

MINUTES of MEETING of COWAL COMMUNITY SAFETY FORUM held in the CUSTOMER SERVICES OFFICE, 22 HILL STREET, DUNOON on MONDAY, 4 NOVEMBER 2013

Present: Councillor Marshall (Chair)

Shirley MacLeod, Area Governance Manager
James Howard, Trading Standards
Julie Thompson, Area Housing Officer, Homeless
Inspector Paul Robertson, Police Scotland
Sgt Kenny MacRoberts, Police Scotland
Robert Cowper, Anti Social Behaviour Co-ordinator
Ailsa Cunningham, Area Streetscene Officer
Fiona MacRoberts, Rape Crisis
David Mitchell, Head Teacher of Dunoon Grammar
Fiona Biggart, Dunoon Grammar School
Laura Stephenson, Argyll and Bute CHP

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from:-

Jo Rains, Environmental Health Manager
Heather Jeffrie, ACHA

2. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Cowal Community Safety Forum of 28th June 2013 were approved as a correct record.

3. MATTERS ARISING

(a) RUBBISH BEING DUMPED AT ARDENSLATE SHOP

David Mitchell, Head Teacher of Dunoon Grammar School updated the Forum on the issue of rubbish being dumped by pupils at the Ardenslate Shop.

He advised that a great deal of time has been spent by staff addressing this matter in school and pupils are helping to pick litter up after lunchtime.

He advised that the road up from the Pit Stop and shop is a concern and he has met with the shop owner to address this who has given no support and is still continuing to serve school pupils after the bells. David has also met with Inspector Robertson who is keen to work with him to help resolve this matter.

Councillor Marshall advised he is delighted with the way David, the Police and Streetscene are taking this forward.

Inspector Robertson suggested they put more pressure on the shop

keeper over the next two weeks and monitor the amount of litter that is being dropped over the weekend.

4. SEXUAL HEALTH

Laura Stephenson from Argyll and Bute CHP updated the Forum on her Sexual Health report.

She spoke on her contact with schools and youth groups and advised she will be visiting Dunoon Grammar school soon to give a talk to pupils on sexual health.

Councillor Marshall agreed to raise this matter with the new Lead Councillor for Education and help Laura publicise this across more schools.

The Forum noted the information provided.

5. PARTNER UPDATES

Homeless Services

Julie Thompson updated the Forum on the homelessness figures in Cowal, they have decreased and they now have 50 full cases. She advised there are still a few private empty homes which need better use made of them.

Trading Standards

James Howard gave an update on the increase of no cold callers, they are in the process of targeting traders and tackling unwanted phone calls.

Councillor Marshall suggested it would be helpful to have no cold calling stickers available for individuals, particularly elderly to attach to their doors and James advised they are waiting to receive funding for stickers and leaflets.

The Forum agreed to get something in the local press to highlight this issue.

Police Scotland

Inspector Robertson gave an update on their work focus on anti-social behaviour in the town centre. He advised that crime levels are still down and the Cowal Games weekend was very successful and only 19 arrests were made over the full weekend.

He advised that the volume of incidents in the last two weeks have been busy and that they are currently carrying out a plan for Bonfire night. He informed the Forum that there is a big focus into the winter and an action plan has been completed for driver behaviour over the next month and to then carry on through the festive season.

Inspector Robertson advised they are currently running a pilot to monitor who is coming in and out of the town and stopping drivers to see the condition of their vehicles.

He further advised there has been an increase in Anti Social behaviour calls in ACHA, receiving complaints from noisy neighbours. He suggested joint visits between ACHA and the Police would help reduce the number of calls.

Anti Social Behaviour

Robert Cowper gave an update on the decreased anti social behaviour cases, he advised between February and August 2013, there has been 14 substantive cases. He informed there were 24 last year so this has been a 50% decline.

He advised that the CCTV in the town centre has been serviced and is in robust order for the winter period.

Rape Crisis

Fiona advised that funding has been lost for their Helensburgh worker and they are down Admin Finance cover. She advised they currently have one volunteer in the Cowal area.

She updated the Forum on the recent nuisance withheld number calls she has been receiving and Inspector Robertson agreed to look into this if the problem continues.

Streetscene

Ailsa advised that they have been undertaking 50 metre surveys on the streets all year round and all information has been put back to the Executive and they have received a good score of 82. She further advised that there is a new litter strategy in place and there is still a problem in the town in regard to dog fouling.

She informed the Forum that there have been recent farm thefts in the area and Inspector Robertson agreed to liaise with their Intelligence Officer to look into this matter.

She then gave an update on the new Seasonal Worker who has been appointed.

6. AOCB

Councillor Marshall agreed to invite a representative from Choose Life to give a presentation at the next meeting.

7. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next Community Safety Forum will be held on Monday 13th January 2014 at 2pm.

