

Action note from Caithness Joint Wards Forum (Thurso, Wick and Landward Caithness) held on Tuesday 10th February 2015

Present

Cllr Roger Saxon (RS), Chair – Elected Member, Thurso Ward, Highland Council
Chief Inspector Iain MacLelland (IM) – Police Scotland (PS)
Inspector Nick Clasper (NC) – Police Scotland
Robert Scott (RSc) – Scottish Fire and Rescue Services (SFRS)
David Sutherland (DS) – Ward Manager, Highland Council (HC)
Cllr Bill Fernie (BF) – Elected Member, Wick Ward, Highland Council
Cllr Matthew Reiss (MR) – Elected Member. Landward Ward, Highland Council
Neil Buchanan (NB) – Berriedale and Dunbeath Community Council
Elizabeth Geddes (EG) – Castletown Community Council
Neil Smith (NS) – Royal Burgh of Wick Community Council
Wendy Campbell (WC) – Royal Burgh of Wick Community Council
Jan Banks (JB) – Royal Burgh of Wick Community Council
Brenda Herrick (BH) – Castletown Community Council

In attendance

Alex Macmanus (AM) – Ward Managers Team, Highland Council.
2 members of the general public

1. Apologies

Donald Henderson – Tannach Community Council, Elizabeth Henderson – Tannach Community Council, Cllr Gail Ross, Cllr Gillian Coghill, Cllr Willie Mackay

2. Ward Policing Plans – Police Scotland. Chief Inspector Iain MacLelland and Inspector Nick Clasper

IM talked to his presentation slides

Joint Ward priorities agreed as

Road Safety

Anti-social Behaviour

Alcohol & Drug Misuse

Recent HMI inspection places Highland Area as best in Scotland with an overall reduction in crime of 9%. Vehicle breaks in the area did increase. PS are meeting with the 3rd Sector and also with local schools.

NC – continue with curfew checks, seizing vehicles, licensed premises checks. Local problem with new Psychoactive Substances and the dangers they can bring. PS

need information from general public to help build up a 'picture' of activities. NO information is wasted.

Although the top 3 priorities are listed other types of crimes will not be forgotten about. E.g. Bogus callers, wildlife crime.

Concerns raised over crimes in the Landward Ward in respect of oils, vehicles and livestock. PS encourage the use of Farm Watch to report any suspicious behaviour/persons.

Illegal parking in Wick is a problem and NC has made a bid to have the traffic wardens pay another visit to Caithness. Meantime police officers will continue to watch for dangerous parking and act accordingly. Public should report dangerous parking to PS.

Parking is also an issue in Castletown particularly at the shop on Main Street where double yellow lines are placed. PS night patrol officers report daily on their activities when on patrol.

Important that the general public do report issues to PS as the more information that becomes available will, through time, build up a picture of events. PS will maintain numbers of police officers in the County to meet operational needs. PS in the Highlands has a good record of attracting applications from officers of other national police forces.

3. Ward Fire Plans – SFRS, Robert Scott

RSc talked to his presentation slides.

Joint Ward priorities agreed as

Accidental House Fires

Deliberate Fires

Road Traffic Collisions

Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals (UFAS)

Retained firemen require 2/3 hours training per week.

High risk areas in the area have been risk assessed e.g. Gas Plants, Simpson Oils.

Home fires can be attributable to various causes such as chimneys not cleaned, discarded cigarettes, phone chargers, cooking. No fatalities in the past quarter.

Wildfires can be a problem at certain times of the year. There is no provision for charging in respect of moor burns that get out of hand. SFRS have met with the Council countryside rangers and also talked to schools to engage with pupils about this problem and fires in general and their causes and consequences.

Non-domestic properties such as hotels, care homes, etc are visited and 95% of target has been reached for these visits.

4. AOB

BH - Killimster Road – Signs up advising speed restriction. Where have these signs come from?