

North Coast and Arran Area Committee  
14 September 1998

**Arran, 14 September 1998** - At a Meeting of the North Coast and Arran Area Committee at 11.00 a.m.

**Present**

John Sillars, Margaret Highet, Elizabeth McLardy, Robert Rae and Richard Wilkinson.

**In Attendance**

C Hamilton, Area Services Manager (Social Work); P Doak, Accountant (Financial Services); I Frame, Area Community Development Officer, Arran (Community Services); G McLeod, Assistant Local Officer, Arran; and J Bannatyne, Administration Officer (Chief Executive).

**Also In Attendance**

Sergeant M Oates and Sergeant J Weir (Strathclyde Police).

**Chair**

Mr Sillars in the Chair.

**1. Minutes Confirmed**

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 22 June 1998, copies of which had previously been circulated, were confirmed.

**2. Monitoring Reports**

**(a) Social Work**

Submitted report by the Director of Social Work on issues relating to the quality of Social Work Services in the North Coast and Arran area.

The report gave specific details, including statistical information on (i) childcare in relation to the Child Protection Register and Child Protection Investigations and Responses, and (ii) Community Care in relation to an analysis of various elements of Community Care Services and Clients Awaiting Nursing or Residential Care. The Area Services Manager reported that attempts were made to minimise the number of children whose names are placed on the Child Protection Register to ensure that the focus of the child protection system is concentrated in areas of real concern. In recent years the numbers of children placed in care by the local Social Work Team has been progressively reducing. He also made reference to the constraints placed on the Social Work Directorate in accommodating the number of persons assessed and approved for residential and nursing care within the North Coast and Arran area, due to funding restrictions.

Noted.

**(b) Community Services: Litter Awareness**

Submitted report by the Director of Community Services on service delivery regarding litter awareness.

The report confirmed that no further instances of fly-tipping and no calls have been made from

the North Coast and Arran area to the Litter Hotline since the last meeting.

Noted.

**(c) Community Development Grants Scheme: Analysis of Grants Paid to 24 June 1998**

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on Community Development Grants paid to 24 June 1998 in respect of the North Coast and Arran area, including details of the balance of funding remaining.

Noted.

**3. Community Development Grants Scheme: Requests for Financial Assistance**

Submitted report by the Director of Community Services on requests for financial assistance.

**(a) West Kilbride Bowling Club**

The Committee agreed to continue the application to the next meeting to enable further information to be obtained;

**(b) Largs Colts Football**

The Committee agreed to award £200;

**(c) Music in West Kilbride**

The Committee agreed to award £300; and

**(d) Dalriada Celtic Heritage Trust**

The Committee agreed to award £500.

**4. Millport Common Good Fund: Request for Financial Assistance**

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on an application to the Millport Common Good Fund in relation to the payment of legal fees in respect of the lease of the Old Chapel, The Garrison, Millport to the Cumbrae Youth Project.

The Old Chapel, which has fallen into disrepair, is part of Garrison House which is leased by Cumbrae Properties (1963) Limited to the Council on a 99 year lease which expires in 2046. The Scottish Daily Record agreed to finance the refurbishment of the property at a cost of £25,000 from a fund which had been established to mark the centenary of the newspaper. This award served as match funding and attracted other sources of finance. The Corporate Strategy Committee in July 1998 agreed, subject to formal approval being obtained from Cumbrae Properties (1963) Limited to enter into a 25 year lease of the Old Chapel to the Cumbrae Youth Project on the basis of a sub-lease at an annual rent of £1.00. The Council also agreed to support the Cumbrae Youth Project in the refurbishment of the property by providing technical assistance towards the Project which has now virtually been completed.

In order to sub-lease the property the Council as tenants are seeking consent from the Head Landlord (Cumbrae Properties (1963) Limited). The Council has formally requested that since the Head Landlord has substantially benefitted from the works, the legal fees incurred to date be waived.

The Committee agreed that in the event that the Landlord's Solicitors refuse to waive their legal fees amounting to approximately £400, these will be met from the Millport Common Good Fund.

