

**MINUTES of the EAST LoTHIAN
COMMUNITY SAFETY FORUM
held at HADDINGTON on 25
AUGUST 2005**

Present:

Mr J Lindsay, Chief Executive (Chair)
Councillor G Meikle
Mr S Baxter, East Lothian Community Councils
Mr J Boyce, East Lothian Health Care Co-op
Mr B Bradford, ELVON
Mr J Chaudry, East Lothian Ethnic Minorities Forum
Mr B Cooper, Roads Network Manager
Mr B Duncan, Corporate Policy Manager
Mr D Evans, Head of Environmental and Consumer Services
Mr S Gibb, Contact Development Manager
Mr N Gordon-Smith, Hartley Marketing
Mr A Horberry, Lothian and Borders Fire & Rescue Service
Sgt J Marwick, Lothian and Borders Police
Ms S Moffat, East Lothian Domestic Abuse Forum
Mr T Munro, Lothian and Borders Fire & Rescue Service
Mr P Richardson, Lothian and Borders Police
Mr M Rodger, Youth Justice Manager
Mr T Shearer, Head of Community Services
Mrs L Gillingwater, Committee and Admin Services Manager (clerk)
Ms S Hervey, Committees Assistant (observation and training)

Apologies:

Apologies had been received from Cllr Norman Murray, Provost Pat O'Brien, Supt Tom Dougan (Lothian and Borders Police), Jim Lamond, and Derek Phaup (all ELC).

1. PRESENTATION: ROAD SAFETY - THE ROAD AHEAD

Paul Richardson of Lothian and Borders Police gave a presentation on Road Casualty statistics and priorities.

Jalal Chaudry asked if there were any future plans to set the target for road fatalities at zero. Paul Richardson intimated that for 2003/04 and 2004/05 there had been no child fatalities in East Lothian, and that the number of child casualties was generally very low. However, although the number of fatalities and serious casualties continues to fall, it would be a significant time until these figures reached zero.

In response to a question by John Boyce, Paul related that a greater proportion of time was spent on education around areas where accidents levels were higher.

David Evans asked whether there were statistics available to show whether accidents had occurred by human error or by vehicle failure. Paul stated that 65% of all accidents have human error as the primary cause, and 95% state human error as part of the reason for the accident. He added that there were schemes in place for checking the roadworthiness of certain vehicles.

In response to a question by Susan Moffat as to the demographic of most motorcycle accidents, Paul confirmed that most casualties are male, and that the education programmes are specifically tailored to this demographic.

Stuart Baxter asked how East Lothian compared to other local authorities, Paul Richardson responded that in the national statistics of those killed and seriously injured East Lothian were not performing as well as other Scottish Local Authorities.

John Lindsay thanked Paul for his comprehensive report and commented that there was clearly still work to be done as regards road safety.

2. PRESENTATION: OPERATION EXCALIBUR

Jacqui Marwick gave a presentation on Operation Excalibur, a new initiative to combat the problems of vandalism.

In response to a question by Jalal Chaudry, Jacqui explained that a multi agency approach was the only possible way to tackle this issue.

John Lindsay asked when the launch of this operation was to take place. Jacqui advised that it was scheduled to take place in the week beginning 29 August 2005.

Jacqui had requested a contribution of £5000 for the project; this was approved and the Forum agreed to note the contents of the report.

3. ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR PRESENTATION

A presentation was given on Anti-Social Behaviour by Mike Rodger, outlining the progress made by the Council.

Gilbert Meikle, whilst not wishing to draw attention to specific cases in this context, asked whether lessons had been learned from a recent situation in his ward; and asked for some reassurance that a conclusion to this situation would be reached as soon as possible. Mike stated that he felt the situation was nearing resolution, that the relevant person was presently in custody and the relevant tenancy had been terminated. He also assured Gilbert Meikle that lessons had been learned from the experience and that things should return to normal for Gilbert Meikle's constituents shortly. Gilbert Meikle understood that new legislation could be difficult to work with, and John Lindsay agreed with this.

David Evans welcomed and supported the report, and mentioned that Anti-Social Behaviour legislation addressed many of the low level crimes which were the cause of many complaints from the community. He recognised that there may be teething problems with the new strategy, but commended the efforts being made in this area.

