

**MINUTES of MEETING of COWAL COMMUNITY SAFETY FORUM held in
22 HILL STREET, DUNOON
on MONDAY, 10 NOVEMBER 2014**

Present: Councillor Bruce Marshall (Chair)

Lorna Elliott, Area Committee Manager
Ailsa Cunningham, Amenity Services Technical Officer
Inspector Paul Robertson, Police Scotland
Sergeant John Forrest, Police Scotland
Alex Purdie, Scottish Fire and Rescue
James Howard, Trading Standards Officer
Jo Rains, Environmental Health Manager

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from:-

Jim Ferguson, Amenity Warden

Robert Cowper, Anti-Social Behaviour Co-ordinator

2. MINUTES

The minutes of the Cowal Community Safety Forum held on 11 August 2014 were approved as a correct record.

3. MATTERS ARISING

Ailsa Cunningham, Amenity Services Technical Officer updated the forum on the position of the new amenity wardens training and working patterns. She informed the group that the wardens are not yet working in the evening but this will be happening soon and that they were still waiting for dog fouling training.

4. PARTNERS UPDATES

(a) POLICE SCOTLAND

Inspector Paul Robertson from Police Scotland reported to the forum on the following areas:

Home Sweet Home Plays

2 plays were held, one in Dunoon and the other in Innellan, overall they were very successful with attendance being particularly good at the Dunoon event with the general demographic attending being elderly members of the community.

Inspector Robertson expressed that he would like to seek funding to allow more plays in the future.

Crime

Inspector Robertson gave a brief breakdown of crimes affecting the area in the last quarter, reporting that crimes relating to violence and disorder were very low.

Christmas plans are already in place and replicate last years plan. There will be particular emphasis on linking in with licensed premises and promoting responsible socialising over the festive period.

Anti Social Behaviour

Inspector Robertson reported that the monthly ASBO partnership meetings were still taking place and on the whole were a very effective tool for joint working. He then informed the group that in his opinion he felt that more could be done to promote the use of non criminal anti social behaviour orders as he has come across several situations where these could have been used very effectively in the Bute and Cowal Area. He felt that these orders could be used over the whole of Argyll and Bute and should be promoted more.

Drug Crime

Sergeant John Forrest informed the group that they were receiving lots of drug intelligence at present and that there had been three very successful operations carried out in regards to drugs. He also raised the point of the importance of identifying issues early and raising them with the relevant housing associations to make them aware of any issues as early as possible, there are also joint visits in place between the police and housing associations to tenants.

It was also noted that there is a direct policing plan spreadsheet in operation that is updated on a daily basis for the officers to work from.

Speeding

Councillor Marshall informed the group that he had received complaints from Community Councils in regards to speeding in local villages within the Cowal area.

Inspector Robertson acknowledged that this is an ongoing problem and he would look into the individual cases raised by Councillor Marshall.

(b) **SCOTTISH FIRE AND RESCUE**

Alex Purdie the Community Liaison Officer of Scottish Fire and Rescue informed the group that the statistics for their third quarter were very positive with fires dropping from nine in the last quarter to five in the current quarter. He also reported that there had been a drop in grassland fires to two for the third quarter.

Alex ran through the current Community Safety Activity that is taking place within the Cowal Area which includes visits to Sheltered accommodation and elderly residents in the community. He also updated the forum on a range of talks that was rolled out to primary seven's and first year students regarding bonfire safety, this was quite successful and although the figures from Bonfire night were not yet available there were no major incidents to report.

Alex informed the group that he was in receipt of 200 units of Good Points Smoke Alarm Testers that will be available to the elderly and vulnerable, it is hoped that this equipment will help in areas of fall prevention and accidents.

Alex agreed that for the next meeting he would bring back statistics on the number of chimney fires, the number of false callouts and he would also look at information available to people for getting their flues cleaned.

(c) **ARGYLL AND BUTE COUNCIL**

Environmental Health

Jo Rains from Environmental Health updated the forum on the following points:

Water Safety

Jo informed the group that the RNLI have agreed to provide a range of free literature that is aimed at the fishing community.

To highlight water safety issues Jo used the example of the recent sinking of a small boat at the Gantocks Rock, that resulted in a helicopter rescue situation.

Noise

Jo reported that there had been a reduction in noise calls from the police.

Inspector Robertson suggested that in situations of continuous noise disturbance a non criminal ASBO is a very effective tool.

Food Hygiene

Jo reported to the group that they will now be concentrating on food hygiene in the run up to Christmas, in particular encouraging people to be aware of the food hygiene levels of restaurants and hotels where they may be having their Christmas dinners and nights out.

Amenity Services

Ailsa Cunningham, Amenity Services Technical Officer updated the forum of behalf of the Amenity Warden regarding dog fouling, she reported that there had been a slight increase in figures but that is to be expected at this time of year, there have been no fixed penalties issued that she is aware of but will double check. She also informed the group that there is a new member of staff partly covering her job role while she is on secondment and that this person will be based in Bute.

In Ailsa's role as Technical officer she raised a point in regards to the large amount of leaf fall that there are currently dealing with and due to having to share one machine across the whole of Argyll and Bute it is proving difficult to keep on top of the situation.

Trading Standards

James Howard, Trading Standards had a very positive update to the forum on the success of the call blocking scheme. He also informed the group that the Trading Standards partnership meetings were still going on and he would like to see this continue in the future.

James suggested to the Forum that a publicity campaign in regards to white van traders coming into the area is something he is keen to look into in order to raise awareness of rouge traders.

5. WATER SAFETY

This item was taken under item 4 (c) of the minute.

6. AOCB

Inspector Paul Robertson raised two points. Firstly the possibility of funding for a Cowal Community Safety Forum Joint event to be held in the Dunoon area. The chair asked Lorna Elliott, Community Governance Manager to investigate any potential funding available within the Central Community Safety Partnership budget, and secondly he raised a question in relation to who he should speak to regarding the use of non criminal ASBOS within Argyll and Bute, he was advised to speak to Lorna Elliott and Robert Cowper, Anti-Social Behaviour Co-ordinator in the first instance.

The Chair requested an update on the Community Safety Strategy review and was advised that this was ongoing and further information will be provided when available.

7. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

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