

North Coast Area Committee  
22 August 2013

**MILLPORT, 22 August 2013** - At a Meeting of the North Coast Area Committee of North Ayrshire Council at 3.00 p.m.

**Present**

Alan Hill, Alex Gallagher, Tom Marshall and Alex McLean.

**In Attendance**

R. McCutcheon, Head of Environment and Related Services and H. Miller, Streetscene Officer (Largs/North Coast) (Development and Environment); B. Anderson, Performance/Grants Information Officer (Education and Skills); and M. Anderson, Committee Services Officer (Chief Executive's Service).

**Also In Attendance**

Sergeant E. Bell (Police Scotland); Albert Bruce (Scottish Fire and Rescue Service); and S. Kelly, Leisure Manager and C. Glencorse, Business Manager (K:A Leisure).

**Chair**

Councillor Hill in the Chair.

**1. Declarations of Interest**

In terms of Standing Order 16 and Section 5 of the Code of Conduct for Councillors, Councillor Hill, as a parishioner of St Mary's, declared an indirect, non-pecuniary interest in Agenda Item 5 (Largs Common Good Fund: Application for Financial Assistance) and took no part in the determination of the application from St. Mary's Hall for All.

**2. Minutes**

The accuracy of the Minute of the meeting of the Committee held on 23 May 2013 was agreed and the Minutes signed in accordance with Paragraph 7 (1) of Schedule 7 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973.

**3. Vikingar! Largs**

The Committee received a presentation from the Business Manager, K:A Leisure on the maintenance and refurbishment of the Vikingar! facility in Largs.

The presentation provided information on:-

- K:A Leisure's responsibilities in terms of the internal maintenance of Vikingar!, including plant, machinery and decoration;

- recent works and upgrades to the facility, including the redecoration of much of the centre, the renewal of various floor surfaces and the installation of new pool equipment;
- works being undertaken in the current year, such as the upgrade of pool chemical feeders and circulation pumps and improvements to the changing areas and toilets;
- a variety of projects planned in the short-term, including gym changing and the replacement of pool circulation and filtration systems; and
- works required in the medium term, such as the renewal of pool tiles and the refurbishment of the swimming pool changing village.

Members asked questions, and received clarification, on the following:-

- the anticipated timescale for the replacement of the pool filtration system and associated pool closure; and
- early discussions about potential development at Vikingar!

The Business Manager, K:A Leisure, undertook to provide Members with a copy of his presentation notes.

Noted.

#### **4. CPP Partners**

##### **4.1 North Ayrshire Community Planning Partnership (CPP)**

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on the Minutes of the Community Planning Partnership Board meeting held on 13 June 2013.

Noted.

##### **4.2 Police Scotland**

Submitted report by Police Scotland on issues of local interest or concern within the North Coast area during the period between 1 April 2013 and 31 July 2013.

Information was provided on:-

- crime statistics for the North Coast area between April and July 2013 and the same period the previous year;
- priorities arising from the 2013/14 public consultation exercise;
- a fatal road crash on 3 August 2013 on the A78, Greenock Road, Largs;
- directed patrol plans to address violence, vandalism, drug dealing, road safety, anti-social behaviour and acquisitive crime;
- local action plans to tackle bogus callers, youth disorder, the purchase of alcohol, speeding and housebreaking;
- the Force website; and

- comparative data on the crime and detection rates for the North Coast area against statistics for North Ayrshire and the former Strathclyde area as a whole.

Members asked questions, and received clarification, on the following:-

- a complaint relating to alleged drugs activity and anti-social behaviour at an address in Largs;
- reckless driving along Montgomerie Drive, Skelmorlie;
- the rationale for combining statistical information for crime Groups 1-5 when the crimes to which the groups relate vary considerably; and
- the logging of incidents of vandalism.

Sergeant Bell undertook to look into the feasibility of (i) separating out the statistics for crimes in Groups 1-5 in future reports and (ii) including information on the number of stop and search cases which resulted in charges being made.