Tom Shearer spoke to the meeting regarding the presentation, intimating that the work of the Anti-Social Behaviour Overview Group was now complete, and that future relevant reports should now be brought to the Community Safety Forum. The Overview Group had included representation from the Tenants and Residents Panel, and therefore Tom Shearer recommended that a representative from this Panel be invited to join the Forum. Tom also suggested that a letter be written to the Procurator Fiscal with regard to an unpaid fine for littering/dog fouling so that this issue could be moved on through the judicial system. The Forum agreed both these motions.

4. MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 19 MAY 2005

The minutes of the meeting held on 19 May 2005 were agreed to be a true record.

5. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTE OF THE MEETING HELD ON 19 MAY 2005

Brian Duncan drew the Forum's attention to three items from the last meeting:

Item 2: MORI survey of East Lothian residents – he advised that he and Claire Goodwin had met with MORI and it was agreed that MORI would give a presentation on the results would be given at the next Forum meeting.

Item 10: Publication of Community Safety Forum papers on CMIS – Brian reported that discussions about this were ongoing and would submit a proposal to the next meeting

Item 10: Tackling Hate Crimes – Brian asked to continue this to the next meeting in order to allow Sharan Virdee to report back.

6. BALANCED SCORECARD

The Scorecard for this quarter was circulated and Brian Duncan spoke to the report, apologising for the quality of the copies, which made the data difficult to read, and also that the scorecard had not been circulated in advance of the meeting. He advised that more comprehensive information would become available as the year progressed.

The Forum agreed to note the report.

7. MINUTES OF THE ROAD SAFETY WORKING GROUP

Brian Cooper spoke to the report, highlighting item 3 (speed cushions and their effectiveness). He reported that 50 streets had been treated so far, and a speed survey

carried out in one area found that the average speed had dropped by 4mph, thus proving that the cushions are effective.

In response to a question by John Lindsay, Brian Cooper related that there were now 6 speed reactive signs in East Lothian, some funded by the community councils. They were moved around the area every three or four months in response to requirements or comments from the community.

Jalal Chaudry asked about the quality of some road markings. Brian Cooper assured the Forum that all road markings were currently being re-painted, with more funding allocated this year for this purpose.

8. COMMUNITY SAFETY BOOKLET REPORT

Brian Duncan spoke to the report, advising that the booklets had been successful in other local authorities, and suggested that the idea would fit well with East Lothian Council's strategies, in particular its multi-agency approach. He explained that although there would be no cost to the partnership, that various partners would be approached separately for advertising to offset production costs. John Lindsay wondered what the cost would be if no advertisers were found. Brian Duncan intimated that he was not aware of the total cost in this case. John Lindsay then suggested that figures should be requested from the relevant company, and the item be continued until the next meeting.

9. RISK FACTORY

Brian Duncan spoke to the report, emphasizing that construction was on the point of beginning and a turf-cutting ceremony date would be set in the near future. Further details as to the planned programme are under discussion at present.

The Forum agreed to note the contents of the report.

10. LOTHIAN AND BORDERS FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE REPORT

Alan Horberry gave the report, stating that from the first quarter of last year to the first quarter of this year, the number of accidental primary dwelling house fires were down from 19 to 18 and secondary fires were down from 64 to 21. He reported a wide range of reasons for secondary fires, including weather conditions and school holidays. The fire service had also delivered 1300 home safety packs, carried out 232 home safety checks, and fitted 259 smoke alarms.

The Cooldown programme for young people on the cusp of offending would continue after its launch in May. 36 children were involved in three courses this year in different fire stations. Evaluation packs were circulated and feedback was positive.

There were 2 incidents of violence to crews reported this quarter. In response to this increase, and also in anticipation of the November busy period, CCTV was being trialled

in some engines in the Edinburgh area. It has been confirmed that the CCTV footage would be suitable for evidence in court.

In response to a question from Jalal Chaudry, Alan Horberry stated that there were targets set regarding casualties as a result of fire, and there has been a 2% reduction on primary fires and a 4% reduction on secondary fires, on a year-by-year basis. Jalal Chaudry asked whether any person could ask for a home safety check, and whether higher risk areas were being specifically targeted. Alan Horberry confirmed that this was the policy in both cases, as teams were “cold calling” in high risk areas, and there was also a free phone number for anyone desiring a home safety check.

The forum agreed to note the report.

