

Kilwinning, Dreghorn and Springside Area Committee
18 February 1998

Kilwinning, 18 February 1998 - At a Meeting of the Kilwinning, Dreghorn and Springside Area Committee of North Ayrshire Council at 10.30 a.m.

Present

Patrick Browne, James Clements, Gena Seales and Jane Gorman.

In Attendance

H Hunter, Senior Accountant (Financial Services); T Jones, Operations Manager (Commercial Services); C McEwing, Area Housing Manager (Housing Services); D Gilliland, Area Community Development Officer (Community and Recreational Services); S Paxton, Administration Officer and C Graham, Assistant Administration Officer (Chief Executive).

Inspector C Paterson and Sergeant J Richmond (Strathclyde Police); and T Kane, Community Fire Safety Officer (Strathclyde Fire Brigade).

Chair

Mr Browne in the Chair.

Apologies for Absence

Ian Clarkson.

1. Chair's Remarks

The Chair paid tribute to the considerable efforts by the community in renovating the Love Memorial Hall.

2. Minutes Confirmed

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 7 January 1998, copies of which had previously been circulated, were confirmed.

3. Monitoring Reports

(a) Kilwinning, Dreghorn and Springside: Empty Houses

Submitted report by the Director of Housing Services on empty Council Houses in the Kilwinning, Dreghorn and Springside areas.

As at 2 February 1998 there were 15 empty properties in the Kilwinning area, excluding the Montgomerie Terrace area, representing 0.81% of the total stock in that area and 5 empty properties within Dreghorn and Springside, representing approximately 0.6% of the total stock in that area. The Area Housing Services Manager advised that to date a further 5 properties had become vacant in Kilwinning and with the signing of 2 missives imminent only 3 properties remain empty in the Dreghorn and Springside areas.

In response to questions previously raised by Councillor Oldfather, the Committee was advised that (a) the new Housing Allocation Policy would address the length of time properties are empty; and (b) the Vacant House Policy would address void property issues. Both policies come into

operation with effect from 1 April 1998.

Noted.

(b) Collection of Bulky Household Items

Submitted report by the Director of Commercial Services on service delivery in respect of the uplifting of bulky household items.

North Ayrshire Council continues to provide a free service for the collection of bulky household items, excluding builder's rubble, large cast or metal items, and details of the operation of the service were given in the report. There has been a 60% growth in the service since its inception in 1988, from 443 uplifts per week to 709 uplifts per week in 1998 and 98.7% of uplifts are completed within the required timescale of 7 days.

Noted.

(c) Community Development Grants Scheme: Analysis of Grants Paid to 9 January 1998

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on the Community Development Grants paid to 9 January 1998 in respect of Kilwinning, Dreghorn and Springside, including details of the balance of funding remaining.

Noted.

4. Requests for Financial Assistance: Community Development Grants Scheme

Submitted report by the Director of Community and Recreational Services on the undernoted applications for community grants to voluntary organisations:-

(a) Corsehill Boys and Girls Group

The Committee agreed to award £300 to the Corsehill Boys and Girls Group;

(b) 51st Ayrshire Scouts (Supplementary Application)

The Committee agreed to award £571 to the 51st Ayrshire Scouts;

(c) Kilwinning Horticultural Society

The Committee agreed to award £250 to the Kilwinning Horticultural Society;

(d) Springside Welfare Committee

The Committee agreed to award £800 to the Springside Welfare Committee;

(e) Springside Church Youth Club

The Committee agreed to award £330 to the Springside Church Youth Club;

(f) Springside Church Parent & Toddler

The Committee agreed to award £100 to the Springside Church Parent and Toddler Group;
and

(g) Kilwinning Festival Society

The Committee agreed to award £200 to the Kilwinning Festival Society.

Having considered these applications, a balance of £229.48 remains available for expenditure within the current financial year. The Committee agreed to remit to the Chair to consider any further applications received prior to 31 March 1998.

