

**MINUTES of MEETING of BUTE COMMUNITY SAFETY FORUM held in the EAGLESHAM  
HOUSE, ROTHESAY  
on FRIDAY, 15 AUGUST 2014**

**Present:** Councillor Len Scoullar (Chair)

Robert Cowper, Anti-Social Behaviour Coordinator  
Richard Gorman, Environmental Health Officer  
Alex Purdie, Scottish Fire and Rescue  
David Wilkinson, Police Scotland  
Inspector Paul Robertson, Police Scotland  
Kathryn Armstrong, Fyne Homes

**1. APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from James Ferguson, Amenity Services Enforcement Officer.

**2. MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Bute Community Safety Forum held on Friday 2 May 2014 were approved as a correct record.

**3. MATTERS ARISING**

**(a) MAIL LEAFLETING COSTS**

Councillor Scoullar advised that this item was regarding issuing a mail shot to the public warning them about cold callers and rogue tradesmen in the area. He advised that he had followed up his action from the last meeting and had spoken to the Army Cadets. He advised that the Army Cadets were willing to distribute the mail shot however would not be able to provide a cost for this until it was clear as to how many they were to distribute. Paul Robertson advised that Argyll and Bute's Trading Standards department had created a small, handy leaflet that would be perfect for using to do a mail shot. The Forum discussed the possibility of placing the small, informative leaflet in with some existing mail issued from the Council that goes to a large number of people. It was suggested that it could be placed in with Council Tax letters as all households get a letter and the leaflet is so small that it would not cause any increase to postage costs. Councillor Len Scoullar agreed to speak to Judy Orr, Head of Customer and Support Services for Argyll and Bute Council to see if this would be possible. Inspector Paul Robertson advised that a copy of the leaflet could be placed in the local paper and in this advert there could be advice available on where to pick up a hard copy of the leaflet. The Forum agreed that hard copies of the leaflet could be placed in public places such as Argyll and Bute Council Service Points, Libraries or Medical Centres. Paul Robertson agreed to speak to trading standards in Dunoon and clarify their plans in terms of distribution and the quantity they plan on producing. Paul Robertson advised that once he had gathered this information he

would pass it onto the Chair. Paul Robertson highlighted that sending the leaflet to everyone could possibly be seen as excessive however he advised that he believed that it would be beneficial to make everyone aware of the potential hazard. The Forum agreed that although the leaflet would initially be distributed over Bute, it could potentially be distributed over the whole of Argyll and Bute.

#### **4. PARTNER UPDATES**

##### **(a) POLICE SCOTLAND**

David Wilkinson updated the Forum on the most recent figures for Police Scotland and advised that there had been 122 crime offences, 44 of which remain undetected. He advised that Police Scotland had attended a house fire along with Scottish Fire and Rescue on 16 July. He advised that the High Street had to be shut for forty five minutes however there was no injuries. David Wilkinson advised that there had been a serious crash in Port Bannatyne involving a car and a cyclist. He advised that the cyclist was in a stable but serious condition. He reported that Police Scotland were in attendance at the plane crash at the weekend and reported that the Air Accident Investigation was still ongoing. David Wilkinson advised that they had carried out several drug searches throughout the last quarter, including ones on the ferries and in licensed premises on the island. He advised that Police Scotland had successfully policed the Bute Triathlon and the Agricultural Show, and there had been no incidents at either of these events. He advised that they were policing the Highland Games next Saturday and were hoping for good weather for the local event. He advised that resources from the Area were used to support the Commonwealth Games and this did not lead to any shortages in the area.

Paul Robertson advised that he was on duty when the plane crash happened on the island, and advised that there had been outstanding efforts from all of the joint local agencies. He advised that the Royal Navy Team and the NHS team who both arrived by helicopter, provided a world class service. He reported that before they arrived all of the local agencies and members of the public responded admirably and the service they provided in dealing with the tragedy was outstanding. He advised that the work that the two local doctors carried out whilst waiting for the air assistance was outstanding. He advised that although this was a tragic incident he was highly impressed by the service provided by all of the local agencies.

Councillor Len Scoullar advised that he is very pleased to hear the positive views of Paul Robertson after such a horrible tragedy.

##### **(b) SCOTTISH FIRE AND RESCUE**

Alex Purdie, on behalf of Scottish Fire and Rescue thanked Paul for his kind words. He advised that he has lived in a variety of places

throughout Scotland and he has never failed to be astonished by members of the public and the assistance they provide to emergency services in rural areas.

