

**MINUTES of MEETING of OBAN LORN & THE ISLES COMMUNITY SAFETY FORUM held in  
the OBAN COMMUNITY FIRE STATION, SOROBA ROAD, OBAN  
on WEDNESDAY, 27 AUGUST 2014**

**Present:** Iain MacKinnon, Environmental Health Manager (Chair)

Lorna Elliott, Community Governance Manager  
Sue Stefek, Environmental Health Officer  
Fiona Scott, Planning Officer  
James Howard, Trading Standards Officer  
Inspector Julie McLeish, Police Scotland  
Alex Purdie, Scottish Fire and Rescue  
Betty Graham, NHS Highland  
Murray Humphries, LochWatch Loch Awe

**1. APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from:

Councillor Alistair MacDougall  
Robert Cowper, Argyll and Bute Council  
June Graham, Argyll and Bute Council  
Alex Taylor, Argyll and Bute Council  
Martin Hill, Scottish Fire and Rescue  
Iona MacPhail, ACHA  
Eleanor MacKinnon, Oban Phoenix Cinema  
Dave Blezard, Outside Edge

**2. MINUTES**

The Minutes of the previous meeting of the Oban, Lorn and the Isles Community Safety Forum were approved as a correct record.

The Chair reported to the Forum on the Bikers Breakfast event which was recently held 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.

The Chair asked Inspector Julie McLeish to send him information on the number of fatalities and accidents on the A85 so he could highlight these figures to members of the Forum.

The Community Governance Manager gave an update on the NADICs signs and advised that the Area Governance Officer has been in contact with Bill Weston, the Council's Traffic and Development Manager who has advised it is possible to have road safety information on these signs. Requests to have local road safety messages on signs should be routed through Bill Weston in the first instance who will then liaise with Transport Scotland.

She updated the Forum on the Home Sweet Home play and advised it would be £450 plus catering costs for three performances for this play to come to Oban and the Trading Standards Officer advised that this play is being shown in Dunoon on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September in Innellan Hall if anyone would be interested in viewing it.

### **3. PARTNER UPDATES**

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

Inspector Julie McLeish from Police Scotland updated the Forum on the Designated Drivers Scheme which was piloted in Mull earlier this year which is supported by some licensed premises around Oban since July where they display a sticker on their premises which entitles the designated driver to free soft drinks.

She advised that their Safer Communities department are looking to roll out Rural Watch to more remote areas which brings communities together to discuss issues and share good practice around safety which is supported by Police Scotland.

She reported on the road policing works which are continuing through Argyll and Bute where they are looking into diversion routes that can be used when accidents occur on A85 between Connel and Oban. She advised that the feasibility study has shown that it is not as simple as first thought due to types of roads involved being unsuitable for the large volume of traffic but will be progressed meantime and discussed at the Road Safety meeting in September.

Inspector McLeish advised that anti-social behaviour stats seem to be decreasing, particularly in relation to reports of young persons and street drinking which is positive. She suggested this may be the change in bye law for street drinking which was extended last year. She advised that the Anti-Social Behaviour Forum has been really effective as this looks closely at specific addresses or hotspots.

She updated the Forum on the upcoming events which are happening in the area with Argyllshire Games taking place on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> August and Mull Rally in October.

She advised that Police Scotland are still undertaking the Summer Campaign targeting road offending, safety and speeding with road checks and enforcement taking place. She reported that in the month of August alone, there were 27 fixed penalty notices issued for drivers not wearing a seatbelt incurring a penalty of £100 but more importantly causing significant safety issues.

She gave an update on the personnel changes within Police Scotland and advised that the Road Policing department is now well established with 3 officers based in Oban and a new Divisional Commander will be starting the force in September which will bring in new changes.

**(b) SCOTTISH FIRE AND RESCUE**

There was an update from Scottish Fire and Rescue which confirmed they have now engaged in their Summer Strategy over the holiday period and have designed a leaflet covering fire safety advice in relation to camping, caravanning and gas safety in the one publication and they issued 2500 of these leaflets to nearby campsites. It was advised that they had a joint article in the Oban Times with Police Scotland colleagues to promote the strategy and gave out 1000 of these leaflets to festival goers attending the Tiree Music Festival.

It was advised that Scottish Fire and Rescue are also working with Road Safety Scotland and Police Scotland to issue advice to members of the community and tourists to promote road safety and thanked June Graham, the Council's Road Safety Officer who was extremely helpful in assisting with the vast amounts of road safety literature and materials which were distributed during the strategy.