## **5. North Ayrshire Community Safety Forum and its links with the Area Committees**

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on developments in the promotion of Community Safety within North Ayrshire, including the role of the Area Committees.

The North Ayrshire Community Safety Forum on which the Council is represented by the five Area Committee Chairs along with appropriate officers, has now been established and meets regularly. Details were given of the various ways in which the Council is promoting Community Safety including the Steering Groups at Area Committee level. Area Committees will continue to promote Community Safety at local level, liaising with the Forum through their Chairs and will be in a position to seek bids for funding within their areas under the Community Safety Challenge Fund.

The Committee agreed (a) to recognise the continuing role of Area Committees to promote Community Safety at a local level in liaison with the Forum; and (b) to consider requests for financial assistance from the Community Safety Challenge Budget to promote Community Safety within the Area Committee boundaries.

## **6. Arran: Brodick: Tennis Courts**

The Chair reported that three of the existing six Tennis Courts located in Brodick have been in very poor condition all season and that maintenance has not been satisfactory.

The Committee agreed that the Director of Community Services investigate this matter and submit a report to the next meeting providing assurances that the appearance of the Courts will be acceptable for the next tennis season and also giving details of the longer-term plans for these Courts.

## **7. Arran: Roads**

The Chair reported that in general terms the roads on Arran are in a totally unacceptable condition with pot holes being a common feature which has been the cause of at least one serious accident. Efforts in the past to fill some of these holes have merely offered short-term solutions and some parts of the roads are visibly sinking. He expressed concern over the potential worsening of this situation given that heavy traffic on Arran is on the increase with forestry extraction moving towards its peak.

He also referred to the need for warning signs to be placed at the corner of Merkland Point which is a focal point for many traffic accidents on Arran, one of which was almost fatal. He emphasised that there is a need for warning signs at this location, and for other similar locations with difficult corners to be investigated, with a view to the provision of warning signs.

Additionally, the bus stop at the Museum in Brodick has currently an open ditch running alongside which presents a hazard for passengers when boarding or alighting from buses.

He further referred to a letter and petition from residents in King's Cross in relation to the potential deterioration of the roads in their area resulting from increased production at the local fish farm which will generate more traffic. He suggested that the use of small flat bed lorries is a crucial element in allaying the fears of the residents of King's Cross in relation to the potential deterioration of the roads in that area. Additional attention also requires to be given to ditch cleaning to ensure that this is carried out on a regular basis.

The Committee agreed that the Directors of Community Services and Planning, Roads and Environment be requested to submit a report on the issues raised by the Chair for consideration at the next meeting of the Committee.

## 8. Dog Fouling

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on (a) the progress to date on the current initiatives to combat dog fouling in North Ayrshire; and (b) proposals for future action based on the current budget allocation for 1998/99 amounting to approximately £18,000.

The Officers Working Group on dog fouling have framed a programme for 1998/99 which recommends:-

Cleaning of bins	Continue cleaning and emptying
Bin replacement/maintenance	Maintain and repair
Provision of new bins	Provide 5 new bins per Area Committee
Signs	A global sum of £500 be allocated to provide signs in identified high profile areas.
Dog Tidy Bags	No further provision of bags, encourage the practice of using supermarket carrier bags.
Leaflets/Posters	No further provision be made at this time.
Partnership with Strathclyde Police	Continue to support partnership.
Prosecutions	Co-operate with Strathclyde Police, write to the Scottish Office urging extended Police powers to impose fixed penalties and write to COSLA to support this action and write to the Scottish Office in similar terms.
Publicity	Promote responsible dog ownership in relation to fouling at exhibitions etc. and secure publicity which "outlaws" dog fouling offences and publicise successful prosecutions.

After discussion the Committee agreed (i) to endorse the proposals in the report; (ii) that one additional new dog bin be located in Wards 27, 28 and 30 and that two new additional dog bins be located in Ward 29; and (iii) to recommend to the Officer's Working Group that signs be considered at two locations at Main Road, Fairlie.

## 9. Strathclyde Fire Brigade: Fire Statistics

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on fire statistics within the North Coast and Arran area for the period 1 June to 31 July 1998.

Noted.

The meeting ended at 12.10 p.m.

