

APPENDIX**EAST AYRSHIRE ACCIDENT PREVENTION COMMITTEE****MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 4 JUNE 1997 AT 1130 HOURS
IN THE MEETING ROOM, COUNCIL HEADQUARTERS, LONDON ROAD,
KILMARNOCK**

PRESENT: Councillors Gordon Cree, Alan Campbell, George Smith, Jim Carmichael and James Boyd; Local Committee Community Representatives: Ronald Brailsford and Peter Neely; School Board Representatives: Tom Ferguson (Shortlees Primary School Board); Elaine McAlpine (Annanhill Primary School Board); Stewart Imrie (Kirkstyle Primary School Board); and Ron Cross (Greenmill Primary School Board); and Janice Millar (Kilmarnock Swimming Club).

ATTENDING: Bill Stafford, Director of Community Services (Secretary); Inspector Alan Golightly, Strathclyde Police, Community Involvement Branch (R Division); Inspector John Johnston, Strathclyde Police, Community Involvement Branch (U Division); Tony Kane, Community Fire-fighter - Strathclyde Fire Brigade; Joseph Cassidy, Principal Officer (Housing); Alison Smith, Principal Officer (Community Services - Registration and Licensing); Neil Bell, Senior Engineer - Roads and Transportation (Development Services); Eleanor G Dewar, Environmental Health Officer (Community Services); and Stuart Nelson, Administrative Officer.

APOLOGIES: Councillors John Smith (Chair), Daniel Coffey and David Fulton; Local Committee Community Representatives: Edward Torrance (Vice-Chair) and Watson Muirhead; School Board Representatives: Michael Hilston (Galston Primary School Board); Mary Reilly (ROSPA); and Joan Wells (WRVS).

CHAIR: In the absence of Councillor John Smith, Chair and Mr Edward Torrance, Vice-Chair, Councillor Boyd was unanimously appointed to the Chair for this meeting.

APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR (Item 1, Page 1811)

1. The interim Chair invited the members to appoint a Chair and Vice-Chair of the Committee for the period until 31 March 1998, and it was unanimously agreed that Councillor John Smith be reappointed Chair and that Mr Edward Torrance be reappointed Vice-Chair.

MEMBERSHIP 1997/98 (Item 2, Page 2126)

2. There was submitted and noted a report dated 28 May 1997 (circulated) by the Secretary advising of the membership of the Accident Prevention Committee for the Period until 31 March 1998.

MINUTES OF LAST MEETING**3. (a) Approval of Minutes**

There were submitted (circulated) and approved as a correct record, the Minutes of the East Ayrshire Accident Prevention Committee of 11 March 1997.

(b) Safety of Domestic Gas Appliances (Item 5, Page 2127)

Arising from the Minutes, it was agreed that the Secretary would arrange for a report to be submitted to the next meeting, on the outcome this Committee's request to East Ayrshire Council that all gas appliances installed within the Council's housing stock in future by the authority or by tenants should incorporate an appropriate fuel cut off device which would operate in the event of Carbon Monoxide exceeding safe levels.

SAFETY INITIATIVES: "DANGER DETECTIVES" AND FIRE SAFETY WEEK 1997: REQUEST FOR FUNDING

4. There was submitted a report dated 27 May 1997 (circulated) by the Secretary advising of two forthcoming safety events, being "Danger Detectives" and Fire Safety Week 1997 - Activities in George Square, Glasgow, for which the organisers had sought financial assistance in respect of the running costs.

It was agreed that financial assistance of £100 be made in respect of Fire Safety Week and that financial assistance of £150 be made in respect of the "Danger Detectives" initiative.

ACTIVITIES

5.1 Strathclyde Fire Brigade

Tony Kane, Community Fire-fighter (i) circulated statistics on call outs by fire appliances within East Ayrshire during the period 28 February to 30 April 1997; and (ii) in response to questions put by members of the Committee, when the comparatively high incidences of grass fires in the Dalmellington area was highlighted, confirmed that the Fire Brigade were addressing this particular problem through (a) local poster distribution; (b) representations to Head Teachers of local schools and (iii) the Brigade's ongoing public education programme in relation to fire prevention etc.

