

Kilwinning Area Committee
14 January 2016

IRVINE, 14 January 2016 - At a Meeting of the Kilwinning Area Committee of North Ayrshire Council at 3.30 p.m.

Present

John Ferguson, Joe Cullinane and Donald Reid

In Attendance

R. Arthur, Senior Manager, C. Sharp, Country Parks Manager and J. McHarg, Senior Manager (Economy and Communities); H. Clancy, Committee Services Support Officer and M. Anderson, Committee Services Team Leader (Chief Executive's Service).

Also In Attendance

Inspector J. McMillan (Police Scotland); Station Manager L. Elliot (Scottish Fire and Rescue Service); J. McKenzie and J Collins (Scottish Water); D. Sanderson and D. Bill (Caledonia Water) and D. Vallance and J. McKee (Ayrshire College).

Chair

Councillor John Ferguson in the Chair.

Apologies for Absence

Robert Steel.

1. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest by Members in terms of Standing Order 10 and Section 5 of the Councillors Code of Conduct.

2. Minutes

The accuracy of the Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 10 December 2015 was confirmed and the Minutes signed in accordance with Paragraph 7 (1) of Schedule 7 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973.

3. Community Planning

3.1 Police Scotland

The Committee received a verbal report from Inspector McMillan on activity within the Kilwinning, area including up-to-date information on crimes reported and detected in the Committee's area, comparisons in relation to the same period last year and on the ongoing action to tackle youth disorder in and around Main Street and at Kilwinning Abbey.

Members asked questions and were provided with information in relation to:-

- the effectiveness of the warning letters being sent to the parents of youths causing disruption in the town centre; and
- the impact of youth disorder on local businesses

Noted.

3.2 Scottish Fire and Rescue Service

Submitted report by the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) on activity within the Kilwinning area during the period 21 November to 28 December 2015, including fires of note, special services, the Pennyburn Action Plan and community safety.

The Country Parks Manager highlighted the benefit of setting up a joint partnership with Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, Police Scotland and Eglinton Country Park with regard to Quadbike use within the Country Park.

Noted.

4. Eglinton Country Park

4.1 Scottish Water Presentation

The Committee received a presentation from Scottish Water on the planned works at Eglinton Country Park in connection with the "Irvine Diversion Project", which is intended to improve connectivity and resilience of the local water supply.

The presentation highlighted the following:-

- the £22m project covering 8.5 miles for North Ayrshire, to be undertaken over an 18 month period;
- the benefits of the project in terms of ease of maintenance as the current pipe is through residential areas of Irvine;
- the provisional route of the pipeline; and
- plans to work closely with North Ayrshire Council Communications team to issue updates

Members asked questions and were provided with information in relation to:-

- issues in respect of changes to the proposed route and the impact on 2016 tourism season at Eglinton Country Park;
- the reduction in length of the pipeline;
- any likelihood of an impact on 2017 events at the Country Park; and
- any disruption which may arise in respect of another project in the Kilwinning area

Scottish Water undertook, if possible, to provide a further update to the next meeting of the Committee, if possible.

On behalf of the Committee, the Chair extended his thanks to the representatives of Scottish Water for their presentation.

Noted.

4.2 Update Report

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Economy and Communities) on Eglinton Country Park Operations in 2015. A copy of the 2016 programme of Eglinton Countryside Rangers Events was circulated at the meeting.

The report provided further information on the Eglinton Masterplan Process and highlighted all the areas of the Masterplan that are currently being actioned and/or researched/developed and included:-

- CPD Ranger Training Programme
- Medal Routes
- Ranger Service Events Programme
- Scotlands Outdoors - our natural health service
- Eglinton Woodland Management Plan
- Friends of Eglinton
- Disruption to Country park Services and events
- Scottish Water - benefits to be gained

Members asked questions and were provided with further information in relation to the financial impact of cancelling events in the Country Park events field in 2016 and the anticipated reduction in visitor numbers to the park as a whole.

Noted.

5. Ayrshire College - Smoke Free Campus

The Committee received a verbal update by Donna Vallance and Jane McKee, Vice-Principals of Ayrshire College.

The move to a smoke free working and learning environment was officially implemented at all Ayrshire College Campuses on 17 August 2015, with the intention of enhancing the health and wellbeing of students, staff and visitors to the College. Smoking is prohibited on all campuses, car parks and college grounds across Ayrshire College following a vote by staff and students.

Members asked questions and were provided with further information in relation to:-

- consultation arrangements with North Ayrshire Council and the College's neighbours, including the adjacent bowling club;
- issue in respect of bins outside the college grounds; and
- the negative impression which might be given by smokers gathering outside the college grounds.

On behalf of the Committee, the Chair extended his thanks to the representatives of Ayrshire College for their update.

The Committee agreed to invite an officer from Streetscene to liaise with Ayrshire College's Vice-Principal (Estates) on the impact on the surrounding area of Kilwinning of the implementation of the smoke free campus, to allow an update to be provided at the next meeting.

6. Community Development Grants Scheme Award and Local Youth Action Fund: Applications for Financial Assistance 2015/16

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Economy and Communities) on applications received in respect of the Community Development Grants Scheme Award and Local Youth Action Fund.

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

Community Development Grants

Organisation

Open Ayrshire

Award

£780

7. Date and Venue of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Kilwinning Area Committee is scheduled be held on 25 February 2016 in Kilwinning Library.

The meeting ended at 5.25 p.m