Alex Purdie advised that since the last meeting the Bikers Breakfast had taken place in Inveraray. He advised that the day had been a great success and around 220-225 bikers in attendance. He advised that the bikes had created a good tourist display for other visitors. He reported that purpose of the day was to teach bikers what to do in accidents and this included how to safely remove a helmet after an accident. Alex Purdie advised that the Community Action Team had been busy carrying out Home Safety Visits including visits to Sheltered Housing to ensure the most vulnerable people are not at risk.

Alex Purdie advised that in the last quarter there had been two accidental dwelling fires, one of which had been in sheltered housing.

He advised that staff had been utilised at the Commonwealth Games, which had provided an excellent opportunity for staff to gain experience working at such a large scale event.

Alex Purdie advised that Mr Renfrew would be retiring at the end of the month and this would be a big loss to the area. He advised that his replacement would be announced in due course.

He advised that he is settling into his new role and he is hoping to move forward and bring new ideas to the Forum in the future.

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

Richard Gorman advised that anti social noise nuisance behaviour features significantly in complaints to the service and they continue to work with Police Scotland initially to deal with the problems as well as with other agencies such as Fyne Homes and ACHA.

He reported on action taken by the service in relation to food safety including legal action against a premise which had failed to meet appropriate standards. Scottish Fire and Rescue during the prosecution to provide fire safety advice.

Richard Gorman reported to the Forum on Gas Safety checks in catering premises and scrutiny of Gas certificates. He highlighted the importance of this as in Rothesay there are occupied flats above many of the catering premises.

He advised the Forum on action to reduce and prevent that the risk of Legionella in spa baths and Jacuzzis.

In response to a question asked by Alex Purdie on how involved Scottish Fire and Rescue had been in the prosecution case, Richard Gorman advised that he had contacted Sandy McLean from Dunoon to advise the owner of the premises how Gas should be safely stored. Alex Purdie highlighted how important it is that sharing of information occurs between all the agencies in the area and emphasised the importance of identifying a successful way of sharing this information. He advised that Scottish Fire and Rescue will carry out fire safety checks on all food premises that have people living above them.

Richard Gorman advised that Patrick Mackie, Environmental Health Officer, is currently working on a protocol on information sharing between agencies.

The Forum discussed if premises that are built under flats, which were built with the intention of being offices or shops become hot food takeaways, if there is a requirement for a change of use application to be submitted to building standards. Richard Gorman advised that he will speak to Billy Dickson from Building Standards and report back to the next meeting of the Forum.

#### Anti-Social Behaviour

Robert Cowper advised that the Anti-Social Behaviour Sub Group is continuing to meet on a regular basis and the next meeting is in October. He advised that there had been no increase in complaints and although four or five cases had been resolved these had been replaced by new cases. He advised that the partners continue to be supportive.

He reported to the Forum that the Cashback for Communities Youth Work programme had received applications from 11 organisations from across Argyll and Bute and seven of these had been successful. He advised that the programme, which is administered by Youth Link Scotland, provides small grants to youth work services to support delivery of social and personal development activities for young people.

In a response to how often the fund is allocated, Robert Cowper advised that it is a Scottish Government initiative. Applications are made direct to Youth Link Scotland and are assessed against designated criteria for the fund.

#### (d) **FYNE HOMES**

Kathryn Armstrong advised that Fyne Homes have recruited a nursery nurse who had started this week. The role of the nursery nurse will be to go out and work with tenants' young children. They will be initially working in Rothesay however will eventually move into the Cowal Area. She advised that they had also recruited a Welfare Rights Officer who will be available to provide advice to tenants. She advised that the Welfare Rights Officer will be based in Rothesay

however will be covering the whole area.

Kathryn Armstrong reported to the group that Marie Bowie, has left her position of Housing Director at Fyne Homes and either herself or Tracy Shields will be attending this meeting in.

Kathryn Armstrong advised that Fyne Homes are busy with day to day tenancy issues and are continuing to receive support from other local agencies.

**5. AOCB**

No discussion was raised under this item.

**6. DATE OF NEXT MEETING - FRIDAY 14 NOVEMBER 2014**

The Group noted that the next meeting of the Bute Community Safety Forum will take place on Friday 14 November 2014 at 10:15am in Eaglesham House, Rothesay.