5. Springside: Greenside Avenue: Road Lighting

Submitted report by the Director of Planning, Roads and Environment on street lighting in Greenside Avenue, Springside.

The Director of Planning, Roads and Environment has investigated the standard of lighting on the pedestrian link between Greenside Avenue and Craig View, Springside following comments made at an "Open Forum" meeting in October 1997.

The lighting points in Greenside Avenue are, given the residential nature of the area and the road alignments, appropriately placed and the lighting equipment is in working order. The adjacent lane is not a formal footpath but provides access to and parking for adjacent residential properties and is the responsibility of the Housing Services Directorate.

The Committee, in noting that the member of the public who had originally raised the issue had been advised of the current position agreed to remit the matter of lighting in the lane to the Director of Housing Services for inclusion in a future Programme of Works.

6. Public Open Space: The Playing of Ball Games

Submitted report by the Director of Community and Recreational Services on the playing of ball games in public open spaces, following the decision of the Community and Recreational Services Committee on 3 February 1998 to remit to Area Committees consideration of proposals to address the playing of ball games in public open spaces.

The report detailed a number of proposals to address the problem which was particularly prevalent in housing estates during the summer months. These included the incorporation of landscaped features in open spaces to reduce the possibility of playing of ball games in all areas except those designated for the activity and the investigation of the suitability of Bye-Laws to control such behaviour.

The Committee agreed the proposals.

7. Kilwinning Eglinton Angling Club

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on the outcome of a meeting in January 1998 between the Area Committee and the Angling Club which was attended by SEPA.

The meeting confirmed the generally high quality of the waters of the River Garnock, considered the Council's responsibility in terms of the Flood Prevention and Land Drainage(s) Act 1997 and the forthcoming Water Safety Policy and explained the option of establishing a Fisheries Trust or River Improvements Association.

The Council, in recognising the Club's efforts to enhance the River and continuing concerns regarding bank erosion and silting could provide "in-kind" assistance to the Club in terms of environmental work (litter removal etc. on the River banks through Community Service Orders and the use of the Training Section, Moorpark House, Kilbirnie to undertake specific projects of a light engineering nature. The Council could also provide materials e.g. surplus kerb stones and wire. All future assistance to the Club would require to be "in-kind", with no additional cost to the Council. The Club have advised the Council of their concerns and will be notified of the nature of the Council's assistance in due course.

Details of specific problem areas and possible solutions have been advised to the appropriate Directorates of the Council for consultation and the Club will be notified of the outcome of discussions in due course.

The Committee in noting that the Council has fulfilled its remit to meet with the Kilwinning Eglinton Angling Club and to assist them in their efforts to improve the fishings in the River Garnock agreed that future actions would be a matter for consideration by the relevant Directorates of the Council.

8. Community Consultation: Meeting with Churches and Church Groups

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on the issues raised at the Community Consultation meeting with Churches and Church Groups on 5 February 1998.

The appropriate Directorates of the Council have been requested to investigate the various issues and, with the exception of the Woodgreen Mortification Trust, to report to a future meeting.

The Committee in endorsing the actions taken by the Chief Executive in pursuance of the issues raised by the groups agreed that the Legal Services Manager submit a report on the current position in relation to the Woodgreen Trust to its next meeting.

9. Community Safety

(a) Crime Statistics

Submitted report by Strathclyde Police "UA" Sub-division on the level of recorded crime within the Area Committee's boundaries.

The report gave the crime statistics, excluding traffic offences, for the month of December 1997 and highlighted particular areas of crime and their implications. The year to date crime statistics highlighted a 12% decrease within the Kilwinning, Dreghorn and Springside areas, a reduction of 17 crimes while the detection rate has increased from 39% to 52%.

Noted.

(b) Strathclyde Fire Brigade: Fire Statistics for the Period 1 October 1997 to 31 December 1997

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on Fire Statistics for the period 1 October to 31 December 1997.

Strathclyde Fire Brigade continues to be concerned at the number of hoax calls received and the situation will continue to be monitored.

Noted.

The meeting ended at 11.00 a.m.