

MINUTES of MEETING of COWAL COMMUNITY SAFETY FORUM held in the CUSTOMER SERVICES OFFICE, 22 HILL STREET, DUNOON on MONDAY, 28 APRIL 2014

Present: Councillor Bruce Marshall (Chair)

Jo Rains, Environmental Health Manager
Stephen Doogan, Area Governance Officer
James Howard, Trading Standards Officer
Paul Robertson, Police Scotland
Alex Purdie, Scottish Fire and Rescue
Susan McFadyen, Cowal Community Care Forum
Tracy Preece, Choose Life

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from:-

Robert Cowper, Anti-Social Behaviour Co-ordinator, Argyll & Bute Council
Julie Thompson, Homeless, Argyll & Bute Council
Ailsa Cunningham, Argyll and Bute Council
Fiona Biggart, Dunoon Grammar School
Fiona McRoberts, Argyll & Bute Rape Crisis

2. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Cowal Community Safety Forum held on 27 January 2014 were approved as a correct record.

3. MATTERS ARISING

(a) ARDENSLATE SHOP

The Chair updated the Forum on recent email correspondence he received by Iona MacPhail from ACHA.

He advised that ACHA have written back to the shop owner with an offer to purchase the ground at the back of the shop and since then the shop owner has replied to confirm that he will purchase the ground. He further advised that ACHA are now in the process of moving this forward.

4. PARTNER UPDATES

(a) POLICE SCOTLAND

Inspector Paul Robertson from Police Scotland reported to the Forum on the recent road block campaign that they have been carrying out for two weeks which has included joint initiatives with Trading Standards. He advised they were stopping vans coming in

and out of the area through intelligence led working and also carried out door to door interviews with traders and .

Inspector Robertson confirmed that Police Scotland have issued an early message for road traffic issues including boy racers, in an effort to help reduce speeding offences.

He advised that they will be carrying out Operation Myriad in May which will be a month of activities specifically targeting alcohol, Anti-Social Behaviour, Drug, and Traffic Offences etc and that an action plan is currently being drawn up to take this forward.

Paul updated the Forum on the recent meeting he attended for the planning of Cowal Games. He advised that Police Scotland and Scottish Fire and Rescue are working together to increase awareness of fire and risk safety for the event.

He advised that there is an actors group set up called "Home Sweet Home" that could deliver Community safety based plays in the area if the local community want them to come . For the exercise to be worthwhile, at least three groups per day are necessary to provide morning, matinee and evening performances. Susan McFadyen agreed to look into the use of halls to help accommodate the groups taking part in delivering the plays and also to utilise her contacts as a health network coordinator to contact groups who were likely to be interested in the range of plays on offer.

Paul reported on the latest Anti-Social Behaviour stats for Bute and Cowal. He advised that there has been a substantial decrease in referrals and Police Scotland are still in the process of pushing for joint visits with the local housing associations.

The Area Governance Officer advised the Forum that the CCTV camera is now located in Church Square for the time being.

(b) SCOTTISH FIRE AND RESCUE

Alex Purdie, the new Community Liaison Officer of Scottish Fire and Rescue introduced himself to the Forum and informed everyone of his roles and contribution to the group.

He advised the group that there has been a reduction in accidental dwelling fires from 4 to 3 in the last quarter, along with a reduction in chimney fires from 4 to 2.

He informed that there has been an increase in manual fire alarms but assured the group that this might not be a bad thing since it may be due to people evacuating buildings rather than risking combating dangerous situations.

Alex updated the group on his recent visit to Dunoon Grammar School with Police Scotland, Ambulance Service and Coastguard, where they carried out a Road Crash Scenario with the second year

pupils which was a success and the pupils really enjoyed taking part. This has now become an annual event and is always well received.

(c) ARGYLL AND BUTE COUNCIL

Environmental Health

Jo Rains from Environmental Health updated the Forum on the launch of the holiday accommodation project discussed at the last meeting whereby it was hoped that the Environmental Health would be able to test water supplies particularly in Spas attached to Self-service accommodation which have historically presented a risk of legionella. Jo advised that she now has a team in place who are taking this project forward. She advised that they have written to 46 premises in the area that have spa pools and officers are going to out to inspect them.

Jo agreed to bring an update to the next meeting on Water Safety.

Cowal Community Care Forum/Health and Wellbeing Network

Susan McFadyen introduced herself to the Forum and spoke on her role for the Cowal Community Care Forum and the Health and Wellbeing Network.

She advised the Forum that her next meeting for the Health and Wellbeing Network will be held on 28th May at 12:30pm in the Community Education Centre in Dunoon and agreed to send the Area Governance Assistant an invitation email to send to members of the forum.

Trading Standards

James Howard updated the forum on the no cold calling leaflets which have been now distributed throughout the area and put up on windows to help raise awareness of this issue.

Jim advised that they currently have 10 call blocking telephones on trial to reduce the number of nuisance calls. These are being allocated to known vulnerable people where they will hopefully provide the greatest benefit.

5. CHOOSE LIFE

Tracy Preece from Choose Life introduced herself to the forum and spoke on the Argyll and Bute suicide prevention strategy. She advised that the strategy was launched in 2002 after recorded suicide deaths increased, Tracy highlighted that in 2012, there were 762 suicides in Scotland and 174 road fatalities which meant this was a higher number of deaths than fatal car accidents. 9 of the suicides were in Argyll, which statistically is a population appropriate number. Tracy highlighted that in most cases a considerable number of people were affected by each death which meant that many of us would be directly affected.

She informed the forum of the Groups available to support and provide education and training to help people and asked the forum to consider how we take this forward in our area to help raise awareness.

Tracy Preece agreed to meet with Police Scotland and Scottish Fire and Rescue to expand awareness and Susan McFadyen agreed to take this information back to her Health and Wellbeing Group. It was noted that the council are promoting this through their Healthy working lives initiative. Tracy highlighted the two main awareness raising courses currently on offer which are the “safetalk” and the “Assist” programmes.

6. DOG FOULING

The Chair advised that the Environment Warden has recently booked 3 people for dog fouling and there will be 2 new Wardens in post and to enforce parking legislation which is to be De-Criminalised offences from 14th May. These additional officers will hopefully help decrease dog fouling.

7. WATER SAFETY

It was agreed that this item would be deferred until the next meeting.

8. FUTURE DIRECTION OF THE GROUP

The Area Governance Officer gave a brief update on the progression of the Single Outcome Agreement in relation to Outcome 6 – People Live in Safer and Stronger Communities, noting that this work is being lead by Chief Superintendent Barry McEwan of Police Scotland.

The Forum expressed concern about the potential of losing this Group to the Community Planning Group citing the broad remit of the Community Planning Group agendas and noting that local issues were likely to be overlooked There was also a concern that Community safety as a topic might not be taken into account and that this would be a considerable loss the community working of the participants.

The Area Governance Officer agreed to keep the group informed.

9. AOCB

There was no other business discussed.

10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was agreed that the date of the next Cowal Community Safety Forum would be held in August and the Area Governance Assistant would be in contact with members of the forum to confirm the date.

