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MINUTES of MEETING of BUTE COMMUNITY SAFETY FORUM held in the EAGLESHAM HOUSE, ROTHESAY on FRIDAY, 14 NOVEMBER 2014

Present: Councillor Len Scoullar (Chair)

Robert Cowper, Anti Social Behaviour Coordinator Jen O'Brien, Womens Aid David Wilkinson, Police Scotland Inspector Paul Robertson, Police Scotland Kathryn Armstrong, Fyne Homes Jim Ferguson, Amenity Warden Paul McCaig, Amenity Warden Craig Boland, Buteman

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from:-

Richard Gorman, Environmental Health Officer Dee Hancock, Bute Health and Wellbeing Co-ordinator Tracy Sheilds, Fyne Homes

2. MINUTES

The minute of the Bute Community Safety Forum held on Friday 15 August 2014 were approved as a correct record.

3. PARTNERS UPDATE

(a) POLICE SCOTLAND

David Wilkinson updated the Forum on the most recent figures for Police Scotland and advised that there had been a recent spike in house break ins. He then gave the group a statistical breakdown of crimes in the Bute area, the number of stop searches and how many fixed penalties had been issued to drivers.

David also updated the group on Police participation of the various local events that had been held from August to November, including the Bute Games, Bonfire night and the Remembrance Parade – All of these went off with no incidents.

He then took the Forum through the various community events that had taken place and informed the group that future events planned included two cycle events in January to promote cycle safety for children.

Inspector Paul Robertson informed the group about the Home Sweet Home plays that had taken place in Cowal. These events were seen as very successful and Paul is hoping to roll them out in Bute funding dependant.

Jen O'Brien asked David and Paul if something can be rolled out in relation to personal safety that would be aimed at women. Paul replied that this is certainly something that can be looked at and if Jen came back to him with a specific angle that she would like the

play to take then he would persue this matter further.

(b) **SCOTTISH FIRE AND RESCUE**

Alex Purdie, Scottish Fire and Rescue was not present at the meeting, so no update was given.

(c) **FYNE HOMES**

Kathryn Armstrong, Fyne Homes informed the group that Fyne Homes had their AGM in September which was well attended. She also gave updates on the following:

Online waiting list system which went live in October, this now allows people to apply for housing online.

Keep Warm this Winter event, this was a good event but unfortunately not particularly well attended by the public.

Their Welfare Rights Worker was very busy throughout the whole of Argyll and Bute preparing tenants for the Universal Credit Scheme implementation.

Fyne Homes undertook a tenants survey and the results are now published on the Scottish Government website.

The Chair asked Kathryn about the waiting list size on Bute and what areas of housing is their particular demand for. Kathryn replied that the shortfall in housing need is mainly for elderly housing and larger homes in the three to four bedroom category.

It was noted that if suitable housing for families is not available in the area then this will encourage people to leave the island.

(d) ARGYLL AND BUTE COUNCIL

Environmental Health

As the Environmental Health Officer for Bute was not available, no update was provided.

Amenity Services

Jim Ferguson, Amenity Warden gave a verbal update on the following points:

- Dog Fouling The figures are up forty percent for this quarter but this is to be expected due to the nights getting darker earlier. It was highlighted that the best preventative measure for dog fouling is making people aware of the warden's presence.
- Jim was looking into an abandoned vehicle case that day after the meeting.
- S3 and S4 are currently undertaking a project in which they are auditing the local community to give them a better understanding of where they live.
- Port Bannatyne, there is currently an issue with abandoned trailers, this is an ongoing issues but Amenity Services have a plan in place to remove the trailers, store them and then dispose of them if they are not claimed by their owners.
- Jim introduced Paul McCaig, the new part time Warden for Bute to the group.

A discussion took place between the whole group on the matter

of dog fouling and how a portable camera which is currently being used in Dunoon could be brought to Bute to target specific problem areas in relation to dog fouling.

The forum also discussed the possibility of seeking funding to purchase more cameras. One possible source of funding that the group identified is the Rothesay Common Good Fund. Councillor Scoullar will look into this matter and feed back to the Forum.

Anti-Social Behaviour

Robert Cowper advised that the Anti Social Behaviour Group meet every eight to twelve weeks and that current figures remain low. In October seven cases were discussed, four were removed, three remained and there are now four new for December's meeting. Robert reported that the group continues to be very successful and that there were no other significant changes to report to the group.

4. AOCB

Womens Aid

Jen O'Brien, Womens Aid gave a brief summary of the properties, services and resources available on the island, stating that on Bute there is only one property which is well used by women throughout Argyll and Bute and further afield.

She also updated the group on the recent Asist training that has now equipped staff for dealing with frontline emergencies.

Inspector Paul Robertson informed the group that this would be David Wilkinson's last meeting as he was retiring.

Councillor Len Scoullar thanked David for all his hard work and representation on the Bute Community Safety Forum.

5. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

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