

MINUTES of MEETING of COWAL COMMUNITY SAFETY FORUM held in the CUSTOMER SERVICES OFFICE, 22 HILL STREET, DUNOON on MONDAY, 27 JANUARY 2014

Present: Councillor Bruce Marshall (Chair)

Jo Rains, Environmental Health Manager
Stephen Doogan, Area Governance Officer
Robert Cowper, Anti-Social Behaviour Coordinator
James Howard, Trading Standards Officer
Ailsa Cunningham, Environment Warden
Kenny MacRoberts, Police Scotland
Andy Maclure, Scottish Fire and Rescue
Nic Banks, ACHA
Solena MacLeod, Resident of Ardenslate

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Heather Jeffries, ACHA and Julie Thomson, Argyll and Bute Council.

2. MINUTES

The Minute of the Cowal Community Safety Forum of 4 November 2013 was approved as a correct record.

3. MATTERS ARISING

The Anti-Social Behaviour Coordinator advised that the CCTV system was still currently with Streetscene and positioned in Hanover Street Gardens. The Environment Warden advised that the dog fouling issue has improved since the CCTV camera has been in place at Hanover Street/Albert Terrace Gardens and that they no longer require it at this location.

The Anti-Social Behaviour Coordinator informed the Forum that there was a request at the Anti-Social Behaviour Group meeting last week to consider putting the CCTV camera at Church Street in Dunoon and Councillor Marshall suggested that we consider putting the camera at the Ardenslate Shop to try and solve the litter issue.

The Antisocial Behaviour coordinator agreed to discuss this with partners but reminded the group that CCTV was usually intended to be used where there was no physical presence monitoring the ASB issue which may not be the case here.

The Area Governance Officer advised that Tracy Preece from Choose Life could not attend this meeting but she will come to the next meeting in April.

4. PARTNER UPDATES

(a) POLICE SCOTLAND

Kenny MacRoberts from Police Scotland advised that they have a very quiet Christmas period with only 1 serious assault and the Christmas Strategy worked very well in relation to disturbances.

He advised that they have recently started rural watch which will run in conjunction with neighbourhood watch, there will be a bimonthly newsletter to update members of the community in the local area.

He informed the forum that there have recently been complaints received in relation to speeding on Victoria Road. He further advised that the Council are looking at options for putting up fencing to reduce the speeding at McArthur Street and Hanover Street, along with speed bumps for 20 yards.

Police Scotland are currently undertaking joint working with the Environment Warden in the Council to tackle the dog fouling issue with an evening shift to promote this.

(b) TESSA

The Area Governance Officer spoke on the project, noting that 8 schools in Argyll and Bute remain extremely engaged with the programme and that there is now a follow on worker who spends 2 days twice a year in each school, a process which is working very well. It was also noted that there is a full time support worker for young people with learning disability currently undertaking long term work in MAKI, the project is considering how this part of the service could be extended to other areas. The group noted with concern the uncertainty of the funding situation for TESSA beyond 2015

(c) SCOTTISH FIRE AND RESCUE

Andy Maclure from Scottish Fire and Rescue updated the Forum on the recent incidents which took place between 1st October 2013 and 25th January 2014 in the Cowal Area. He advised there had been 47 false alarms in the sheltered housing complex and they are aiming to try and reduce the number of false alarms.

(d) ARGYLL AND BUTE COUNCIL

Environmental Health

Jo Rains from Environmental Health updated the Forum on a number of Community Safety Based projects that are underway in her service. To illustrate one aspect of the work being undertaken she gave a presentation to the Forum on the risk and vulnerabilities relating to Legionnaires Disease and the work being done by her service to mitigate this by tackling issues in Spas and Public pools. Jo noted the substantial increase in the number of rental holiday properties which are having spas installed.

The Forum noted the information provided.

Streetscene

Ailsa Cunningham from Streetscene advised that they are still one person down in the department. She further advised that they have recently sent out two warning letters in regard to litter dropping and the dog fouling issue is still a problem.

She informed the Forum that there have been complaints received about bins not being collected and advised that this is due to the bin lorries starting their run at 8am and people have not put their bin out on time. The Area Governance Officer agreed to contact amenity services to see if there was any possibility of having the 8.00 am time for collection put on the side of the lorries.

Anti-Social Behaviour

Robert Cowper updated informed the Forum that there are now 10 cases in the last week which have had actions placed against them, 2 people have received final warning, 1 person subject to case conference meeting and 1 recommended for mediation. He advised there have been joint working visits involving Police Scotland and the Housing Association staff to tackle these issues. They have recently lost their Social Work representative but will have a new person attending for the next meeting.

Councillor Marshall thanked Robert for his hard work and it has caused a huge decrease in anti-social behaviour in Dunoon.

5. FUTURE DIRECTION OF THE GROUP

The Anti-social Behaviour Co-ordinator gave a brief update on progression of the Single Outcome Agreement in relation to Outcome 6 – People Live in Safer and Stronger Communities, noting that this work is being lead by Chief Superintendent Barry McEwan of Police Scotland. It was noted that there is likely to be a strategic Tasking and coordinating Group. The process for dealing with local issues is also being considered, potentially with a view to local Community Planning Groups taking on that role. The Forum expressed concern about the potential for really local issues to be lost in that process, and it was noted that a further update will be considered at the next meeting of the group.

6. NO COLD CALLING

James Howard from Trading Standards gave a verbal update on the progress of the Cold Calling campaign. He advised they are working with Police Scotland to try and reduce the number of incidents in the area and that they are still waiting on funding, but have leaflets ready to go.

7. AOCB

Ardenslate Shop

Councillor Marshall updated the Forum on his recent meeting 2 weeks ago in relation to Ardenslate Shop.

Solena MacLeod, a resident of Ardenslate advised she is fed up with the litter from the shop not being picked up and going into her garden. She advised she has written to ACHA and the Council previously, and on 18th December she wrote to the local Councillors to try and resolve this issue. She further advised that the grass needs cut and the fences need repaired as it is becoming a danger to people.

Councillor Marshall advised he had met with David Mitchell, the Head Teacher of Dunoon Grammar School and he is working closely with the school children to mitigate the litter issue. David wrote to the shop owner on 7th January to try and address the litter problem but has had no response and has made plans in the meantime to stop the junior children going down the street at break time.

It was agreed that Ailsa Cunningham from Streetscene and Nick Banks from ACHA would try and help as much as possible to reduce the amount of litter around the shop.

Water Safety

Jo Rains from Environmental Health asked if water safety could be put on the agenda for the next meeting as she feels we need to promote this more.

8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was agreed that the date of the next Cowal Community Safety Forum would be held in April and the Area Governance Assistant would be in contact with members of the forum to confirm the date.

