

**MINUTES of MEETING of OBAN LORN & THE ISLES COMMUNITY SAFETY FORUM held in
the THE LECTURE ROOM, OBAN COMMUNITY FIRE STATION, SOROBA ROAD, OBAN
on MONDAY, 11 FEBRUARY 2013**

Present: Iain MacKinnon (Chair) ABC

Stephen Doogan, Area Governance Officer, ABC
Councillor Alistair MacDougall
Sue Stefek, Environmental Health Officer, ABC
Inspector Julie McLeish, Strathclyde Police
Martin Hill, Strathclyde Fire and Rescue
Murray Humphries, Loch Watch, Loch Awe
Mandy Sheridan, Team Leader, ABC

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from:-

Councillor Louise Glen-Lee
Brian Murphy – ACHA
John Heron - A&B Council
Carol Keeley, Argyll and Bute Council
Christine Dairon – NHS
Robert Cowper, A&B Council

2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING - 22 AUGUST 2012

The Minutes of the previous meeting were approved as a correct record.

Strathclyde Fire and Rescue gave an update on the Kerrera exercise response and advised that they were looking into arranging for everyone on the Islands to have a home fire safety visit. Iain advised the forum that the intention was to continue to encourage people to volunteer for home visits and through this, and other individualised advice, minimise the fire risks facing islanders. Martin indicated that he would update the forum at a future meeting.

3. LOCHWATCH LOCH AWE

Murray Humphries advised that the fishing season is finished at the moment so the loch has been quiet but the season will begin to pick up again in 2 weeks time.

He also advised that Lochwatch Loch Awe are currently looking at a new boat for the loch and it is a 27 ft cabin boat that can be used in all weather conditions. Murray is currently looking at fundraising promotions for the boat, pontoons and fishing points.

The Area Governance Officer asked Murray if the other Argyll and bute community safety Forums could use his organisation as a source for life

jackets and expertise for their own local water safety issues Murray was more than happy for this to happen and told the forum he still had life jackets left and they were £30 each.

4. PARTNERSHIP UPDATES

(a) STRATHCLYDE POLICE

Inspector Julie McLeish reported to the forum on the upcoming move on 1st April 2013 to a single force. She advised there would be no change on the ground and that this appeared to be a positive and well managed way forward. She also advised the forum that a new Community Investigations Unit had been created in OLI and this would tackle more local issues and Liaise with the ASB group.

The Area Governance Officer queried if it was likely that there would be any change to the Police or Fire Service involvement in the Community Safety Forum with the advent of the single services and Julie advised that the commitment is still there and she is unaware of any change.

Councillor Alistair MacDougall asked if the new Mobile Police Unit was working well and Julie explained to the forum that it was successful and they hoping to do mobile surgeries in the future and that joint surgeries will also happen with other services.

(b) STRATHCLYDE FIRE AND RESCUE

Strathclyde Fire and Rescue updated the forum on the success of the Bonfire night campaign as they had no casualties and that the winter festival was also a success.

Martin Hill advised that a pilot project had been run with Tesco with fire safety home visit leaflets now going out with each Tesco home delivery order to publicise the service. It is hoped that this will be rolled out nationally.

Strathclyde Fire and Rescue sponsored the Shinty Cup Final in Oban in September 2012 and the Hogmanay Dance in the Corran Halls.

The Oban Times recently ran an article advising that Strathclyde Fire and Rescue were shortly going to be charging for fire calls and Martin Hill told the forum this was inaccurate information and that there were no such intentions.

Martin advised that as of 1st April 2013 SFR would , like the police, become part of a new National Fire service.

(c) ARGYLL AND BUTE COUNCIL

The Area Governance Officer updated the forum on the relationship between the OLI Community Planning Group and Community Safety Forum and that he would be putting a highlight/exceptions report to

each Community Planning Group updating them on the work of each of the local Community Safety Forums. He explained that each CSF can be seen as a sub group for the Community Planning Group and that we both provide information to them and ask for and respond to specific tasks which they request.

5. UPDATE FROM SUB-GROUPS

(a) ANTI SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

Inspector Julie McLeish advised the forum that the Anti Social Behaviour Subgroup continues to function and that the last meeting of this was very positive allowing several cases to be closed. Julie to liaise with Robert Cowper to bring appropriate statistics to the next Community Safety meeting.

(b) VULNERABLE PEOPLE

Julie advised that this is ongoing business and took down this item as an action.

Martin Hill agreed to Liaise with Mandy Sheridan to ensure social work staff are able to refer clients and promote the fire safety visit appropriately.