5.2 Strathclyde Police

Inspectors Golightly and Johnstone confirmed the commitment of Strathclyde Police to promoting the aims of the Accident Prevention Committee and to work in partnership with other organisations and agencies, including East Ayrshire Council, in order to secure those aims. The Inspectors also made reference to the recent launch within East Ayrshire of the Safety Training and Education in Primary Schools (STEPS) initiative which is being promoted jointly by East Ayrshire Council and Strathclyde Police and aims to improve the awareness of children of school age in respect of road safety issues.

Arising from discussion it was agreed to remit to the Secretary to make arrangements for a presentation on the STEPS initiative to be made to the Committee at the next meeting.

5.3 Roads and Transportation

The Senior Roads Engineer (Neil Bell) highlighted the traffic calming measures which had been implemented during the financial year 1996/97 referring particularly to those adjacent to the Dean Park, Kilmarnock and at a number of towns and villages located along the A76 Route. It was also explained that it is intended that traffic calming measures will be implemented in other communities during the current financial year, specifically those located off the A71 and in Stewarton and Kilmaurs.

The Senior Engineer emphasised the contribution which traffic calming makes to road safety, a recent survey undertaken in Mauchline having indicated that the new measures had led to an average reduction in the speed of traffic passing through that community. It was also confirmed that the nature of the measures implemented are determined in the light of consultation with the local communities concerned.

5.4 Community Services

- (a) Catrine Safety Day The Environmental Health Officer (Eleanor G Dewar) reported on the recent “Catrine Safety Day” which had been the latest in an ongoing programme of such events within local communities. This event had been well attended by members of the public and had a good selection of displays on show, including one provided by the Council’s Community Services Department.
- (b) Staffing The Secretary explained that financial provision had been made within the Community Services Department budget to allow for the addition of a Community Safety Officer to the establishment of that Department; and that an Officer from Strathclyde Police had been seconded to the Department on a temporary part-time basis to promote preparation of the Council’s Community Safety Strategy. The Committee noted the comments made by the Secretary and expressed the hope that the new appointments would enable the Council to take a more pro-active role in promoting safety issues within East Ayrshire, particularly in so far as the Safety Officer is concerned in being represented at local events such as Gala Days etc.

5.5 “Get Streetwise: Pavements are for People” (Item 7, Page 2128)

Mr Peter Neely, Chair of the East Ayrshire (South) Forum on Disability made reference to the “Get Streetwise: Pavements are for People” Campaign being promoted by the National Federation of the Blind of the United Kingdom which is supported by this Committee. Mr Neely indicated that the Campaign is having only a limited effect and again highlighted the importance of this particular issue.

After discussion, it was agreed that the Secretary would:

- (i) write to the Divisional Commanders for U and R Divisions of Strathclyde Police, expressing the Committee’s appreciation of the efforts which both Divisions have made in endeavouring to meet the aims of the Campaign and requesting that they continue to make as much progress as possible in dealing with offenders; and
- (ii) draw the attention of the Scottish Accident Prevention Council Road Safety Committee to the situation as highlighted by Mr Neely, in respect of their interest.

SEPTEMBER MEETING (Item 8, Page 2128)

6. The Secretary reported that the scheduled date for the next meeting of the Accident Prevention Committee, being Wednesday 10 September 1997, coincided with a meeting of the Scottish Accident Prevention Council Home Safety Committee in Edinburgh and, in the circumstances, requested that the Committee agree to reschedule their September meeting, being the next meeting.

It was agreed that the next meeting of this Committee would take place on Thursday 11 September 1997, commencing at 1400 hours, in the Meeting Room, Council Headquarters, London Road, Kilmarnock.

ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS**7.1 National Food Safety Week**

The Environmental Health Officer (Eleanor G Dewar) drew the attention of the Committee to National Food Safety Week from 9-15 June 1997, the purpose of which was to promote food safety and health and safety issues. It was explained that during the week, information and competitions would be featured in the local press and appropriate information on the issues would be made available to the public at various locations and events.

7.2 Rogue callers

Councillor Brailsford made reference to two recent incidents of rogue callers calling at the homes of elderly people. The Committee having supported the concerns expressed by Councillor Brailsford on this matter agreed that the Secretary would raise the matter with the local Crime Prevention Panel with a request that an initiative be pursued to educate and inform the general public on such callers.

The meeting terminated at 1235 hours.