

**MINUTES of MEETING of OBAN LORN & THE ISLES COMMUNITY SAFETY FORUM held in
the CORRAN HALLS, OBAN
on WEDNESDAY, 25 FEBRUARY 2015**

Present: Councillor Roddy McCuish (Chair)

Robert Cowper, Argyll and Bute Council
June Graham, Argyll and Bute Council
Kay McGhee, Argyll and Bute Council
Inspector Julie McLeish, Police Scotland
John Sweeney, Scottish Fire and Rescue
Bruce Emsley, NHS Highland
Murray Humphries, Loch Watch Loch Awe
Rita Campbell, Press and Journal
Russell Daniels, Stramash
Walter Burton, Oban Rotary Club

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from:

Matthew Corns, Argyll and Bute Council
Fiona Scott, Argyll and Bute Council
Iain MacKinnon, Argyll and Bute Council
Sue Stefek, Argyll and Bute Council
Alex Taylor, Argyll and Bute Council
Verina Litster, Argyll and Bute Council
Mandy Sheridan, Argyll and Bute Council
Alex Purdie, Scottish Fire and Rescue
Iona MacPhail, ACHA
Dave Blezard, Outside Edge

Councillor McCuish, the new Chair of the Oban, Lorn and the Isles Community Safety Forum thanked Iain MacKinnon, Environmental Health Manager for Chairing the Forum until the Oban, Lorn and the Isles Area Committee elected a new Chair.

2. MINUTES

The Minutes of the previous Oban, Lorn and the Isles Community Safety Forum held on 26th November 2014 were approved as a correct record.

3. PARTNER UPDATES

(a) POLICE SCOTLAND

Inspector Julie McLeish updated the Forum on the future events which are happening in the town with the proposed strip the willow

dance on 2nd May, the Skerryvore Festival on 30th May, and Tíree Music Festival in July. She confirmed that she has been attending planning meetings for these events and will keep the forum updated in due course. The Chair asked if Police Scotland are planning to go round the houses at Mossfield to do a survey and advise them of what they can expect for the festival on 30th May. Inspector McLeish confirmed that there is another planning meeting next week for this event and a site visit and that this would be included in their events plan.

Inspector McLeish gave an update on the recorded crime figures from 1st February to 23rd February 2015. She advised that there have been a number of drug detections and house searches which has been a major issue in Oban but confirmed that 'Shop a Dealer' scheme has been an excellent help for police intelligence.

She spoke about road policing which is a concern for people in the area and confirmed that there has been one drunk driver detected.

Inspector McLeish advised that there has been an increase in lower level crimes such as vandalism and cars being stolen. She advised that there has been a recent issue in Mull with drivers leaving their cars open.

She updated the Forum on the rural based issues and confirmed that thefts have been a major problem with sheds being broken into and quad bikes etc stolen.

She advised that the crime prevention surveys are always available and an officer will be more than happy to conduct a house survey whenever this is requested.

Inspector McLeish confirmed that she is moving post to the Lochgilphead Office on 20th March and Sergeant Mark Stephen would be filling her post in Oban. The Chair wished Inspector McLeish all the best in her new post and thanked her for all her hard work in the Oban, Lorn and the Isles area and for their good working relationship.

(b) SCOTTISH FIRE AND RESCUE

John Sweeney from Scottish Fire and Rescue gave an update to the Forum on the Spring Season Action Plan. He advised that this is a busy time of the year and they deal with a number of grass fires over the Easter holidays. He confirmed they would be engaging with the community between 2nd March to 27th April to try and reduce the number of fires and hand out leaflets with information that will also help reduce the risk.

He updated the Forum on the Cut-it-Out event which is taking place in Oban High School in November for S6 students which is designed to introduce them to the dangers and consequences of bad driving. They advised the programme is aimed at young drivers and similar

aged young people who may be passengers within a vehicle to try and reduce the numbers of young people killed, injured or involved in road traffic crashes within the area. They advised that it has been identified that the 17-25 year old age group accounts for around 21% of all drivers killed. He advised that they have received good feedback from the school and pupils.

The Chair asked if the Scottish Fire and Rescue Action Plan is available on the website. John Sweeney confirmed it was and agreed to pass this information to the Senior Area Committee Assistant who would then distribute this information to the Community Planning Group distribution list. The Chair also asked where he could find call out statistics and John Sweeney advised that he would be able to get this information from their Media Officer.

(c) ARGYLL AND BUTE COUNCIL

Road Safety

June Graham, the Council's Road Safety Officer gave an update on the cycle training which they have undertaken at St Columba Salen Primary Schools and also Pedestrian Training delivered at Park Primary School.

She advised that the Scottish Biker Magazine has just been published with 10,000 copies printed and 4,000 of these copies would be coming to Argyll and Bute.

She confirmed that adult cycling training would be starting soon in Oban with 4 week sessions.

The Chair thanked the Road Safety Officer for all her hard work at Rockfield Primary School following the incident last year and is pleased to see that railings have been put up to help stop this happening in the future.

The Forum had a discussion on the cycle route from Ganavan to Dunbeg and the Chair asked who deals with the maintenance of this route. The Road Safety Officer agreed to look into this and let him know.

(d) NHS

Bruce Emsley from NHS Highland gave an update on the fire safety upgrade work which is commencing in Oban Hospital at the end of March in the wards but confirmed that there is a programme in place for the works.

The Chair asked if there is any room for expansion in the hospital for extra wards but Mr Emsley confirmed that there was no room and the hospice is now in Lynnside.

Murray Humphries asked who deals with the car park at the hospital

as there is a problem with staff parking in the parking bays which could become a problem in the case of an emergency. John Sweeney agreed to raise this issue with the Station Commander at Scottish Fire and Rescue and report back.

(e) **LOCHWATCH LOCH AWE**

Murray Humphries from Loch Watch Loch Awe advised there is currently no fishermen at the loch and is all very quiet at this time of the year but confirmed that they are currently preparing for the summer where they will have more use of the new boat. He advised that the boat is currently in the boat house as there was an issue with the mooring due to the bad weather but will be back in the water for the season starting.

4. PADDLE ARGYLL

Russell Daniels from Stramash updated the Forum on his role as the Paddle Development Coordinator and advised that this is delivered through Stramash, working in partnership with Argyll and Bute Council and funded through the Coastal Communities Fund.

He advised that most of the work to date has centred on the implementation of a sea kayak trail running from Oban to Helensburgh. He advised that the Argyll Sea Kayak Trail encompasses nine access points spread through the region, allowing for both stop off points when completing the entire trail, or somewhere to access the water for a day's activity. He confirmed that by including the Crinan Canal, the trail can cater for all paddlesport ability levels, further highlighting the breadth of opportunity within Argyll for paddlesports.

The Forum noted the information provided and the Chair thanked Mr Daniels for his interesting report.

5. AOCB

There was no other business intimated.

6. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The Senior Area Committee Assistant agreed to circulate the dates for 2015/16 to the Oban, Lorn and the Isles Community Safety Forum.