

**MINUTES of MEETING of OBAN LORN & THE ISLES COMMUNITY SAFETY FORUM held in
the CORRAN HALLS, OBAN
on WEDNESDAY, 8 MAY 2013**

Present: Councillor Louise Glen-Lee (Chair)

Councillor Alistair MacDougall
Martin Hill, LochWatch Loch Awe
Inspector Julie McLeish, Police Scotland
Stephen Doogan, Argyll and Bute Council
Iain MacKinnon, Argyll and Bute Council
John Heron, Argyll and Bute Council

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from:-

Mike Robertson
Iona MacPhail, ACHA
Verina Litster, Strathclyde Fire
Caroline Henderson, NHS Highland
Mandy Sheridan, ABC Council
June Graham, ABC Council
Carol Keeley, ABC Council
Margaret Dalgleish, ABC Council

2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING - 11 FEBRUARY 2013

The Minutes of the Meeting of 11th February 2013 were approved as a correct record.

3. PARTNERSHIP UPDATES

(a) POLICE SCOTLAND

Inspector Julie McLeish from Police Scotland updated the Group on the new Police Scotland Team and advised it was working comfortably and well.

She informed the Group that the new Chief Inspector Alistair Davidson had joined the force.

In the light of the recent tragedy off the coast of Oban Councillor Glen-Lee asked what happens in the event of a missing person? (i.e. what resources are available from which services and how they interact)

Inspector McLeish advised there are enquiries made and the marine branch gets involved. The Coast Guard also get involved and it is then handed over to the Police when the person is no longer alive.

Councillor Glen-Lee thanked Julie and everyone else involved for all their hard work.

(b) FIRE SERVICE

Martin Hill from the Fire Service updated the Forum on the new Scottish Fire and Rescue Service and advised all was going well and they were maintaining the partnership links set up. under Strathclyde Fire and Rescue

He informed the Forum that the new Area Commander is Paul Connelly who had started in post and is covering both Argyll and Bute and East and West Dunbartonshire.

Martin advised that the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service are to shortly donate £3097 to Oban Lifesavers Club for water safety projects. This will be appearing in the Oban Times over the next couple of weeks.

The Area Governance officer advised the Forum that the timeframe for the project to plot a map of motorbike and fatal accidents and publish this as a safety initiative to garages and similar locations has slipped a little. The transfer to the Unified service has meant that the necessary) data has not been easily accessible however this is now resolved and an update will be available at the next Community Safety Forum.

Councillor Glen-Lee informed the Forum about Scottish Fire and Rescue's new twitter page and thought this was a brilliant idea for keeping people up to date.

(c) ARGYLL AND BUTE COUNCIL

All updates provided elsewhere in the agenda.

(d) LOCHWATCH LOCH AWE

Murray Humphries from Lochwatch Loch Awe updated the Forum on recent events.

He advised that the Lochwatch thermal imaging and night vision kit had been deployed during the search for the missing fisherman at Kilchurn in February. Sadly, the person was not found until a week after he went missing when Police divers located him in the river downstream from the railway.

He advised that Roseanna Cunningham MSP, the Scottish Community Safety Minister along with Michael Russell MSP; Jamie McGrigor MSP; Alan Reid MP, local Councillors and representatives of the emergency services had attended a presentation on the work of Lochwatch at the Loch Awe Hotel in early April and that this had been well received.

There was coverage in the Herald, the Oban Times and BBC Alba. All those present supported the work of LochWatch and the Minister backed the campaign to have a safety boat on the loch.

Murray informed the Forum that the lifejacket initiative is still going strong with continued sales <http://www.lapb.org.uk/lifejacket/>

He advised that a slightly revised voluntary Code of Practice has been drawn up for the loch. The changes relate to the speed that boats should do while underway and that actual suggested speeds have been removed from the Code.

He also advised that Glenorchy and Innishail Community Council have kindly donated £150 towards new safety signs. The money is coming from a fund held by the Community Council and provided by the An Suidhe Wind Farm Fund. Murray demonstrated an example of their signage.

4. UPDATE FROM SUB-GROUPS

(a) ANTI SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

Iain MacKinnon, Environmental Health Manager advised that Robert Cowper has checked that there is no dataset which could be used for improved reporting of ASB. Members of the subgroup will be invited to look at this issue, in the meantime anonymised figures can continue to be provided.

Robert Cowper is to come to the next Community Safety Forum with stats.

(b) VULNERABLE PEOPLE

Social Work could not attend this meeting but will report at the next meeting.

(c) ENVIRONMENT SAFETY

Iain MacKinnon and Councillor Louise Glen-Lee agreed to set up a meeting between the two of them and then report back to the next meeting.

(a) GREEN DOG WALKERS

The Area Governance Officer gave an outline of the Green Dog Walkers scheme. He advised this is done through the Scottish Government, and lead by Highland Council. Some Community Councils in neighbouring authorities have adopted this model; however there is a nominal cost.

After discussion, it was agreed not to progress this initiative since

many responsible dog walkers already carry spare bags and will offer these, the chair also wanted to verify that there was an identifiable problem in the Oban area. It was agreed that this would be checked via the Members Portal.

(b) CLEAN UP SCOTLAND

The Area Governance Officer gave an update to the Forum on the new "Clean up Scotland" promotion which is to be led by Streetscene. He advised that in some areas there had been efforts to get schools involved in this initiative (e.g by doing beach cleans etc).

6. GRASS FIRES

It was noted that recent grassfires had been worse than usual due to the unseasonal weather and had put an additional burden of fire service resources, however all stations had responded well as required and the fires had been contained.

It was agreed that this item would be discussed at the next meeting and that stats would be provided. It was also suggested that guidance on controlled burning might go out earlier in the year particularly if there is any likelihood of a repeat of the cold dry weather of this year.

7. NO COLD CALLING

This Initiative is being led by Trading Standards and is intended to discourage doorstep cold calling and the associated crimes. Community Councils and other bodies are being approached to see if they would like to take this initiative forward. It was agreed that Councillor Glen-Lee and Stephen Doogan would report progress to the next meeting.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Oban/Connel Back Road

Murray Humphries from LochWatch Loch Awe provided a report to the Forum on the back road from Oban/Connel.

He thinks the speed limit should be reduced to 30mph as it is a dangerous road.

It was agreed that this paper would be passed to the Area Committee.

9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was agreed that the Area Governance Assistant would book a list of dates for the next year.