They updated the Forum on the Cut-it-Out event which is taking place in Oban High School in September for S6 students which is designed to introduce them to the dangers and consequences of bad driving. They advised the programme is aimed at young drivers and similar aged young people who may be passengers within a vehicle to try and reduce the numbers of young people killed, injured or involved in road traffic crashes within the area. They advised that it has been identified that the 17-25 year old age group accounts for around 21% of all drivers killed.

Inspector McLeish reported that Martin Hill will be leaving Oban Fire Station at the end of September to take up a new position at Clydebank Head Quarters and a replacement is yet to be identified but advised that Martin would like to record his thanks to all multi-agency partners for all their help and assistance in the two and a half years he has been at Oban Fire Station.

The Chair thanked Martin on behalf of the Forum for all his support and wished him well for his new position.

Alex Purdie introduced himself to the Forum and advised he had taken up a new role as Commander in February of this year. He advised that Community Action Teams are engaging with home fire safety visits.

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.

He advised the Forum that Eddie Renfrew is retiring on Friday 29<sup>th</sup>

August and that there will be a new replacement in post soon.

**(c) ARGYLL AND BUTE COUNCIL**

Environmental Health

The Environmental Health Officer gave an update on the action taken by the service in relation to food safety including legal action against a premise which had failed to meet appropriate standards. She also updated on Gas Safety checks in catering premises and scrutiny of Gas certificates.

She advised that Environmental Health are now carrying out inspections at public events and they will be in attendance at the Argyllshire Gathering Games on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> August at Mossfield.

She reported on the dedicated team of officers for controlled samples that are currently looking into shellfish and they have put signs in place to let people know there is a problem with high levels for PSP.

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

She advised that there are still private water grants available for £800 per property.

**(d) NHS**

Betty Graham from NHS introduced herself to the Forum and advised she was attending on behalf of Caroline Henderson.

She reported on Tiree Music Festival and advised that they had significant medical and ambulance cover this year and that they would also provide this cover at Mull Rally in October.

The Chair suggested that all partners flag up upcoming events to the Forum which could disrupt traffic, medical assistance etc so that all partners can be notified and provide cover where appropriate.

**(e) LOCHWATCH LOCH AWE**

Murray Humphries from Lochwatch Loch Awe gave an update on the Loch Patrol Boat. He advised that the pontoon and pier at Innis Chonain is complete and donations, materials and transport to the site have been made by Strathclyde Scaffolding, MacQueen Brothers Removals, Argyll Commercials, Homebase and West Coast Motors. He advised that Atlantis Leisure have recently helped by donating some rescue training aids for the boat.

He updated the Forum on the press and TV interest in the loch patrol boat and advised they will be arranging an "open day" before the end of the fishing season for Lochwatch volunteers and friends and will

also invite the press.

He reported that some of the marker buoys are off station due to high winds and fluctuating loch levels and that the safety boat will be used to sort these out and get them back into position. He advised that there is a warning on the website and Facebook page.

He advised that they have obtained some orange hi-vis waistcoats which have "LochWatch" printed on them and thanked the Wool and Needcraft shop in Oban for their help with this.

He advised that they have currently been uploading videos and pictures of the boat on their Facebook and Twitter page.

The Chair updated the Forum on the recent meeting he attended in Perth with Murray Humphries which covered Water Safety and in-land safety in building safer communities.

#### **4. NO COLD CALLING**

The Trading Standards Officer 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.

He 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.

#### **5. CALL FILTERS**

The Trading Standards Officer presented a call filter system which he now has in stock. He advised that this will block withheld numbers and international calls and will be given to customers who are vulnerable.

The Forum noted the information provided.

#### **6. KEEP CALM AND HANG UP**

The Trading Standards Officer handed out "Keep Calm and Hang Up" leaflets which have been designed to help reduce the number of telephone scams.

The Forum noted the information provided.

#### **7. OBAN TOWN CCTV SYSTEM**

Inspector Julie McLeish reported that the CCTV camera at Combie Street has now been removed due to the demolition of a building and they have recently received a disc recorder. She advised that the Anti-Social

Behaviour Co-ordinator will be undertaking a CCTV Review across Argyll and Bute.

She advised the Forum that there is currently mobile CCTV set up behind the Cathedral as a result of vehicles getting vandalised there and Police Scotland are using this opportunity to prevent and detect crime.

**8. AOCB**

The Chair mentioned to the Group that Community Safety matters were receiving more attention at a National level and other areas were moving towards a more operational based structure.

**9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING - 26 NOVEMBER 2014**

The next Oban, Lorn and the Isles Community Safety Forum will be held on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> November 2014 at 2pm in Oban Community Fire Station.