Noted.

#### **4.3 Scottish Fire and Rescue Service**

Submitted report by the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service on activity between 1 June 2013 and 12 August 2013.

Information was provided on:-

- two accidental dwelling fires in Largs;
- a deliberate dwelling fire on Cumbrae;
- a refuse fire on Greenock Road, Largs;
- heath and grass fires in Largs and Skelmorlie;
- a malicious false alarm call in Largs and joint working with the Police to address such calls;
- a number of good intent false alarms and false alarms relating to equipment faults;
- a road traffic collision in Largs;
- a water-related fatality; and
- various special service and community activities.

Members asked questions, and received clarification, on the following:-

- measures to track and tackle the source of malicious false alarm calls; and
- the Service's mobilisation time locally.

Noted.

## **5. Largs Common Good Fund : Applications for Financial Assistance**

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on applications received for financial assistance from Largs Common Good Fund.

The Committee agreed (a) to make the following awards:-

Largs Community Sport and Leisure Club	£1,500 , with the group to be advised that recurring costs are not an appropriate use of Common Good Funds and the group should in future seek funding from other sources.
--	---

St Mary's Hall for All	£3,000
------------------------	--------

and (b) that the application from Largs Amateur Swimming Club should instead be considered for funding from the Local Youth Action Fund.

## **6. Millport Common Good Fund: Applications for Financial Assistance**

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on an application received for financial assistance from Millport Common Good Fund.

The Committee agreed to make the following awards:-

Millport Festival Group (Millport Country & Western Festival)	£500
---	------

## **7. Community Development Grants Scheme and Local Youth Action Fund: Applications for Financial Assistance**

Submitted report by Corporate Director (Education and Skills) on applications received in respect of the Community Development Grants Scheme 2012/13.

The Performance/Grants Information Officer (Education and Skills) advised that the Largs Town Twinning Association now had sufficient funds to meet the cost of the 2013 project for which it had applied and, on that basis, had withdrawn its application. The group requested that the Committee instead consider earmarking the funding for the next town twinning games in 2015.

The Committee agreed (a) to make the following awards:-

### **Community Development Grants**

Millport Country & Western Festival Group Association	£1,350
Barrfield Theatre Users Group	£1,000
North Ayrshire Book Festival	£1,500
Largs & District Horticultural Society	£ 645
Largs Viking Festival	£1,600

### **Local Youth Action Fund**

Largs Amateur Swimming Club	£2,000
-----------------------------	--------

(b) to note the withdrawal of the application from Largs Town Twinning Association for funding for its 2013 event; and (c) not to earmark funding from the Local Youth Action Fund for Largs Town Twinning Association's 2015 event.

## **8. Largs Car Park Fund**

### **8.1 Quarterly Update on Projects**

Submitted report by Corporate Director (Development and Environment) on the progress of, and expenditure incurred to date on, the implementation of agreed projects.

The report provided information on the following:-

- improvement works to the pathway leading from Anthony Road to the Yacht Haven;
- the cost of pointing works to the Pencil Monument;
- delivery of festoon lighting for Largs Promenade;
- the proposed lighting of the Pencil Monument;
- works to Haylie Brae picnic area;
- the intention to develop proposals to introduce planting, trees and/or hanging baskets within Largs Town Centre;
- revenue transactions within the Car Park Fund for 2011/12 and 2012/13; and
- the current budget position, with £154,000 committed to support local projects during 2013/14 and a projected balance of approximately £98,000 available for funding new projects.

Members asked questions, and received clarification, on the following:-

- the Council's responsibilities in terms of the upkeep of the Pencil Monument;
- the outcome of the design exercise for a new stone cobbled path leading to the Pencil Monument;
- the timing of the installation of festoon lighting;
- the materials and installation arrangements for the Haylie Brae picnic benches; and
- the importance of planting the correct species of trees in town centre locations.

