were involved, in many cases working closely with relevant partners, namely:-**

- training relating to personal safety/shoplifting issues for staff at Top Shop, Kilmarnock;
- anti-vandalism displays at the Grand Hall, Kilmarnock;
- the Safer Scotland campaign;
- the Supporting Young Victims of Crime conference in Glasgow;
- the Safety Track Initiative for Primary 7 children which focussed on personal safety;
- the Big World initiative;
- the Making U Aware campaign;
- the Motorvation campaign;
- presentations on personal safety to gas/electricity personnel;

- crime prevention displays at the Odeon Cinema, Gala Bingo Hall and Crosshouse Hospital and publicity in the local newspapers;
- distribution, in conjunction with the Safety Forum, to elderly/vulnerable persons of information on bogus callers;
- a campaign taking place over the festive period on traffic related issues, including drug driving, drink driving etc

Arising from discussion it was agreed that the Secretary liaise with the agencies concerned to ascertain the possibility of re-establishing the former "Car Project" which previously existed within the northern area of Kilmarnock, as a means of tackling vehicle related crime.

### **CHRISTMAS SAFETY CAMPAIGN**

5. There was submitted and noted a report dated 18 November 2002 (circulated) by the Director of Community Services which advised of a Christmas Safety Campaign that would run for the month of December.

### **SAPC ROAD SAFETY SUB-COMMITTEE: 7 AUGUST 2002**

6. There was submitted and noted a report dated 22 November 2002 (circulated) by the Director of Development Services which informed of matters discussed at the meeting of the Scottish Accident Prevention Council's Road Safety Sub-Committee held on 7 August 2002.

### **SHOPMOBILITY SCHEME**

7. The Forum received a presentation by Kerr Chalmers, Senior Engineer, Department of Development Services, on issues relating to the proposed Shopmobility Scheme for Kilmarnock Town Centre.

Arising from discussion it was agreed to request the Director of Development Services to submit a report on progress to the next round of Local Committee meetings.

The Chair thanked Kerr Chalmers for the presentation.

### **ADDITIONAL ITEM - SAPC HOME SAFETY COMMITTEE - MANDATORY POWERS SUB GROUP: PROGRESS REPORT**

8. There was submitted and noted a report dated 27 November 2002 (tabled) by the Director of Community Services which advised of further progress towards the goal of having the provision of Home Safety Services made mandatory for all Scottish Councils.

The meeting terminated at 1215 hours.