

## **Minutes of a meeting of the Elgin south Area forum meeting held on Tuesday 17 august 2010.**

### **PRESENT**

Louise Ellerby, Stephen Christie, Christine Clerk, Councillor John Sharp, Councillor Graham Leadbitter,

Councillor John Divers, Marilyn Kelly, Linda McKenzie, Lyn Young, Linda Adam,

Colin Mowatt Grampian Police, Rae Cameron, Grampian Fire and Rescue Service

### **APOLOGIES**

Moira Sutherland, Rebecca Kail

### **GRAMPIAN POLICE**

Colin Mowatt described the main crime problems in Elgin south as relating to drink and drugs. Under-age drinking was addressed by operation AVON, which educates youngsters as to the dangers involved. Various agencies cooperate in addressing the problem. Youngsters seem to obtain alcohol principally from their own homes. Two full-time workers go into schools to speak to children. Community wardens are also involved.

Police have discretionary powers in dealing with minor offences; these are more limited in child protection cases

The future of ASBOs in Scotland is a matter for politicians not police.

Members of the community are informed, as appropriate, in case of major incident by leaflets posted through doors. A community impact assessment is undertaken in respect of each incident.

Public perception relating to speeding tends to exaggerate the problem. However, in Reiket Lane the average speed of vehicles is 36 mph.

There are 1600 police officers in Moray and no significant vacancies. The effect of future cuts cannot be foreseen at present, but front-line staff will be the last to be cut.

There will always be a mismatch between what the public requires and what is practically possible.

### **GRAMPIAN FIRE AND RESCUE**

Rae Cameron, group manager for Moray, advised there are twelve fires stations and 180 staff. There are five fulltime fire-fighters in Elgin and 150 on call. There is a support staff of four employees.

Road Traffic accidents peak for 17 – 25 year-old males – especially in the Burghead area.

Incidents of wilful fire-raising, and attacks on fire-fighters, occur two or three times a year

There is no statutory duty imposed upon fire service to attend automatic fire alarms in commercial premises.

There is a high incident of chimney fires in Glenlivet and Speyside.

There is no statutory response time for attending incidents, though internal guidelines are issued.

The fire service is committed to community engagement, linking wherever feasible with community partners.

During the last four years there has been a 32% fall in the number of fires in Moray; a 53% fall in the number of incidents of wilful fire-raising; a 24% fall in accidental domestic fires.

Some 50% of all fires – and 80%^ of house fires are associated with alcohol and substance abuse.

### **Responding to particular questions, Rae Cameron advised:**

There is no particular problem of wilful fire-raising.

The fire service employs a community education officer who works with children in schools. Pupils conduct home fire safety exercises. During school holidays diversity schemes involve youngsters with fire safety issues.

The fire service relies upon community planning partners to advise in case vulnerable people require home fire safety checks.

The old building at Dr Gray's Hospital does not meet required standards; this is the responsibility of Grampian Health Board.

Houses of multiple occupation are an area of potential risk; in case of concern the fire service may impose a restriction order. Gleaner Oils has been identified as particularly high-risk premises, but emergency plans are in place and periodic exercises are conducted. The old gas works is monitored for pollution risk. SEPA monitors risks of chemical spills.

The balance between rescues and fires is approximately 50/50. But there are 30 car crashes to every two fires, and so car crashes are a priority for training.

There will be a 4% cut in budgets, year-on-year: 7% in the current year and 25% over the next four years. 84% of the budget is taken up by salaries. Reorganisation of services is inevitable. Front-line services will not be affected.

### **AOCB**

A family fun day will be held on Saturday 7 October 2010 from 10am until 2pm. This will be at NEON and open to all. The forum will have a stall at the event to collect public opinion regarding community needs.

Leaflets were made available in respect of the Moray Children's Panel.

The theme for the next meeting is 'Smarter'. Louise Ellerby was instructed to invite the Director of Education of The Moray Council to send a representative to the meeting to address the forum and answer questions.

### **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Tuesday 21 September 2010, at 7pm, at Cedarwood, Elgin.