

MINUTES of MEETING of COWAL COMMUNITY SAFETY FORUM held in the CUSTOMER SERVICES OFFICE, 22 HILL STREET, DUNOON on FRIDAY, 28 JUNE 2013

Present: Councillor B Marshall (Chair)

Shirley MacLeod, Area Governance Manager
Jo Rains, Environmental Health Manager
Julie Thompson, Area Housing Officer, Homeless
Inspector Paul Robertson, Police Scotland
Ailsa Cunningham, Area Streetscene Officer
Andrew McClure, Fire Scotland
Jolyon Gritten, Access Officer via Lync video call
Helen Lambertini, Rape Crisis

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of the following:-

Robert Cowper, Anti Social Behaviour Co-ordinator
Heather Jeffrie, ACHA

2. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Cowal Community Safety Forum of 24th April 2013 were approved as a correct record.

3. MATTERS ARISING

(a) COLD CALLING

Councillor Marshall spoke on the concerns raised by the Community Councils on the cold calling initiative. The Group agreed the points raised were valid and discussed the initiative. The Area Governance Manager advised that a letter had been sent to all Community Council's regarding the initiative.

The Group agreed that the Police would keep up the awareness of the Cold Calling Campaign and would not do anything further with regard to the posters.

(b) SAFE AND SOUND EVENT

Councillor Marshall advised that the event was very well organised and the stalls were great but the attendance was very disappointing. The Environmental Health Manager spoke on partnership working and suggested is each partner went out to the community with their own initiatives they could then feed back to the Community Safety Forum. The Area Governance Manager suggested linking into existing groups and partners could attend these groups with their initiatives. It was agreed that the Area Governance Manager would write to the larger groups with a list of scenarios asking if they would

like any of them to come along and give a presentation to their group.

(c) CCTV CAMERA - DOG FOULING

The Area Streetscene Officer advised the mobile CCTV camera is now situated on Royal Crescent, and one person received a fixed penalty notice when it was situated on Alexandra Parade. The Group discussed having signs up for the CCTV camera as a deterrent and Julie Thompson said she was advised from Robert Cowper that this was not allowed. Ailsa advised that the CCTV camera is to be moved to the John Street/King Street area and Inspector Robertson said this was a good idea because there had been a spate of sneak thefts in that area. The Group discussed the usage of the camera and Ailsa Cunningham suggested the Community Councils could purchase cameras for their areas, Councillor Marshall suggested they would get funding from Awards for All and it was agreed the Area Governance Manager would investigate the Council insuring the equipment.

4. HUMAN EXCREMENT FROM CAMPERS IN PUBLIC AREA

The Environmental Health Manager gave the background to the problems regarding Wild Campers. The Access Officer gave advice and circulated a Memorandum of Understanding. The Access Officer further advised that this had been a problem within the National Park and they had produced a Bye Law stopping camping, the problems in Cowal are probably displacement from the National Park. The Group discussed the policing of this problem and the best way to tackle it. The Group agreed the Environmental Health Manager would provide hot spot areas for the Memorandum of Understanding and the Access Officer would circulate this via his contacts with the Farmers Union etc, he would also get it put on the Council's website.

5. PRESENTATION ON RAPE CRISIS

The Group heard a very informative presentation from Helen Lambertini on the work Rape Crisis do. She spoke on the support Rape Crisis gives to the victim as well as their families. She advised that Argyll and Bute Rape Crisis deal with men where a lot of other agencies do not. She also advised that they deal with victims that are also having problems with drugs and alcohol. They have had 455 cases where they supported over the phone and 592 face to face. Helen spoke on the TESSA project that deals with children ranging from S1 to S6.

The Group thanks Helen for her presentation and noted the information provided.

6. PARTNER UPDATES

Julie Thompson advised that there was a steady decline in homelessness this is mainly due to the advice and early intervention. They have reduced the number of temporary accommodation. Councillor Marshall asked if there was still a large amount of homeless people coming to Dunoon from the over the water and Julie advised that this had also reduced.

The Area Streetscene Officer spoke on the Clean up Scotland Campaign that had been taken up by many of the schools in the area with a lot of rubbish being removed from the beaches in the area. The Campaign is all year round and Councillor Marshall advised the he felt the area was much clearer. Ailsa advised the cigarettes are then main reason that the LEAMS Figures are not better.

The Environmental Health Manager spoke on the number of noise complaints saying there had been 863 cases in Argyll, this figure is going down. Julie Thompson said she used to received the Noise information and asked for it to be sent to her. Jo further advised that Environmental Health have been very busy recently with all the events.

Inspector Paul Robertson advised that there had been a steady decrease in crime in the area. He advised the ASBO Sub Group was working well and the joint working across partners helps. The Police 5 Aside was well attended and went very well. There has been a spate of sneak thefts in the area and one person has been arrested.

Andrew McClure advised there had been 43 call outs for the local fire service 29 of these were false alarms, Fire Scotland are trying to get the number of false alarms reduced. Fire Scotland had an initiative in the sheltered housing complex on cook safe giving out advice to help stop the false alarms.

7. ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS

The Area Governance Manager advised that ACHA are receiving complaints with the amount of rubbish being dumped at the Ardenslate Shop. Inspector Robertson said he has patrols in that area but it is a particular problem. It was agreed this would be added to the agenda for the next meeting.

8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The Group noted the next Community Safety Forum meeting will be Wednesday 23rd October 2013.

