

**MINUTES of MEETING of COWAL COMMUNITY SAFETY FORUM held in the CUSTOMER SERVICES OFFICE, 22 HILL STREET, DUNOON on MONDAY, 11 AUGUST 2014**

**Present:** Councillor Michael Breslin (Chair)

Jo Rains, Environmental Health Manager  
Robert Cowper, Community Safety Officer  
James Howard, Trading Standards Officer  
James Ferguson, Amenity Warden  
Alex Purdie, Scottish Fire and Rescue  
Inspector Paul Robertson, Police Scotland  
Susan McFadyen, Cowal Community Care Forum  
Fiona McRoberts, Rape Crisis

**1. APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Councillor Bruce Marshall, Ailsa Cunningham and Julie Thompson of Argyll and Bute Council.

**2. MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Cowal Community Safety Forum held on 28<sup>th</sup> April 2014 were approved as a correct record.

**3. MATTERS ARISING**

**(a) ARDENSLATE SHOP**

Robert Cowper advised there has been no further information received from ACHA since the last meeting. The Chair reported that this matter is still progressing.

**4. PARTNER UPDATES**

**(a) SCOTTISH FIRE AND RESCUE**

Alex Purdie updated the Forum on the Bikers Breakfast which took place in Inveraray last month. He advised that there was over 200 participants on the day with 170 bikes there and it was a great success and attracted a large number of tourists.

He reported on the recent Community Action Team where they are working on home fire safety visits in sheltered accommodation.

He advised there have been 7 special services call outs in the last quarter, 7 dwelling fires and 2 casualties.

Alex advised that Eddie Renfrew is retiring this month and a new person will be in post in September.

He raised a local issue with the group in regards to a home fire safety visit he undertook in the Dunoon area where adapters from 50's/60's are still being used which do not meet the current regulations. He advised that he is currently liaising with Building Standards and the Housing Improvement Officer who have been really helpful and are looking into carrying out mains installation checks which is best practice for all organisations in the community.

James Ferguson suggested that Scottish Fire and Rescue look into grants for installation and Inspector Paul Robertson suggested that they go to the local newspapers to make people aware of this and offer free home fire safety checks.

The Chair asked if Legal Services have been contacted to see if there are any legal implications in the act. Alex agreed to raise this with the Housing Improvement Officer.

The Group agreed to pass this issue onto the Property Action Group for Bute and Cowal.

#### (b) **POLICE SCOTLAND**

Inspector Paul Robertson updated the Group on the road block campaign Police Scotland currently carried out where they caught 2 parties selling second hand cars that are not licensed to do it. Paul advised that Police Scotland are working closely with Trading Standards on this campaign and meet once a month to discuss issues.

He advised that the Cowal Games plans are now in place and even although there are a reduced number in bands attending, there are different activities to attract more families to the event along with activities arranged in the town. He advised that Jim MacLean will be helping co-ordinate the stalls at the games and has organised a historical clan attraction and a musical event.

Paul updated the Group on the Home Sweet Home plays and advised they are scheduled to take place on 3<sup>rd</sup> September in the village hall in Innellan in the morning and the Community Centre in Dunoon in the afternoon. He advised that the play focuses on fire safety and general crime prevention. He advised that funding for this play for applied for via the Fire and Rescue Community Fund on behalf of the Cowal Community Safety Forum.

Paul reported on the new dedicated Road Traffic department for the Cowal area which will be focusing on the activity on the trunk roads.

#### (c) **ARGYLL AND BUTE COUNCIL**

##### Amenity Services

Jim Ferguson updated the Group on the new Traffic Wardens which

started in May. He advised that they have a new working pattern which will be Monday-Thursday and Wednesday-Saturday and will be out in the evening to try and tackle the dog fouling problem.

The Chair raised a concern in relation to dog fouling and advised it was made clear to all Councillors that Parking Enforcement Officers would be dealing with this as this is a complaint that most Councillors receive a number of times.

He advised that he will be out at 6am on Cowal Games Saturday to make sure cones and signage are in place for the event.

### Trading Standards

James Howard presented the new cold calling stickers to the Group which Trading Standards have issued locally.

He advised that he has now got a system in place for clients which blocks a withheld number and so far there have been 2 people scammed and the clients are receiving their money back.

The Chair raised a concern about Argyll and Bute Council and other partnership calls being blocked as they withhold their number and advised this is not customer friendly.

James updated the Group on the latest scam which is ongoing with a company from England who are calling customers and asking if they require any help to prevent no cold calling. He advised that Trading Standards in Brighton are looking into this.

James also advised that Trading Standards will be present at Cowal Games.

### Environmental Health

Jo Rains updated the Group on the project she is currently working in which focuses on legionella and hot tubs and advised that there was a death in Perth and Kinross recently where someone caught the legionnaires disease.

The Group had discussion on gas safety and Jo passed around a photo of a gas cooker in a commercial premises that they are currently looking into as they have received fraudulent information and a false gas safety certificate. The premises is currently closed. As they are in the middle of the investigation, Jo agreed to check if she could share this information with Alex Purdie at Scottish Fire and Rescue and report back to the Group.

Jo advised that they have had a case for illegal dog imports which are currently being transported over from Spain as stray dogs. She advised that Animal Health are involved.

She updated the Group on anti-social noise for the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter. She

advised there was 61 noise complaints, 2 domestic complaints and 2 street noise complaints. She reported that there have been 21 noise complaints so far in this quarter.

The Chair raised a concern about the pier in Dunoon. He advised it is a safety hazard as there is a lack of suitable barriers at the gangway and children could easily fall off the side. The Group agreed to look into this.

## **5. DOG FOULING**

James Ferguson advised that the new Parking Enforcement Officers are working later in the evening to catch/engage with dog walkers.

Robert Cowper asked if the CCTV and Police involvement has improved the issue and James advised it had improved as the complaints have dropped.

## **6. WATER SAFETY**

Jo Rains advised the Group that she has been unable to undertake this project yet as promised, due to staffing issues.

## **7. AOCB**

### Rape Crisis

Fiona McRoberts updated the Group on their new office in Bute. She advised funding is still an issue for Rape Crisis and there are 9 members of staff across Argyll and Bute and no one is funded as of March 2015.

Fiona advised that they are currently receiving a high number of referrals and undertaking training.

### Cowal Health and Wellbeing

Susan McFadyen advised that Cowal Health and Wellbeing have allocated funding of £9,100 and the deadline is 17<sup>th</sup> September for a further £3,900. Susan agreed to forward the Area Governance Assistant information on this for distribution round the Community Safety Forum.

Susan advised she will be cutting down her hours with Cowal Community Care Forum as of 1<sup>st</sup> September as she will be starting a new job with the Council and asked if we could keep sending her the minutes and she can attend the meetings when possible.

## **8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

It was agreed that the Area Governance Assistant would liaise with Councillor Marshall to set a date for the next meeting.