

**MINUTES of MEETING of OBAN LORN & THE ISLES COMMUNITY SAFETY FORUM held in
the OBAN COMMUNITY FIRE STATION
on MONDAY, 24 FEBRUARY 2014**

Present: Councillor Louise Glen-Lee (Chair)

Councillor Alistair MacDougall
Stephen Doogan, Area Governance Officer
Iain MacKinnon, ABC Council
Sue Stefek, ABC Council
Fiona Scott, ABC Council
Mandy Sheridan, ABC Council
Julie McLeish, Police Scotland
Martin Hill, Scottish Fire and Rescue
Murray Humphries, Lochwatch Loch Awe
Laura Stephenson, Argyll and Bute CHP

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from:-

John Heron, ABC Council
Carol Keeley, ABC Council
Robert Cowper, ABC Council
Iona MacPhail, ACHA

2. MINUTES

The Minutes of the previous meeting of 25th November 2013 were approved as a correct record.

3. MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

4. SEXUAL HEALTH

Laura Stephenson of Argyll and Bute CHP summarised a report which had already been submitted to the Community Planning Group where it was suggested it be re-submitted to the Forum.

The report identifies the need to promote sexual health and wellbeing at local, regional and national levels.

There was a significant level of discussion about how the priorities and needs highlighted in the report could be met and the part which each of the partners could play. It was felt that these are difficult issues which can only be addressed through education in a supportive context. The work of TESSA was highlighted in the discussion as was the Nursery Chrymes initiative from Dunoon Grammar School

The group agreed to note the report and to work to raise awareness locally in relation to issues of sexual health and sexual attitudes. Laura Stephenson had to leave the meeting at this point to attend another appointment.

5. PARTNER UPDATES

(a) POLICE

Julie McLeish from Police Scotland advised the Group that the consultation in relation to the policing priority plans is underway and the final plans would be published soon. There will be one for Oban North and one for Oban South. She informed the Group that the next change in the local police service is likely to commence from 1st April 2014 where the senior management of the force in the area may be streamlined

She advised that the police are currently preparing for upcoming events including the Mull Music Festival in April, the Tiree Music Festival in July and the Mull Rally in October.

Inspector McLeish invited the Group to participate in the Community Engagement meetings which are taking place in Oban on 3rd March, Mull on 4th March and Connel on 6th March, all commencing at 7pm, and advised these events helps Police Scotland set priorities for the community.

The Area Governance Assistant agreed to share this information with the Community Planning Partnership and Community Councils.

The Inspector informed the Group that the recent Internet “game” Nek Nomination may become a serious issue. In this “game” people consume significant amounts of alcohol while getting filmed. No serious problems have as yet been reported, however given the levels of alcohol consumed in the game, it can only be a matter of time until there is a serious incident.

(b) TESSA

The Area Governance Officer to this topic, noting that eight of the Secondary Schools in Argyll and Bute remain extremely engaged with the programme with the remaining two providing the syllabus in an alternative format. Tessa now has a follow on worker who spends a minimum of 2 days twice a year in each school, doing follow up work a process which is working very well. A version of the TESSA program has been developed for pupils with learning difficulties and it is thought that this is the first program of this type specifically for young people with learning difficulties.

It was noted that Oban High School does not undertake the TESSA programme in their school as they have a full time support worker that deals with this area and they consider that they have the resources they need already.

(c) SCOTTISH FIRE AND RESCUE

Martin Hill from Scottish Fire and Rescue updated the Group on the festive campaign, he advised that they published another media article in the Oban Times with a local elderly resident who had experienced a home fire safety visit, and that this publicity raised the

profile of the service which led to a number of home fire safety visits in the area over the festive period. He advised they circulated fire safety information related to the consumption of alcohol to remind people not to put on ovens etc while drinking alcohol, and to advise people not to overload sockets with Christmas lights. Cmdr. Hill advised that the festive/Winter Strategy was a success. The Service has now moved on to its spring/summer strategy covering issues such as the Muirburn Code.

Cmdr. Hill informed the Group that, the "Fire Fighter For a Day" event scheduled for 10th January has been postponed largely due to uncertainties as to weather. Scottish Fire and Rescue hope to have another date in place for the start of May. and this will be circulated once known

He advised that there has been a local fire raising group set up to have discussions around road traffic collisions in the summer time and the group helps them deal with different challenges. He further advised they are holding an anniversary event to pay tribute to the deaths from last year, the work that is involved and that they are happy to help in the future.

