

EAST AYRSHIRE COMMUNITY SAFETY FORUM

MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 4 JUNE 2003 AT 1100 HRS IN THE MEETING ROOM, COUNCIL HEADQUARTERS, LONDON ROAD, KILMARNOCK

PRESENT: Councillors Daniel Coffey, Harry Wilson, John Campbell, James Raymond and Elaine Dinwoodie; Community Representatives: Maurice Ashbridge (Kilmarnock Central Local Committee); William Barr (Doon Valley Local Committee); Matthew Donnelly (Kilmarnock North Local Committee); Linda McFadzean (Ayrshire and Arran Health Board); William Houston (Strathclyde Fire Brigade); Jean Smith (East Ayrshire (South) Forum on Disability); Jean McFarlane (East Ayrshire (North) Crime Prevention Panel); Isabelle Macdonald (Women's Aid); and Karen Gardiner (Domestic Abuse Forum).

ATTENDING: William Stafford, Director of Community Services; John F Crawford, Head of Protective Services; Ann Williams, Community Safety Co-ordinator; Liz Burley, Health and Safety Officer; Gerald Cummins, Senior Road Safety Training Officer; Eleanor Dewar, Environmental Health Officer; Sergeant Jim Richmond, Police Liaison Officer; Carolyn Gordon, Public Relations Officer; and Stuart Nelson, Administrative Officer.

ALSO ATTENDING: PC Brian Darroch, Strathclyde Police and Gerry Darroch, Operations Manager - Homes and Technical Services.

APOLOGIES: Councillors Brian Reeves, Gordon Cree, George Smith, William Menzies and Jimmy Carmichael; Community Representatives William Lees (Cumnock Area Local Committee); and Joan Wark (Kilmarnock South Local Committee); Mike McDonnell (RoSPA); Norah Solesbury (Ayrshire and Arran Primary Care NHS Trust); and Bob Patterson (Victim Support).

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

1. William Stafford, Director of Community Services and Secretary, welcomed those present and wished the members well in their participation in the work of the Forum over the coming year, which would see Community Safety issues continuing to grow in importance both at the local and national levels and within this context highlighted the ongoing requirement for close co-operation and working between the various organisations and agencies concerned including through this Forum.

APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR

2. William Stafford, Secretary, invited members to appoint a Chair and Vice-Chair and it was unanimously agreed that Councillor Jimmy Carmichael be appointed Chair, the Members of the Forum having been advised that the Councillor had intimated that he would be happy to accept this position for a further year; and that Jean McFarlane be appointed Vice-Chair.

In the absence of Councillor Jimmy Carmichael, Chair, Jean McFarlane, Vice-Chair then took the Chair.

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

PRESENTATION: DRUG ISSUES

3. The Forum received a presentation by PC Brian Darroch, Strathclyde Police, on drug related issues. PC Darroch responded to questions asked by Members of the Forum arising from the presentation.

The Chair thanked PC Darroch for his presentation which had been most interesting and informative; and wished him well in his promotion to the rank of Sergeant at Ayr Police Office.

MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

4. 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 March 2003.

4.1 Matter Arising: Vehicles Speeding in Dundonald Road, Kilmarnock

The Head of Protective Services reported, and it was noted, that it was intended to submit a report to the next meeting of the Forum in response to concerns expressed at the meeting of the Forum held on 5 March 2003 regarding vehicles speeding in Dundonald Road, Kilmarnock.

ACTIVITIES OF FORUM MEMBERS

5.1 East Ayrshire (North) Crime Prevention Panel

Jean McFarlane reported:

- on a presentation given to the Panel by Bob Patterson of Victim Support;
- on financial support given by the Panel to the Up-2-U Bus to assist in the purchase of equipment;
- on the success of a quiz night for local schools which was held on 30 April 2003 and put forward a general Community Safety/Crime Prevention message to the young people involved;
- on the continued involvement of the Panel in preparations for the next Danger Detectives event; and
- that the Panel would be giving consideration to means of addressing car crime at their next meeting, in view of the high incidence of such crimes during the Summer period.

5.2 East Ayrshire (South) Crime Prevention Panel

Jean Smith reported on:

- the involvement of the Panel, in partnership with Strathclyde Police, East Ayrshire Council and other agencies, in arranging a quiz for primary school pupils which had taken place on 7 May 2003; and
- the purchase by the Panel of "bogus caller" packs for issue to certain vulnerable persons and women's groups within the local area.

5.3 East Ayrshire (South) Forum on Disability

Jean Smith reported on:

- the work of the Forum in improving awareness of disability issues within the local community, particularly targeting primary school children.