11. REPORT ON USE OF THE COMMUNITY SAFETY BUDGET

Brian Duncan spoke to the report, stating that the report had been written due to the previous years’ budget being 20% over-committed this year. He warned that this situation was clearly not sustainable. Reasons for this overspend included many new projects, and certain types of projects being higher on the political agenda. He advised that there was a need to establish clear criteria as to how the community safety budget should be spent, and the timing of how and when money should be allocated.

Brian Duncan suggested that priority be given to “modest, seed-corn” projects, pilot work, and matching funding (for example matching funding from the Scottish Executive, the National Lottery, or other agencies). He also felt that all projects should be short term, pointing out that long term projects of three or more years could squeeze out emerging ventures.

John Lindsay agreed that some order needed to be brought to the process. The Forum agreed the contents of the report.

12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

In response to a query by John Boyce, John Lindsay confirmed that a detailed list of Quality of Life projects would be available at the next meeting.

Susan Moffat introduced herself as the newly appointed representative of the East Lothian Domestic Abuse Forum.

Brian Duncan mentioned that there were Community Safety Case Studies from the Scottish Executive available from him for perusal.

Community Safety Booklet

Rates for advertising space for the publication will be as follows –

Size of Advert	Cost
Full page	£1595 plus vat
Half page	£795 plus vat
1/3 page	£545 plus vat
1/4 page	£425 plus vat

The rates are a little higher than we would have anticipated, primarily due to the best local distribution cost we can obtain, whilst achieving an acceptable penetration, being £60 per 1000. (Normally this would be c £17 per 1000 in an area such as Manchester or Glasgow)

To fund a run of 36,000 16 page colour booklets without advertising, including print & distribution, plus an additional 3000 copies delivered to you would cost £9800 plus vat.

This reduction takes into account removal of sales costs, admin, artwork chasing etc. This would, of course, mean that the full 16 pages would be available for the Partnership to use for editorial/advertorial entirely as you wish.

Quality of Life Allocations 2003/04 to 2007/08

Business Group	Description	2003/04 £000	2004/05 £000	2005/06 £000	2006/07 £000	2007/08 £000
Cleaning & Catering	Fresh water and fruit in schools	34	40	50	36	36
Community Development	Sustaining increased swimming and extended youth activities	168	200	247	180	181
Landscape & Countryside Management	Enhanced community involvement in improving their environment	70	80	100	73	73
Network Management	Better maintained Council roads and footpaths	300	360	400	293	294
	Traffic calming schemes for towns & villages	50	50	50	36	36
	Street Lighting Safety Testing	50	-	-	-	-
Property	Tackling graffiti and vandalism of Council property	100	207	250	182	183
Waste Services	Improved recycling facilities & removal of abandoned cars	50	60	70	51	51
TOTAL		822	997	1,167	851	854

A Brief History

1. Quality of Life allocations were introduced by the Scottish Executive in December 2002 to apply for the 2003/04 to 2005/06 financial years.
2. QoL funds are not a specific grant. They do not have to be claimed. They are part of the general Revenue Support Grant paid weekly. As they are part of RSG, they are part of the normal Council revenue budget.
3. The Scottish Executive do not seek grant claims but they do ask for an annual statement of how the funds are spent.
4. In December 2005, the Scottish Executive announced a continuation of QoL funding into 2006/07 and 2007/08 but at a reduced level. Nationally funding was cut from £70 million in 2005/06 to £50 million in 2006/07 and 2007/08.
5. For 2005/06 onwards in addition to the normal annual statement we have been asked/instructed to consult with Community Planning partners on how these funds are spent. Presumably this applies to 2006/07 and 2007/08 as earlier years have already been allocated as part of the budget.
6. In effect, we are being asked/instructed to consult about how the national cuts in funds are to be distributed from 2006/07 onwards. But this is all a notional exercise as the funds are part of RSG and RSG goes up or down every year for many reasons. This funding cut is only one of the factors leading to change in RSG. As part of our normal revenue budget, we deal with RSG instability alongside the Council Tax increase and budget allocation decisions. As we have already set out a 3 year budget last February that takes the RSG changes into account, notional pro-rata allocations for these years have already been made (as shown) which have no direct effect on Council budgets at all.

David Spilsbury
 Head of Corporate Finance
 13 September 2005