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## MINUTES of MEETING of COWAL COMMUNITY SAFETY FORUM held in the CUSTOMER SERVICES OFFICE, 22 HILL STREET, DUNOON on WEDNESDAY, 24 APRIL 2013

**Present:** Councillor B Marshall (Chair)

Stephen Doogan, Area Governance Officer  
Jo Rains, Environmental Health Manager  
Julie Thompson, Area Housing Officer, Homeless  
Paul Robertson, Police Scotland  
Ailsa Cunningham, Area Streetscene Officer  
Fiona McRoberts, Argyll and Bute Rape Crisis

### 1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of the following.

Robert Cowper, Anti Social Behaviour Co-ordinator  
Heather Jeffrie, Local Manager, Argyll Community Housing Association  
Fiona Biggart, Dunoon Grammar School

### 2. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Cowal Community Safety Forum of 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2013 were approved as a correct record.

### 3. MATTERS ARISING

The Area Governance Officer advised the Nursery Crhymes DVD was being distributed to the other Community Safety Forums who had all indicated that they were supportive of its aims. The DVD is being offered to all the Argyll and Bute Secondary schools who are being asked to consider how they can be used if without duplicating some of the materials in the TESSA programme.

#### (a) EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING DAY

The Area Governance Officer spoke on the progress of the Experiential Learning day scheduled for 22<sup>nd</sup> May. The Group agreed the event would run from 1.30pm until 5.30pm and the Area Governance Officer said he would put posters out as soon as possible. Paul Robertson advised that the Police would be doing a joint stall with Trading Standards. The Group agreed tea, coffee and cakes would be provided.

### 4. DOG FOULING

The Area Streetscene Officer spoke on the Green Dog Walkers scheme which a few other councils have adopted. The Group discussed this but were concerned that people who register for the scheme are expected to advertise that they are responsible dog walkers by wearing arm

bands/badges etc and it was felt that it should be the irresponsible dog owners that should be targeted not the other way around. There was also a concern that wearing the armbands might make the person a target in some instances.

The Area Streetscene Officer said that it was very difficult to tackle the dog fouling problem because staff need to be physically present to witness the act and that this is not feasible with the current level of staff. Ailsa advised there is effective partnership working between the Police and Council and this will continue. The mobile CCTV Cameras is being deployed in a location which it is hoped will pick up these behaviours and to allow for fines to be issued as necessary.

Councillor Marshall said he is extremely concerned with regard to the continued dog fouling particularly in Dunoon and Kirn, despite continuous efforts to stamp it out. He and other Councillors are frequently contacted by concerned residents and increased action is required by way of catching, fining and advertising the fact that people are being caught

The Group agreed it was important to change people's perception that dog fouling was acceptable and this would take time. The Group noted that the campaign against dog fouling would continue.

## **5. VULNERABLE PEOPLE**

The Area Streetscene Officer spoke to arrangements made for those who are unfit to deal with wheelie bins Paul Robertson advised that Police refer vulnerable people to the Social Work Department. The Area Streetscene Officer asked if she could put a tick box on the application form used in order to obtain permission to make referrals to Fire Scotland. It was agreed that she would discuss this with the Area Governance Officer.

## **6. NO COLD CALLING**

The Environmental Health Manager spoke to the initiative by Trading Standards to have "no cold calling" posters distributed and advised that areas could have no cold calling designated areas. There is a process that needs to be followed for the no cold calling areas. It is noted that there is no funding currently accessible to the council for this initiative, however it was noted that Community councils may be able to access alternative funding sources.

The Group discussed the need to ensure that these posters were not distributed only to vulnerable people thereby advertising their location. It was agreed that the Area Governance Officer would liaise with the Community Council Liaison Officer and that an email would be drafted to all the Community Councils in the area advising of how the funding could be sourced and the project initiated. Paul Robertson agreed that Police Officers would endorse this initiative at the Community Council meetings. It was further agreed Councillor Marshall would discuss the putting up of posters in ACHA Houses at the next ACHA Board meeting.

## **7. CLEAN UP SCOTLAND**

The Area Streetscene Officer advised that Clean up Scotland is an initiative by Keep Scotland Beautiful and it is to replace National Spring Day, this initiative is for all year round. Ailsa advised that there was no funding available from the council but if they register beach cleans etc with Clean Up Scotland they will supply some materials. The council will collect the rubbish from beach cleans if advised they are on.

## **8. PARTNER UPDATES**

Paul Robertson spoke on the activities of the Anti Social Behaviour sub group advising the referrals are very low. He noted that the Police have had notable successes regarding getting drug dealers evicted. The Police have joint patrols with Ailsa Cunningham to tackle litter and the Police are out at Western Ferries with Trading Standards to target bogus callers and have also been visiting some building sites to ensure that conditions and contract meet with legislative requirements.

Councillor Marshall said he had been impressed with the Police service in the area in particular the curfew arrangement. Paul Robertson gave an update on the curfew and also being able to ban people from Argyll Street as part of their bail conditions.

Julie Thompson spoke on housing service and advised the percentage of people presenting as homeless in the area is down. She explained that a lot of this has to do with preventative measures which have been a great success.

Jo Rains spoke on the noise complaints for the last quarter with 27 in Cowal, 22 in Bute compared to 67 in Helensburgh.

Fiona McRoberts advised Argyll and Bute Rape Crisis is very busy with referrals and the development of a new office in Oban.

## **9. ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS**

There was no other business intimated.

## **10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The Group noted the next Community Safety Forum meeting will be Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> June 2013.

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