PRESENTATION: ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR/NEIGHBOURHOOD DISPUTES

6. The Forum received a presentation by Gerry Darroch, Operations Manager - Homes and Technical Services, which covered a range of issues relating to anti-social behaviour/neighbourhood disputes within East Ayrshire, highlighting particularly East Ayrshire Council's role and responsibilities in this regard.

Gerry Darroch answered questions asked by Members of the Forum arising from the presentation.

Councillor Raymond left the meeting at this point.

The Chair thanked Gerry Darroch for the presentation.

PC Brian Darroch left the meeting at this point.

ACTIVITIES OF FORUM MEMBERS - CONTINUED

7.1 Women's Aid

Isabelle Macdonald:

- confirmed the continuing heavy use of the services provided by Women's Aid locally;
- reported on the proposed new refuge to be constructed within Kilmarnock, and the close involvement of Women's Aid in the preparatory works relating to this; and
- made reference to "Safety Packs" which are made available to women leaving the refuge accommodation.

Councillor Dinwoodie left the meeting at this point.

7.2 Domestic Abuse Forum

Karen Gardiner provided a brief overview of the history, background and purpose of the Domestic Abuse Forum.

7.3 Kilmarnock Central Local Committee

Maurice Ashbridge drew attention to concerns expressed by Gatehead Community Council regarding vehicles speeding through their village; and it was noted that Sergeant James Richmond would pursue this matter with the local traffic police.

7.4 Doon Valley Local Committee

William Barr reported on the continuation of cycling proficiency training for primary seven pupils within the Doon Valley area.

7.5 Environmental Health

Eleanor Dewar reported on:

- the Food Hygiene training which had been provided by the Environmental Health Section for Social Work catering staff as a result of which most, if not all, of the trainees had attained the Royal Environmental Health Institute of Scotland Elementary Food Hygiene Certificate;

- National Food Safety Week and the provision of static displays by the Environmental Health Section within local supermarkets;
- a food safety audit carried out within the Environmental Health Section which had again yielded a positive report; and
- National Food Action Week and public displays being provided by the Environmental Health Section.

7.6 Strathclyde Fire Brigade

William Houston reported on the extremely high incidences of grass fires within the Dalmellington area and the cost of responding to these; and advised that meetings had taken place with all the interested parties within the area in an attempt to identify a local strategy to address the problem of grass fires.

AMENDMENT TO CONSTITUTION - FORUM MEMBERSHIP

8. There was submitted a report dated 19 May 2003 (circulated) by the Director of Community Services to enable the Forum to consider amending the Constitution as it related 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 the Domestic Abuse Forum; and
- (ii) to accept the nomination of Karen Gardiner, Strategy Implementation Officer, as the representative of the Domestic Abuse Forum.

Councillor Wilson left the meeting at this point.

SCOTTISH ACCIDENT PREVENTION COUNCIL (SAPC) - HOME SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING ON 5 MARCH 2003

9. There was submitted and noted a report dated 20 May 2003 (circulated) by the Director of Community Services which advised of business dealt with at the last meeting of the SAPC Home Safety Committee.

SCOTTISH ACCIDENT PREVENTION COUNCIL WATER AND LEISURE SAFETY COMMITTEE

10. There was submitted and noted a report dated 21 May 2003 (circulated) by the Director of Community Services which updated on the discussion at the last meeting of the Water and Leisure Safety Committee of the Scottish Accident Prevention Council.

COMMUNITY SAFETY CO-ORDINATOR - REVIEW OF EVENTS AND INITIATIVES

11. There was submitted and noted a report dated 19 May 2003 (circulated) by the Director of Community Services which advised of developments and initiatives undertaken by the Community Safety Co-ordinator.

On the matter being raised by Councillor Coffey, it was noted that the Head of Protective Services would ensure that concerns regarding the discontinuation of the

collection of statistics on the nature and consequences of home and leisure accidents by the DTI are pursued with the Scottish Accident Prevention Council Home Safety Committee.

ROAD SAFETY PROGRAMME

12. There was submitted and noted a report dated 19 May 2003 (circulated) by the Director of Development Services which informed of work carried out by the Road Safety Training staff in the Department of Development Services.

FUTURE MEETINGS

13. It was noted that meetings of the East Ayrshire Community Safety Forum would take place on Wednesday 24 September 2003 at 1100 hours and Wednesday 3 December 2003 at 1100 hours, both in the Meeting Room, Council Headquarters, London Road, Kilmarnock.

The meeting terminated at 1232 hours.