

MINUTES of MEETING of HELENSBURGH AND LOMOND COMMUNITY SAFETY FORUM
held in the MARRIAGE ROOM, HELENSBURGH
on FRIDAY, 23 AUGUST 2013

Present: Councillor Vivien Dance (Chair)

Melissa Stewart	Area Governance Officer, Argyll and Bute Council
David Rae	ACHA
Paul McCann	Housing Officer, Argyll and Bute Council
PC Andy Crawford	Police Scotland
Robert Cowper	Anti-Social Behaviour Co-ordinator, Argyll and Bute Council
Stuart McCracken	Service Development Officer, Argyll and Bute Council
Jolyon Gritten	Access Manager, Argyll and Bute Council (by VC Link to Lochgilphead)

The Chair proposed and the group agreed to take the agenda items out of sequence to allow officers to leave after their input.

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were intimated from:-

Councillor Gary Mulvaney
Station Commander Tony Meechan, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service
Tom Murphy, Argyll and Bute Council
Chief Inspector Stitt, Police Scotland

2. MINUTES

The minute of the meeting 17 May 2013 was approved as a correct record.

3. MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

4. MEMO OF UNDERSTANDING - WILD CAMPING

Jolyon Gritten spoke to the aims of the Memorandum and the rights afforded to the public by the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003. He emphasised enforcement rights, defined wild camping and responsibilities of landowners in terms of removal of any litter left on their land which was a requirement of the Act. Jolyon then requested that Police Scotland patrol problematic areas.

Decision:

1. Agreed to add Luss, Ardmore Point and Loch Lomond shore to the list of areas contained within the Memorandum of Understanding.
2. Agreed that PC Crawford would take this issue back to the

Inspector for agreement.

5. GREEN DOG WALKING

The Group were provided with an update from Stuart McCracken on the Falkirk Council Scheme. He advised that the Council had declined to join the Scheme on the basis that it would only capture responsible dog owners which would not necessarily address any issue and that there was an associated resource implication. Stuart also reported on joint patrols this service were conducting with Police Scotland and outlined the process for dealing with problematic areas.

Decision:

1. Agreed to look at locating signage in Fort Road as Cove and Kilcreggan Community Council had raised concerns to Police Scotland.
2. Noted that Community Groups, such as Community Councils could sign up to the Scheme but that there would be a resource implication in doing so.

Jolyon Gritten left the meeting following conclusion of this item.

6. CLEAN UP SCOTLAND INITIATIVE

The Group were provided with an update from Stuart McCracken on the work being undertaken by Streetscene and Police Scotland in terms of their visits to hotspot areas. He also advised of 3 pupils who had been lettered re littering at Hermitage Academy.

Decision:

Noted the update provided.

Stuart McCracken left the meeting following conclusion of this item.

7. NURSERY CRHYMES

Melissa Stewart advised the group that Dunoon Grammar School had featured in a dvd called "Nursery Crhymes", which could be made available upon request. The storyline had been written by pupils at the school and raised awareness of drug and alcohol abuse for teenagers.

Decision:

It was agreed that Melissa Stewart would forward a copy of the dvd to PC Crawford of Police Scotland.

8. PARTNER UPDATES

- (a) Scottish Fire and Rescue Service

The Group noted the update tabled at the meeting and the Chair highlighted the fact that there was still a week left during which they could submit their response to the consultation on the draft strategic plan.

The Group also noted the positive news that accidental dwelling fires were down by 50% and the reasons behind the 50% increase in grass fires.

(b) Streetscene

There was no additional information provided, the Service already having updated on issues earlier during the meeting.

(c) Police Scotland

Andy updated the Group on a number of Initiatives within the area, such as:

1. Shopwatch – Initiative with local shop owners to deter shop lifting. Andy advised that to allow for a Police presence on bikes, £200 for high viz safety gear would be required. The Chair suggested making contact with Helensburgh Community Council who had some funds at their disposal and may be able to assist.
2. An update on the work of the mobile unit.
3. Rural Watch – Andy advised that there were just short of 70 members in the scheme and outlined his role in co-ordinating and sending out crime notifications.
4. Co-op at Railway Station – Andy discussed the recent trend amongst youths in hanging around the station and the arrests for disorder and littering. He commented that the station had removed the soft seating area to discourage loitering and that there was CCTV coverage.
5. Whistlefield Inn – Andy advised of damage and theft of copper with a value of £30,000. The thieves had been disturbed and DNA samples taken from the scene. He was confident that this would lead to arrests in the very near future.
6. Senior Safety Event – This would take place in the Gibson Hall, Garelochhead on 20th September 2013 between the hours of 10.00am and 1.00pm.
7. Luss Rescue Boat – Andy advised that due to the fact that the Boat has been dealing with multiple agencies, they required a radio licence. This would cost £2,000 per annum and could not be met by the Rescue Boat funds. He enquired whether there were any funding avenues the group could explore. The Chair suggested the Co-operative Fund and Melissa agreed to pass on information previously circulated to Community Councils in pursuing the “No Cold Calling” initiative as some of the funding sources may be relevant.

Decision:

1. Noted the update and agreed to circulate funding information to Andy.
2. Agreed that Andy would establish which agency licensed this and would pass this to the Chair who would in turn pass on to the Group for information.

9. FINANCIAL UPDATE

Melissa Stewart advised the group of the lack of funding available to them emphasising that funding had previously been provided by the Scottish Government but that this was no longer the case.

Decision:

Noted the update and lack of funds available.

10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Group will take place on 15 November 2013 at 10.00am in the Marriage Room, Helensburgh.

