

Garnock Valley, North Coast, Arran and Cumbrae Area Committee
2 March 2007

SKELMORLIE, 2 March 2007 - At a Meeting of the Garnock Valley, North Coast, Arran and Cumbrae Area Committee at 10.00 a.m.

Present

Richard Wilkinson, John Bell, Elizabeth McLardy and Elisabeth Marshall.

In Attendance

A Milson, Learning Manager, Quality Development (Educational Services); J Mason, Transportation Manager (Roads) (Property Services); P Shiach and C Graham, Corporate Support Officers (Chief Executive's).

Also In Attendance

Inspector J Seenan (Strathclyde Police) and L Brady, Community Safety Co-ordinator (Strathclyde Fire and Rescue).

Chair

Councillor Wilkinson in the Chair.

Apologies for Absence

Gordon Clarkson, Margie Currie, Jean Highgate, Alan Hill, Robert Rae, John Reid and Ian Richardson.

1. Minutes

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 19 January 2007, copies of which had previously been circulated, were confirmed.

2. Declarations of Interest

Councillor Marshall declared a non-pecuniary interest in the application from the Largs Viking Festival at Item 5 on the agenda.

3. Strathclyde Police

Submitted report by Strathclyde Police on trends in crime figures in the Committee's area in the period 2 to 29 January 2007.

Violent Crime remains the same as in the previous reporting period although the 6 crimes which occurred cover a wider geographical area. Crimes of dishonesty have increased in comparison to the previous reporting period, with a particularly notable increase in Theft by Housebreaking in the Largs area. Car crime has also shown a marked increase in the Kilbirnie area.

Community officers continue to utilise their local knowledge in an effort to detect crimes and this has resulted in 3 youths in the Kilbirnie area being reported regarding incidents of vandalism to 2 schools. However, acts of vandalism have shown an increase from 38 to 45 crimes, the majority of which have again occurred in Kilbirnie and West Kilbride.

Crimes of Disorder number 51, a decrease of 14 since the last report with Breach of the Peace accounting for more than half of that total.

A crime of Assault with intent to rob occurred in Dalry and enquiries are ongoing to trace 2 youths in this regard. In Beith, 3 males have been reported for possession with intent to supply drugs.

Inspector Seenan responded to Members' questions and provided clarification on the information presented in the report.

The Transportation Manager (Roads) in conjunction with Strathclyde Police, undertook to investigate public transport traffic on the route between Castle Road/Annetyard Road, Skelmorlie and respond to Councillor Marshall who raised the issue.

Noted.

4. Strathclyde Fire and Rescue

Submitted report by Strathclyde Fire and Rescue on activities within the Committee's area in the period 6 Jan to 18 February 2007, during which the Service attended 91 emergency calls.

Seventeen incidents resulting in a Fire Report were recorded during this period. While there is no increase in activity from the last reporting period, some of the incidents were of a serious nature. Fires occurred in Kilbirnie, Glengarnock, Dalry, Beith, Largs and Skelmorlie. Five reportable fires occurred on the Isle of Arran, 1 of which resulted in a fatality while another required 4 breathing apparatus, 3 main jets and 2 hose reel jets to successfully extinguish the fire.

Refuse/Container Fires have reduced considerably since the last report and there are no incidents to report in relation to fires in derelict property or derelict vehicles being set on fire. Twenty emergency calls related to non-fire incidents including flooding and 5 Road Traffic Collisions, resulting in 2 fatalities.

Twenty-four incidents of false alarms due to faulty apparatus have been reported and will continue to be monitored. The Service is currently working in partnership with the Community Police to resolve issues of Malicious Calls.

Due to the availability of wholetime personnel who have been placed on the alternative duty system, the Fire and Rescue Service has been able to continue the Home Fire Safety Visits Initiative throughout the Committee's area. Educational fire safety advice has also been given to tenants and householders. In addition, referrals continue to be made through Social Services and North Ayrshire Care and Repair Project.

The experiential learning event 'Arran Avoids Accidents' is currently being organised for local school pupils and will run from 27-29 March.

An Emergency Services Day will be held on 15 June for pupils attending Ardrossan Academy and will involve a number of agencies giving demonstrations and advice to pupils.

Noted.

5. Local Action Fund and Town Twinning Support Fund: Applications for Financial Assistance

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Educational Services) on awards paid to date, including the balances of funding remaining and applications for financial assistance under the Local Action Fund and the Town Twinning Support Fund.

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

Local Action Fund

| Organisation | Award |
|----------------------|--------------|
| Fairlie Bowling Club | £1,208 |

Town Twinning Support Fund

| <u>Organisation</u> | Award |
|----------------------------|--------------|
| Largs Viking Festival | £2,000 |

and (b) noted that the budgets for the Local Action Fund and the Town Twinning Support Fund for 2006/07 have now been fully expended.

6. Margaret Archibald Bequest

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on awards paid to 28 June 2006, including the balance of funding remaining and applications for financial assistance from the Margaret Archibald Bequest.

The Committee agreed to make the following awards:-

| Organisation | Award |
|----------------------------|--------------|
| St Margaret's Church Guild | £330 |
| Trinity Church Guild | £330 |

7. Largs Common Good

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on awards paid to 14 February 2007, including the balance of funding remaining and on an application for financial assistance from the Largs Common Good Fund.

The Committee agreed (a) to award the sum of £347 to the No Poo on My Shoe organisation ; and (b) noted that the budget for the Largs Common Good Fund for 2006/07 has now been fully expended.

The Committee further agreed to remit to the Chief Executive to make arrangements for the consideration of grant applications in financial year 2007/08 during the intervening period between the current and new Council administrations.

8. Largs Traffic Management

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Property Services) on the progress of the traffic management proposals for Largs.

The Council carried out 2 formal consultations on traffic management proposals for Largs during 2006. The proposals affect both the A78 trunk road and the local road network. A substantial level of responses had been received to each of the consultations resulting in a significant number of changes being made to the Scheme which was then re-advertised in November 2006.

Many of the original points of objection continue to be made and, in addition, several new objections have been received to some of the amendments, indicating support for parts of the original Scheme.

In view of the range and scale of objections and comments submitted on the advertised traffic management proposals, it was proposed that a restricted Scheme, containing the key elements affecting traffic movements within the town centre is taken forward initially, and that the revised proposals be processed and advertised in due course in accordance with the statutory requirements for Traffic Regulations Orders.

The Transportation Manager (Roads) responded to Members' questions and provided clarification on matters relating to taxi traffic in the town.

The Committee agreed (a) to approve the revised proposals as outlined in the report; and (b) that the Head of Roads proceed to re-advertise and consult on the Scheme in accordance with the requirements of Traffic Regulation Orders.

9. Valedictory

The Chair recorded his thanks to all elected Members and Officers who have contributed to the work of the Committee since 2003.

The meeting ended at 10.40 a.m.