(c) ENVIRONMENT SAFETY

Iain spoke to Councillor Glen-Lee regarding environment safety and he advised that more information would be brought to the next meeting.

Water Safety

The Area Governance Officer advised that it had been suggested at another CSF that the recent increase in popularity of kayaking and canoeing had meant that there was potentially a corresponding increase in the number of less experienced participants and that this could result in an increase in the risks.

He indicated to the forum that the MAKI forum had put adverts round campsites last year because it was seen as successful, were doing this again at the beginning of the season It was suggested that the OLI forum could put posters/leaflets around schools, local clubs and similar, and it was agreed that any relevant information be passed on to each of the forum members to distribute to the groups with whom each is in contact in order to raise awareness.

6. EMERGENCY PLANNING EXERCISE UPDATE

Carol Keeley submitted an email update to the forum advising the main outcomes of the Easdale event on Tuesday 15th January 2013.

Overall this event was seen as a success however, an issue arose re the

Ambulance Service and service provision. It is understood that this issue has now been resolved by Ambulance service management and should not reoccur. The event was well attended and the Islanders now have a better idea of what response to expect from the mainland.

7. REGULATORY SERVICES

Sue Stefek updated the forum on recent safety initiatives.

Regulatory services are currently running a campaign re gas safety both on campsites and elsewhere etc. She has sent out letters to local stores that sell barbeques to try and raise awareness of how dangerous carbon monoxide can be in enclosed spaces such as tents. Food hygiene assessments are also being done in commercial businesses and in tandem with this safety inspections of the commercial gas installations are taking place. As in other areas, the number of engineers qualified to remedy faults found remains an issue.

8. OIL THEFTS IN OBAN

The Area Governance Officer gave an update on oil thefts in Oban. He advised that he had been in telephone contact with Pitt Street and awareness had been raised through the Council website and at the other local Forums. Julie told the forum that this is an ongoing issue and it has been publicised locally.

9. ARGYLL AND BUTE RAPE CRISIS

Alison Black submitted a report (attached) advising the forum on the Tessa Programme that was now in schools. And the support provided to victims by Rape Crisis. It is a useful and positive report and they have funding for another two years.

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Kerely Court

Strathclyde Police and Fire and Rescue both received a letter from the residents of Kereley Court. They are unhappy with the parking issue for dropping off and collecting children from school. Julie asked the group for a joined up approach in replying to the residents of Kerely Court and speak to the school and West Highland Housing also. It was agreed that the Police and SFR would undertake an assessment of what action was needed and address it appropriately.

Police Activity

Julie advised that the 1st two weeks in March the Police are going to be looking at everything in the Oban area and working with other forces. They will tackling all issues and Julie told the forum if they had any suggestions, to let her know.

Oban Hogmanay Party

Gary McPherson of the Garden Centre reported to the forum on the proposed Oban Hogmanay Party and asked for the Forums support their support. He advised that the predecessor committees had previously held the party in Tesco car park as a free event, with live music but that in the current economic climate, no funding is to be had. He told the forum how successful the 2007 and 2008 were when he held this event and that everything would be certificated and done safely and professionally. It is currently proposed that this year's event take place down at the sea front, beside Mackays and Semi Chem and that the local Pubs would stay open even possibly organising a "single ticket" allowing entry to all participating pubs,

His aim is to make this event run year on year noting that it is one of the busiest times of the year.

The event would take place from 8pm to 12:30am, finishing off with a firework display. He advised that businesses would help fund the fireworks and shops etc would be fenced off to ensure public safety.

Mandy Sheridan asked if the event would still go ahead weather permitted and Gary advised her that the only thing that would prevent it from going ahead would be the wind. She also asked if there would be an area set out for people with mobility problems and Gary assured her there would be a platform put in place so it was accessible for them also.

Councillor MacDougall asked why funding had been turned down for this event in previous years. Gary told the forum that funding was turned down because in 2009 the Hogmanay event got cancelled a week before and Events Scotland will only fund an event if it has been successful the previous year.

Julie raised a concern regarding the event, the residents that live around the area and also the control in numbers. Gary advised that the noise level would be checked off with meter readings.

Gary is to come to a future meeting of the Community Safety Forum to give more details of the event.

The Chair highlighted that there were a number of issues which would require to be considered and resolved such as necessary road closures, and that the event organisers would be asked to work with the Multi – agency Events planning group comprising appropriate police SFR and council officers who would be able to provide advice re the necessary but vital detail which this event will undoubtedly need .

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting is on 22nd April at 2pm.