

Kilwinning Area Committee  
3 March 2011

**KILWINNING, 3 March 2011** - At a Meeting of the Kilwinning Area Committee of North Ayrshire Council at 2.00 p.m.

**Present**

John Ferguson, Andrew Chamberlain, Margaret McDougall and Ryan Oldfather.

**In Attendance**

J. McCrae, Locality Manager – Criminal Justice Social Work Services (Social Services and Health); J. McHarg, Assistant Manager (Community Services) and B. Anderson, Performance/Grants Information Officer (Education and Skills); and M. Anderson, Committee Services Officer (Chief Executive's).

**Also In Attendance**

Inspector J. Conway (Strathclyde Police) and Station Commander M. Gallacher (Strathclyde Fire and Rescue).

**Chair**

Councillor Ferguson in the Chair.

**1. Declarations of Interest**

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

**2. Minutes**

The Minutes of the previous meeting of the Kilwinning Area Committee held on 20 January 2011 were signed in accordance with paragraph 7(1) of Schedule 7 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973.

**3. Strathclyde Police**

Inspector Conway advised that there had been 53 crime reports within Beat 5 (Blacklands/Kilwinning Centre) during February 2011, compared with 52 in the same period last year, and 42 incidents within Beat 6 (Eglinton/South Kilwinning), compared with 47 in February 2010. Inspector Conway indicated that a breakdown of these figures would be provided to the next meeting of the Area Committee for information and, in the meantime, highlighting the following:-

- the success of a recent initiative, carried out in conjunction with partner agencies including Trading Standards, to target crime in the Pennyburn area, and plans for further action in this regard; and
- a robbery on 3 February 2011 which involved the use of a knife and in relation to which a definite line of enquiry is currently being pursued.

Members asked questions, and received further information, on the issues highlighted, and raised the following matters:-

- an ongoing problem with youths drinking alcohol to the rear of Nethermain Community Centre;
- recent incidents involving the contents of wheelie bins being set alight;
- action taken in relation to incidents of youth disorder and anti-social behaviour; and
- the need to update the Community Policing contact information provided on the Strathclyde Police website.

Noted.

#### **4. Strathclyde Fire and Rescue**

Submitted report by Strathclyde Fire and Rescue on activity within the Committee's area in the period 11 January to 20 February 2011.

Station Commander Gallacher highlighted the following:-

- the issue of wheelie bin fires, the danger they pose to residents, property and fire crews, and the need for a multi-agency approach to tackling this matter;
- a recent press advertisement promoting Home Fire Safety Visits;
- the Fire Reach programme which will take place at Troon Fire Station on 22-25 March 2011 with participation by pupils of Kilwinning Academy; and
- good progress in relation to the refurbishment of Kilwinning Fire Station.

Members asked questions, and received further information, on the problem of wheelie bin fires and potential measures both to tackle the issue and reduce their impact.

Noted.

#### **5. Community Payback Orders**

The Committee received a presentation from the Locality Manager – Criminal Justice Social Work (Social Services and Health) on the operation of Community Payback Orders (CPOs).

The presentation provided background information on Community Sentencing in Scotland over the last 20 years and the introduction on 1 February 2011 of Community Payback Orders, which are enshrined in the Criminal Justice and Licensing (Scotland) Act 2010. CPOs replace probation, community service and supervised attendance and their introduction includes a presumption against custodial sentences of 3 months or under. The orders have 9 requirements, namely supervision, unpaid work/other activity, programmes (of which there are 3 types available in Ayrshire), residence, mental health, drug treatment, compensation and conduct.

Level 1 CPOs provide for up to 100 hours of unpaid work/activity, which must be completed in under 3 months, while completion of Level 2 orders, of up to 300 hours of unpaid work, must be within 6 months. There will be annual consultation with the community on unpaid work placements, which the Scottish Government expects to include a wide range of consultees, from the Chief Constable and Sheriff Principal to the Community Planning Partnership and individual community groups such as community councils.

In order for CPOs to be meaningful to communities, work needs to be done to build links with those communities and ensure that the unpaid work carried out is valued by them. In addition, the benefits of unpaid work requires to be promoted to combat the fear of crime, and the speed with which orders are initiated and completed needs to be increased to improve public confidence in them. Finally, CPOs must be targeted properly in order to reduce levels of re-offending.

The Committee was provided with examples of the type of unpaid work which has been carried out in the Kilwinning area itself. Longer term, larger scale projects included internal painting and works to garden areas within the Hazeldene Centre; groundwork and the construction of an eco-greenhouse at the Fergushill Centre; groundwork, the erection of gazebos and the production of crops Smithstone House; and litter picking and the laying of pathways at Eglinton Park. Examples of shorter term, smaller scale projects included garden tidy work for older people referred by Social Services, groundwork at a number of local primary schools, general litter picking in the Kilwinning Area, and the construction of an access ramp and decking within the garden of a disabled teenager.

Members expressed their appreciation of the value to the local community of the projects which have been undertaken in the Kilwinning area, and received further information on:-

- the number of CPOs in place since their introduction at the beginning of February 2011;
- the potential for complaints from local companies that work undertaken on an unpaid basis as part of CPOs might adversely affect their business;

- the need to consult at a local level on the type of unpaid work projects which should be undertaken;
- the importance of ensuring that offenders are successfully reintegrated back into the community;
- the nature of the supervision requirement and the consequences of any breach of CPOs;
- issues, such as child-care needs, associated with the completion of CPOs by female offenders; and
- the referrals mechanism for local groups and individuals to benefit from unpaid work by those subject to CPOs.

Noted.

## **6. Community Development Grants Scheme and Local Youth Action Fund**

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Education and Skills) on applications for financial assistance under the Council's Community Development Grants Scheme and Local Youth Action Fund.

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

### **Community Development Grants Scheme**

| <b>Organisation</b>                                 | <b>Award</b> |
|---|--------------|
| 1st Alliance (Ayrshire) Credit Union                | £3000.00     |
| Pennyburn Regeneration Youth Development Enterprise | £ 474.37     |

### **Local Youth Action Fund**

| <b>Organisation</b>                                 | <b>Award</b> |
|---|--------------|
| Pennyburn Regeneration Youth Development Enterprise | £860.00      |

(b) in principle, to award Pennyburn Regeneration Youth Development Enterprise a further £1665.63 from the 2011/12 Community Development Grants Scheme funding allocation, subject to confirmation of available funding.

## **7. Naming of a New Street within a Housing Development by North Ayrshire Council at a Site off Winton Avenue, Kilwinning**

Submitted report by the Solicitor to the Council on a proposed name for a new street within a development off Winton Avenue, Kilwinning.

The Committee agreed that the new street within the development be named "St. Michael's Wynd".

## **8. Future Agenda Items**

The Committee agreed to note that any additional items for consideration at the next meeting should be submitted to M. Anderson or C. Graham.

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

The next meeting of the Area Committee is scheduled for 2.00 p.m. on Thursday 14 April 2011.

The Meeting ended at 3.25 p.m.