

Garnock Valley and West Kilbride Area Committee
22 September 2011

WEST KILBRIDE, 22 September 2011 - At a Meeting of the Garnock Valley and West Kilbride Area Committee at 2.00 p.m.

Present

Robert Barr, John Bell, Anthea Dickson and Jean Highgate.

In Attendance

A. Anderson, Economic Development Manager (Chief Executive's Service); D. Hammond, Team Manager (Development Plans) (Corporate Services); J. McHarg Assistant Manager, Community Development (Education and Skills), and P. Shiach, Committee Services Officer (Chief Executive's Service).

Also In Attendance

Station Commander C. Tymon (Strathclyde Fire and Rescue); and Inspector A. Clark and Sergeant M. Boyle (Strathclyde Police).

Chair

Councillor Barr in the Chair.

Apologies for Absence

Elizabeth McLardy.

1. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest by Members in terms of Standing Order 16.

2. Minutes

The Minutes of the previous meeting of the Garnock Valley and West Kilbride Area Committee held on 11 August 2011 were signed in accordance with paragraph 7(1) of Schedule 7 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973.

3. Economic Regeneration in the Garnock Valley

The Economic Development Manager submitted a presentation to the Area Committee covering economic activity in the Garnock Valley and West Kilbride area. The presentation covered the following topics:-

- population change;
- claimant count in terms of unemployment, and
- challenges facing the area in terms of Economic Development and the Regeneration Strategy.

The presentation also provided information on key themes which were identified as Business Development, People, Places, Purpose and Infrastructure. Reference was made to town centre physical improvements, the A737 Dalry by pass, the new academy site, completion of the Station Yard site in Dalry, Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park and LEADER E.U. Rural funding.

Members sought, and received, on a number of issues relative to the presentation, particularly the complexities involved in accessing LEADER funding, local Members being kept informed of local developments, job opportunities and the number of vacant council owned industrial units in the area.

Noted.

4. Strathclyde Fire and Rescue

Submitted report by Strathclyde Fire and Rescue on activity within the Garnock Valley and West Kilbride area in the period 27 June to 6 September 2011.

Station Commander Tymon provided information on various activities undertaken by Strathclyde Fire and Rescue since the last meeting, and indicated that the report was mainly positive.

He advised that 10 Home Fire Safety Visits had been undertaken in Dalry, Beith and Kilbirnie, and a number had been delivered in West Kilbride. He further indicated that the fire reach and work experience courses had recommenced with a programme in place to cover all of North Ayrshire.

In addition there had been no accidental fires occurring during the period, indicating better awareness of fire safety and methods of early detection being in place. No malicious calls had been received during the period which indicated that multi-agency interaction and education was reaching target groups.

Noted.

5. Strathclyde Police

Submitted report by Strathclyde Police on activity within the Garnock Valley and West Kilbride area for August 2011.

Sergeant Boyle and Inspector Clark provided information relating to beats 7,8,9,10,11,12 and 23 which encompass a geographical area including Kilbirnie, Beith, Dalry and West Kilbride. Information relating to Fairlie was also included with the beat 23 report which referred mainly to West Kilbride.

The Community Policing Team continue to make contact with local community based organisations, including the Community Councils. The report indicated that the main focus of proactivity would continue to be the priorities listed on the local Community Policing Plans which were published for 2011/12, i.e.

- Drug Dealing and Drug use
- Drunk and Disorderly behaviour (including Vandalism and Graffiti)
- Assault and Violent crime
- Housebreaking and Other theft.

A breakdown of the crime/offence statistics for July 2011 was detailed in the report.

Members sought, and received, clarification on various aspects of the report.

Noted.

6. Community Development Grants Scheme - Applications for Grant Aid

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Education and Skills) on applications received in respect of the Community Development Grants and Local Youth Action Fund Scheme.

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

Community Development Grants Scheme

Organisation	Award
Kilbirnie Newsletter Group	£1,000.00

and (b) continue the Local Youth Action Fund application to the next meeting.

7. Margaret Archibald Bequest

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on applications for financial assistance received in respect of the Bequest.

The Committee agreed to make the following awards:-

Organisation	Award
St Margaret's Guild	£485.20
Applicant A	£150.00

8. Request for Change of Street Name at William Tricker Crescent, Beith

Submitted report by the Solicitor to the Council on the name for the street currently recorded as William Tricker Crescent, taking into account preferences indicated by residents.

The Committee, at its meeting on 21 April 2011, received a report in relation to representations made on behalf of several residents of William Tricker Crescent, Beith who sought to change the name of the street to Lochlands Grove.

At its meeting on 11 August 2011, the Committee approved the undertaking of a public consultation on the proposed change of name via an advertisement in the local newspaper. During the consultation, one letter of objection was received from a descendant of William Tricker, who felt that it would be irreversibly disrespectful to Mr Tricker to rename the street.

The Committee subsequently agreed to seek the individual views of each of the 17 households in the street by means of a postal vote. A total of 13 voting slips were returned, the majority being in favour of changing the street name to Lochlands Grove.

The Committee agreed, Councillor Bell dissenting, that (a) William Tricker Crescent be renamed Lochlands Grove; and (b) the Solicitor to the Council write to the residents and to Mr Tricker's family accordingly.

9. Future Agenda Items

The Committee agreed that the External Funding Officer be invited to attend the next meeting of the Committee to discuss the availability and accessibility of grant funding.

10. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Area Committee is scheduled for 3 November 2011 in the Trinity Church Hall, Dalry.

The meeting ended at 3.45 p.m.