

Garnock Valley, North Coast, Arran and Cumbrae Area Committee
29 September 2006

KILBIRNIE, 29 September 2006 - At a Meeting of the Garnock Valley, North Coast, Arran and Cumbrae Area Committee of North Ayrshire Council at 10.00 a.m.

Present

Richard Wilkinson, Gordon Clarkson, Jean Highgate and Robert Rae.

In Attendance

M Anderson and C Graham, Corporate and Democratic Support Officers (Chief Executive's).

Also In Attendance

Inspector K McLachlan (Strathclyde Police); and D Davidson, Station Manager and L Brady, Community Safety Co-ordinator (Strathclyde Fire and Rescue).

Chair

Richard Wilkinson in the Chair.

Apologies for Absence

John Bell, Margie Currie, Elizabeth McLardy, Elisabeth Marshall, John Reid and Ian Richardson.

1. Minutes

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 18 August 2006, copies of which had previously been circulated, were confirmed.

2. Strathclyde Police

Submitted report by Strathclyde Police on trends in crime figures in the Committee's area in the period from 1 to 29 August 2006.

The reporting period saw a marked reduction in violent crime in Largs partly due to high profile police patrols and the use of stop and search measures. Acts of vandalism have largely involved stone-throwing and vehicle damage, most offenders being juveniles or persons under the influence of alcohol. Action Plans are continuously developed and reviewed to combat incidents of youth and other disorder. The overall number of dishonesty-related crimes has increased and, during August, these centred particularly on local retail outlets. Community Safety staff have conducted Crime Prevention surveys at those premises and the practice of continuing high profile police patrols will continue.

Inspector McLachlan advised on the procedures followed by Strathclyde Police when dealing with juveniles who have offended, including the involvement of parents and the Scottish Children's Reporter Administration (SCRA) and he provided information on the Restorative Justice programme. Community Constables and patrol staff also conduct frequent visits to licensed premises to ensure that licence holders, staff and

patrons comply with licensing legislation in terms of the sale of alcohol and tobacco products.

Inspector McLachlan demonstrated the hand-held detector now available to Strathclyde Police for the purposes of carrying out lawful searches. This allows for a person to be scanned for offensive weapons, while addressing issues of privacy. Those arrested for carrying an offensive weapon are now held in police custody until their appearance in court, in accordance with revised guidelines issued by the Lord Advocate.

A 'no cold calling zone' initiative, in conjunction with Trading Standards, has been established within 4 streets in Kilbirnie where the residents are predominantly elderly, to discourage bogus callers.

Noted.

3. Strathclyde Fire and Rescue

Submitted report by Strathclyde Fire and Rescue on activities within the Committee's area in the period 14 August to 15 September 2006.

During the period of the report, fire crews attended a total of 113 emergency incidents, 20 of which resulted in the recording of a fire report. Vehicle fires also continue to be a concern for the Fire and Rescue Service and liaison with Strathclyde Police on this matter will continue.

The number of false alarms due to faulty fire alarm apparatus has decreased from 39 in the last report to 24. Arran War Memorial Hospital has required a further 3 attendances, and representatives from Strathclyde Fire and Rescue will take the opportunity to visit the hospital in the coming week, while attending a meeting at Arran High School.

Station Manager Davidson advised that, as at 19 September, 78 home safety fire visits have been carried out in Kilbirnie and 108 smoke detectors fitted. A total of 4 visits have been undertaken in Dalry and Largs, with 6 smoke detectors fitted as a result.

Community Safety Officer Liz Brady advised the Committee of information received from the Fire and Rescue Service in Glasgow, to the effect that bogus callers were gaining entry to homes under the pretence of being a representative of the Service. All Fire stations located within Ayrshire have been advised to adopt a password entry system (part of the 'no cold calls' initiative) in order to combat the problem.

Noted.

4. Urgent Items

The Chair agreed to consider the following item as matter of urgency.

5. Largs Common Good Fund

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on awards paid to 28 June 2006 and on an application for financial assistance from the Largs Common Good Fund.

The Committee agreed to make the following award:-

<u>Organisation</u>	<u>Award</u>
2s 'n 3s Nursery	£500

The meeting ended at 10.40 a.m.