

MINUTES of MEETING of HELENSBURGH AND LOMOND COMMUNITY SAFETY FORUM
held in the CEREMONIES ROOM, HELENSBURGH
on FRIDAY, 15 NOVEMBER 2013

Present: Councillor Vivien Dance (Chair)
PC Andy Crawford, Police Scotland
Commander Tony Meechan, Fire Scotland
David Rae, ACHA
Fiona Johnstone, Scottish Womens Aid

Attending: Donald Swan (Streetscene)
Val Turnbull, Regulatory Services
Stephen Doogan, Area Governance Officer

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were intimated from:-

Stuart McCracken
Paul McCann
Robert Cowper

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest intimated.

3. PARTNER UPDATES

(a) SCOTTISH FIRE AND RESCUE

The group were provided with an update from Station Commander Tony Meechan

Organisational

A result of the amalgamation of the Scottish Fire Services, into a single service, one of the first tasks has been the review and where necessary the redevelopment of local fire plans, these are now nearing completion and will be out for consultation in December. The Forum will be a consultee and its input is sought in identifying others who may be interested in responding to the consultation

Operationally, this quarter there have been .10 "real" call outs to fires, the 3 year comparator is 13.4 so this is a reduction of approximately 25%. A similar reduction is reported in Special Services call outs. Unfortunately, there has been a substantial increase in the number of call outs to false alarms, however it is recognised that this is partly due to the success of the home fire safety visit program (93 visits this quarter with all but 11 being to medium to high risk client groups)

Bonfire strategy

Awareness raising was undertaken in the schools and within both youth groups and via the housing associations, this strategy has been successful since there were no bonfire incidents recorded in

the area this year. The focus has now turned to Christmas and winter strategies.

The questions was asked as to whether there was any evidence of an increase in electrical fires (e.g. caused by counterfeit equipment) the answer was in the negative, but with the proviso that this would as always remain under review, the increase in safety equipment built into electrical equipment in the last several years actually would indicate a drop in instances if anything. However people continuing to use equipment due to not being able to afford to replace it, may have a detrimental effect in the future although, this is not yet evident.

There is an intention to take up supermarket home delivery services as an avenue to distribute fire safety materials however this will not be done until sufficient material is printed with the new logo and the correct current details of local officers.

Cmdr Meechan indicated that a number of local events had taken place recently where the fire service had has a stall and that there were a number of events imminent. The chair asked whether the participants were congratulated following a successful event and outcome and Cmdr Meechan confirmed that this was normal practice.

(b) **STREETSCENE**

The Group were provided with an update from the Service Development Officer.

Dominic Swann indicated that there had been a variance in the number of complaints re dog fouling in the local area this quarter and confirmed that when there is sufficient evidence of whose dog is responsible then the council take action and fine the offender, however the ability of local officers to enforce the issue at all times is limited due to work patterns and other tasking priorities. There are currently two specific days planned of joint police and streetscene patrols.

It was noted that litter, while an ongoing issue, is less problematic than previously.

(c) **POLICE SCOTLAND**

The Group were provided with an update from PC Crawford.

It was noted that, as is often the case, the cold and dark nights of autumn/winter lead to a drop in Anti-social behaviour in that there are less people out in general

It was noted that there have been a number of serious accidents across Argyll this summer, but no major ones in the H&L area. It was also noted that a specific issue had been identified by the police regarding the road between Succoth and Arrochar in that there is a

corner on this road which is known locally as an accident blackspot, however the accidents while frequent are relatively low speed and were not resulting in a police call out since most were dealt with by drivers swapping insurance details and moving on. The forum are asked to consider whether there are other areas which might have similar characteristics since this will be of use to the police in their roads enforcement role.

It was noted that the police drink driving campaign will start soon and local patrols will be increased, these are intended to monitor not only drink driving, but also seatbelt usage, speeding and other similar safety related issues.

A number of burglaries have taken place within the H&L area, recently, however, police intelligence suggests that a single group may be responsible for most of these crimes both in H&L and its bordering counties. Considerable police resource is directed at this group currently.

4. ROAD SAFETY AROUND SCHOOL PREMISES

The Forum considered an update in regards to recent complaints received in regards to parking issues at Hermitage Primary.

This matter has now been considered both by the police and by Streetscene/roads. Appropriate action has been taken in relation to this parking on the zigzag lines and it is expected that once the area is signed off by roads as being fully compliant as regards warning signage that the police will prosecute those parking illegally in this area.

5. AOCB

No Cold Calling

The “No Cold Calling” initiative is ongoing,, it is being suggested that Arrochar may be an appropriate location for a pilot No Cold Calling Zone – the Community Council are already interested in this initiative and regard this as a desirable project.

Map of Accidents

As discussed previously there is an initiative to map all the serious and fatal accidents in some of the Argyll and Bute Council areas, The AGO suggested that this might be better done on an Argyll wide basis and it was agreed to take this forward with the AGO liaising with PC Crawford in the first instance

A814

A concern was raised re the use of the A814 as a diversion for HGVs in the event of the A82 being closed,. The AGO was asked to write to the Head of Roads for an initial view as to the viability of requiring HGVs to “stack” on the closed A82 travelling only at specific hours

Future of Forum

It was agreed that the Chair and the AGO would meet to discuss the

way forward for this group ensuring that it remained an action focussed group rather than degrading into being merely information sharing or talking. The outcome of these discussions and a possible plan to be brought to the next meeting of the forum.

Date of Next Meeting 10.00 am Feb 21 2014

