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MINUTES of MEETING of COWAL COMMUNITY SAFETY FORUM held in the 22 HILL STREET, DUNOON on TUESDAY, 23 JUNE 2015

Present: Councillor Bruce Marshall (Chair)

Shirley MacLeod, Area Governance Manager
Jo Rains, Environmental Health Manager
Sergeant John Forrest, Police Scotland
Inspector Ewan Wilson, Police Scotland
Andy MacLure, Scottish Fire and Rescue
James Howard, Trading Standards
Les Earle, Strachur Community Council

1. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were intimated from:-

Robert Cowper, Anti-Social Behaviour Co-ordinator
Ailsa Cunningham, Amenity Services Technical Officer

2. **MINUTES**

The minute of the Cowal Community Safety Forum 2 April 2015 was approved as a correct record, subject to a change at item 4. (c) Environmental Health update of the minute.

3. **MATTERS ARISING**

(a) **ARGYLL AND BUTE COUNCIL - BLOCKED CALLS**

Councillors at the recent Bute and Cowal Area Committee meeting had raised concerns that Argyll and Bute Council phone numbers were being blocked under a new scheme due to the numbers being withheld.

James Howard, Trading Standards informed the group that the call blocking scheme is an invaluable tool that is providing protection against scam callers to Argyll and Bute's most vulnerable residents and gave examples to the Forum of residents within Argyll and Bute being scammed out of thousands of pounds prior to the scheme being in place.

The Forum held a discussion to look at ways in which Argyll and Bute Council phone numbers can be unblocked by changing their withheld status.

Action

The Area Governance Manager agreed to raise this item with the IT department so see if anything can be done and if there is an override code that can be used.

(b) **DOG FOULING**

A representative from Amenity Services was not present at the meeting so therefore no update was provided on dog fouling.

In the absence of Amenity Services Councillor Marshall asked the Forum their thoughts on the current dog fouling situation and whether there was a general feeling of any improvement in hot spot areas. It was noted that the situation still appears to be an ongoing issue.

Actions

Sergeant John Forrest agreed to record the hot spot areas into the direct policing plan for officer's attention.

(c) **LIVING IT UP PROJECT**

A representative from Living it Up was not present at the meeting, two reports had been submitted to the Forum for consideration but due to the absence of representation this item was not discussed.

4. PARTNERS UPDATE

(a) **POLICE SCOTLAND**

Sergeant John Forrest, Police Scotland provided the Forum with a crime overview with the following points noted:

- There has been an increase in late night assaults, this is mainly contained to a Friday and Saturday night and are usually alcohol fuelled. In response to this increase Police Scotland have conducted high visibility patrols, increased visits to licensed premises and are reintroducing pub watch.
- The recent Police 5 A Side tournament went very well and is planned again for next year.
- Officers who attended Sandbank Gala reported back that the event went very well and Police Scotland are hoping to be able to bring the Police dogs and horses to next years event.
- It was reported that Donald MacKay has been appointed as the new Wildlife Crime Officer for the Cowal Area.
- Following a recent drink driving campaign there were two detections.
- There are five to ten excessive speeders a week on average detected on local roads.

Inspector Ewan Wilson introduced himself to the forum and explained that he had just been newly appointed to the post of Inspector for the Bute and Cowal Area. Inspector Wilson provided the Forum with a brief breakdown of his previous experience as well as expressing that he is looking forward to working with local partners and become an integral part of the local community.

(b) **SCOTTISH FIRE AND RESCUE**

Andy MacLure from Scottish Fire and Rescue took the Forum through a presentation on the development of Scottish Fire and Rescues Strategic Plan for 2016 – 2019, which included a

breakdown of statistics, proposed budget savings and ways of future working. A discussion took place between the Forum and Andy MacLure, Scottish Fire and Rescue with the following points noted:

- There have been thirty fire fatalities across Scotland in the last six months.
- Home Fire Safety visits are still being carried out across Argyll and Bute.
- Argyll and Bute have a low percentage of severe fires in comparison of more deprived areas in Scotland.
- It was noted that Scottish Fire and Rescue are increasingly called out to more health related issues and on the back of this are introducing more defibrillators in local areas. Training for these machines will be led by Scottish Fire and Rescue.
- It was noted that false alarms are still a major issue.

(c) **ARGYLL AND BUTE COUNCIL**

Environmental Health

Jo Rains, Environmental Health Manager provided the Forum with the following update:

- Environmental health have lost four key posts, having a knock on effect to existing staff members as most are now having to travel Argyll wide to provide services and some projects are having to be delayed. Jo noted that they are having difficulty in recruiting.
- Noise Complaints: Environmental Health are now currently only looking at repeat offenders and it was noted that there appears to be a downwards trend in the number of noise complaints being reported.
- For the forthcoming Health and Safety week Environmental Health are planning to use Twitter and Facebook to provide information to the public.
- It was reported to the Forum that Environmental Health are currently in the middle of the events season which means staff are very busy during the week as well as supporting events at the weekends.

Amenity Services

Ailsa Cunningham having submitted apologies for the meeting was not present and therefore no update was provided.

Trading Standards

James Howard from Trading Standards reported to the Forum that Trading Standards had nothing further to report and no issues to raise.

(d) **ANTI SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR**

Robert Cowper having submitted apologies for the meeting provided the group with a written update regarding Anti Social Behaviour orders in Argyll and Bute over the last quarter, with the following points noted:

- The ASB sub group met on the 30th April 2015 with 9 cases being discussed.

- 6 Cases were carried forward and 3 new cases.
- 3 of the carried over cases were assessed as being satisfactorily resolved and were removed from the sub groups case files.
- The 3 new cases were discussed and all three have partnership action applied to them and have been carried forward for review at the next meeting.
- Two of the remaining three involve enforcement action under ASB legislation and therefore these cases are retained on the list while this takes place.
- The Group delivers an extremely effective response in tackling persistent anti social behaviour due to the good work by the partner agencies.

Sergeant John Forrest informed the Group that the ASB sub group meetings are a really good thing from a policing perspective.

Actions

The Area Governance manager will forward a schedule of Community Council Meetings to Police Scotland.

5. COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP WORKING

Shirley MacLeod, Area Governance Manager took the Forum through a report detailing a proposal to restructure Community Safety Partnership working that better integrates community safety within community planning structures. The proposal was developed with community safety partners and has been endorsed by the Community Planning Partnership.

Discussions took place regarding the new structure with the following noted:

- The local strategic group will provide a direct link to the Local Area Community Planning Groups.
- Meetings of the central group will be held on a six to eight week basis.
- Representation on the group will generally be at strategic level unless there is a specific issue then the relevant person would be invited to the meeting.
- Councillor Marshall raised a concern regarding frontline services attendance at Area CPG meetings and asked if the meetings could be structured to facilitate officer attendance. The Area Governance manager responded that yes this could be done at the Chair's discretion.
- It was noted that Police Scotland and Scottish Fire and Rescue will provide representatives to the next Bute and Cowal Area Community Planning Group scheduled for August.

The new structure was endorsed and the chair agreed that this would be the final meeting of the Cowal Community Safety Forum.

6. AOCB

It was agreed that no further meetings of the Cowal Community Safety Forum were required and Councillor Marshall thanked everyone for their support in attending the meetings over the years.

Actions

1. Trading Standards to distribute call blocking information to Community Councils
2. The Area Governance Manager will chase up the dog fouling report for Councillor Marshall.

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