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## MINUTES of MEETING of COWAL COMMUNITY SAFETY FORUM held in 22 HILL STREET, DUNOON on WEDNESDAY, 18 FEBRUARY 2015

**Present:** Councillor Bruce Marshall (Chair)

Robert Cowper, Anti-Social Behaviour Co-ordinator  
Sergeant John Forrest, Police Scotland  
David Cowley, Scottish Fire and Rescue

### 1. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were intimated from:-  
Fiona McRoberts, Rape Crisis  
Julie Thompson, Area Housing Officer  
Ailsa Cunningham, Amenity Services Technical Officer

### 2. **MINUTES**

The minute of the Cowal Community Safety Forum 10 November 2014 was approved as a correct record.

### 3. **MATTERS ARISING**

#### (a) **DOG FOULING**

Councillor Marshall expressed concern over the number of complaints regarding dog fouling that he had received from members of the Cowal Community.

John Forrest informed the group that on the whole most people are very good at picking up after their dog, with only a small minority who don't.

#### **Action**

Councillor Marshall requested that Ailsa Cunningham pick this point up and investigate the matter further.

#### (b) **CENTRAL COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP BUDGET**

Robert Cowper, Anti Social Behaviour Co-ordinator provided a verbal update to the Forum regarding the potential funding available within the Central Community Safety Partnership Budget. Currently there are no central funds available for a Cowal Community Safety Forum joint event to be held in the Dunoon area and that in the past the forum has relied on funding from partners such as Police Scotland and Scottish Fire and Rescue.

#### (c) **COMMUNITY SAFETY STRATEGY REVIEW UPDATE**

Robert Cowper provided a verbal update on the current progress of the Community Safety Strategy Review, informing the group that this is currently still with Governance and Law to make a decision and he will update the group on the progress of this matter once a decision

had been made.

The Group also discussed the decline in the attendance at Partnership Forums across Argyll and Bute and noted that this needs to be addressed.

#### **4. PARTNERS UPDATE**

##### **(a) ANTI SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR**

Robert Cowper commented on points from the previous minute that were raised by Inspector Paul Robertson. It was noted that he isn't in full agreement with the points raised and feels that there is a willingness to implement Anti Social Behaviour Orders where appropriate.

Robert informed the group that there is eight cases. Enforcement action is being progressed in one case with the other seven all having actions against them and that these figures are less than average figures previously within the Cowal area. He also informed the group that the most common issue within the Cowal Area are neighbour disputes.

John Forrest agreed with the points raised by Robert and felt that the ASB group was a successful forum.

Councillor Marshall informed the group that he was particularly pleased that the setting up of the ASBO Sub Group had been so successful in defusing potential trouble in communities and that partnership working was the key to that success.

It was agreed to discuss these points further at the next Cowal Community Safety Forum with Inspector Paul Robertson.

##### **(b) POLICE SCOTLAND**

Sergeant John Forrest from Police Scotland reported to the Forum on the following areas:

###### Crime Overview

- Over the last quarter low levels of crime reported
- Police Scotland have several initiatives running in the local area
- Over the festive period there was an increase in high visibility foot patrols, this method was also used as a preventative measure during the recent old firm football match.
- Also prior to the football match police visited known offenders of domestic abuse
- 17 assaults were recorded in the last quarter with a 88% detection rate
- Joint visits are being carried out between Social Work, Housing and the Police and this was a direct action that came out of the ASB group, David Cowley from Scottish Fire and

Rescue asked if they could also tap into this where appropriate.

- Councillor Marshall raised a point regarding the restructuring of Police Scotland and if there was any update available. John Forrest informed Councillor Marshall that he could contact Chief Inspector Gary Stitt for a progress update on the matter.

### **Action**

Sergeant John Forrest to include Road Traffic Accident statistics into the report for the next Cowal Community Safety Forum meeting.

### Drug Crime

- 14 Detections for possession
- 1 Detection for Supply
- A substantial arrest was made last quarter which took a large amount of heroin out of the area.
- John Forrest informed the group that a children's liaison officer is in place and this will allow drug awareness to be promoted more in schools

### Speeding and Traffic Offences

- John Forrest informed the group that since the new drink driving limit had come into force there had been five offences committed of which four would have been over the old limit as well.
- 16 Speeding tickets were issued in the last quarter.

## **(c) SCOTTISH FIRE AND RESCUE**

David Cowley from Scottish Fire and Rescue updated the Forum on their most recent figures and advised that:

- Structural changes were still taking place with the hope that a new Local Senior Officer for the area would be appointed over the next few weeks.
- Several national campaigns had taken place, with some still ongoing. Social media is also being utilised to promote fire safety.
- 61 Home fire safety visits were carried out over the last quarter of which 34 were high risk, 26 medium risk and 1 low risk.
- Operationally in the last quarter there were 61 incidents of which 42 were automatic alarms, 3 chimney fires, 6 building fires, 2 road traffic accidents, 7 special service calls and 2 floodings.
- David also informed the group that Scottish Fire and Rescue were hoping to continue with the Inveraray Breakfast club this year to promote motor bike safety.

## **(d) ARGYLL AND BUTE COUNCIL**

### Environmental Health

A representative from Environmental Health was not present at the meeting so therefore no update was provided.

Amenity Services

A representative from Amenity Services was not present at the meeting so therefore no update was provided.

Trading Standards

A representative from Trading Standards was not present at the meeting so therefore no update was provided.

**5. AOCB**

No further items were raised.

**6. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April, 2pm, 22 Hill Street, Dunoon