(d) **NHS**

The Group agreed to defer this item to the next meeting as no one from NHS was present.

(e) **LOCHWATCH LOCH AWE**

Murray Humphries from Lochwatch Loch Awe updated the Group on the recent viewing of "Jaws" in Oban cinema which helped raise money for the loch.

He advised they Lochwatch Loch Awe are currently working on acquiring and installing a pontoon for berthing of the new rescue boat and it is intended that this will be available from the end of March for the fishing season. The boat is waiting for the installation of the new Radar and Sonar equipment needed to search the loch bed.

Murray also updated the Group on the recent meeting they had with the Forestry Commission and spoke about plans under discussion regarding a piece of land at the loch which could be used as a parking, mustering space for all vehicles next to the memorial. Murray noted that the Scottish Government are keen to promote the use of the lochs, the Forestry are content to dispose of the land to Lochwatch or a similar body since they do not usually wish to take on the maintenance of memorials, LochWatch Loch Awe are in the process of submitting their final application for the upgrade of the land. It was noted that some members of the community had raised a concern about a potential litter problem that may arise in this area. But it is felt by those involved that this will be manageable.

(f) **ARGYLL AND BUTE COUNCIL**
Environmental Health

Sue Stefek informed the Group that Environmental Health still have improvement grants for private water supplies available up to a value of £800 per property and advised they are also currently working towards the events taking place in Oban, Lorn and the Isles this year.

Social Work

Mandy Sheridan advised that her service is getting more involved with 16 and 17 year olds in Criminal Justice. There is a new community payback scheme coming into operation for minor offences, with a Social Worker being involved. Mandy also advised that there is a young people's bill coming through Parliament which will change the authority's obligation in relation to looked after Children in Argyll and Bute. So that Children will have a call on the authority for a level of support and assistance up until the age of twenty five.

She informed the Group that Janice Ritchie, the former Area Manager had moved on and Alex Taylor has taken up post.

6. RESILIENCE PLANNING

The Area Governance Officer updated the Group on Resilience Planning. He advised that the project had gone out to Community Councils and was due to be completed later in the year. He asked the Group if the maintaining of this would be something they would be interested in taking forward and being a point of contact for partnerships to come and ask questions and get training.

The Chair advised this is something the Community Planning Group is engaged in so there was no need for us to be involved.

The Group agreed not to take this forward.

7. NO COLD CALLING

There was no one from Trading Standards present at the meeting so the Group agreed to defer this item to the next meeting.

8. FUTURE DIRECTION OF THE GROUP

The Area Governance Officer 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 led 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 strongly expressed its concern about the potential for local issues to be lost in that process, it was also highlighted that the Oban group was considered by its members as an invaluable resource in the

area for coordinating inter agency working as well as networking. It was felt that irrespective of the view of other areas that, the loss of the group in Oban would be a significant blow to the promotion of community safety in the Area. It was noted that a further update will be considered at the next meeting of the group.

9. OBAN/CONNEL BACK ROAD

Fiona Scott was invited along to the meeting to update the Group from a Planning perspective on the Oban/Connel back road. She advised that in 2009, the Council undertook a case on the road on capacity evaluation and that it was approved by Members. She further advised that there are currently 4 live applications in this site and that there is no change in the new Local Development Plan.

The Group agreed to take this item forward by asking members of the group to present a paper to the June Area Committee. Whether the paper is to simply notify Members of the issues and asking them to start the process of reducing the speed limit along the road to 30mph, or whether there will be a need to ask them to initiate an earlier part of the process (e.g. the data collection) will depend on whether robust data in support of the reduction has already been collected.

10. BIKER'S ROAD MAP

The Group had a discussion on the Bikers Road Map which was discussed at a previous meeting.

The Area Governance Officer advised he would have the map ready for the next Community Safety Meeting in May.

It was noted that the Head of Roads and Amenity Services met with Members of the Bikers Group at Kilmelford to identify dangerous spots on the road.

11. AOCB

Fiona Scott from Planning asked if she could be added to the agenda for future meetings.

12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting will be held on Monday 26th May 2014 at 2pm in Oban Community Fire Station.