The Committee agreed (a) to note the progress and expenditure on the agreed projects to date; (b) to note the breakdown of running costs with regard to the car park fund in years 2011/12 and 2012/13; (c) to note that £154,400 has been allocated from the car park fund to support local projects during 2013/14; (d) to note the projected balance of approx. £98,000 which is available for consideration of funding new projects; (e) the proposed expenditure of £8,500 to carry out repairs to the Pencil Monument, to be met from the Car Park Fund; and (f) to carry out only minor repairs to the existing path leading to the Pencil Monument, pending further consideration of the value of the proposal for a new stone cobbled path.

## **8.2 Community Fund - 750 Anniversary**

Submitted report by Corporate Director (Development and Environment) on the funding applications approved in respect of the Largs Car Park Community Fund and on events which have taken place.

An events evening was held on 30 May 2013 for all recipients of funding and a range of advice and contact information was provided. Appendix 1 to the report set out the Conditions of Grant issued to organisations, together with the Financial Monitoring Report form shown at Appendix 2 to the report.

Section 2.4 of the report outlined the timetable for the various events/projects being funded. Information was also provided within the report on a request from the organisers of the Highland Games event, requesting permission to transfer a portion of their award to a Clan Gathering event on 14-16 June 2013. Area Committee approval would have been required for this proposed change and, due to time constraints, it was not possible to accede to the request.

Members asked questions, and received clarification, on the following:-

- the planning and funding background to a proposed memorial garden;
- whether the Clan Gathering event had been successful in obtaining alternative funding; and
- the potential for directing any unspent grant funding for alternative projects in due course.

Noted.

## **9. Date and Venue of Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Area Committee will be held on 3 October 2013 in Skelmorlie Community Centre.

Noted.

## **10. Future Agenda Items**

The Committee agreed that the following items be added to the agenda for the next meeting of the Committee:-

- Chairmanship of the Area Committee;
- Largs Car Park - a report on any available statistical information analysing the average length of stay within Largs Car Park following the introduction of increased parking charges; and
- a presentation on the Ayrshire 21 project involving the communities of Skelmorlie and Fairlie.

## **11. Urgent Item**

The Chair agreed that the undernoted item be considered as a matter of urgency to allow the siting of the Largs Viking statue to be determined.

### **11.1 Viking Statue**

The Head of Environment and Related Services referred to plans for the siting of a Viking statue commissioned as part of events to mark the 750th anniversary of the Battle of Largs and invited Members to consider the most appropriate location for the statue.

After some preliminary discussion on possible sites, the Committee agreed to adjourn the meeting and reconvene on site at Largs Promenade. Members then considered two possible locations in Largs, namely on the grassed area of the Promenade itself, to the north of the walled bench seating area, or to the front of Vikingar! (in the current location of a wooden Viking Longship).

Members discussed the following:-

- a potential complaint in relation to the Largs Promenade site;
- initial officer advice that planning permission would not be required in connection with the siting of the statue; and
- the outcome of informal local consultation carried out by Members.

Councillor Hill, seconded by Councillor McLean, moved that (a) no final decision be taken on the siting of the Viking statue, pending the outcome of further enquiries on the legal and planning issues surrounding the matter, including looking into the feasibility of the Vikingar! site incorporating lighting of the statue; and (b) in the event of the further information sought becoming available prior to the next ordinary meeting of the Area Committee, the matter be brought to a Special Meeting of the Area Committee for determination.

There being no amendment, the Motion was declared carried, Councillors Gallagher and Marshall dissenting.

Accordingly, the Committee agreed that (a) no final decision be taken on the siting of the Viking statue, pending the outcome of further enquiries on the legal and planning issues surrounding the matter, including looking into the feasibility of the Vikingar! site incorporating lighting of the statue; and (b) in the event of the further information sought becoming available prior to the next ordinary meeting of the Area Committee, the matter be brought to a Special Meeting of the Area Committee for determination.

The meeting ended at 5.00 p.m.