

North Coast and Arran Area Committee  
16 February 1998

**Largs, 16 February 1998** - At a Meeting of the North Coast and Arran Area Committee of North Ayrshire Council at 10.30 a.m.

**Present**

Margaret Highet, Elizabeth McLardy, Robert Rae and Richard Wilkinson.

**In Attendance**

J. Currie, Head of Cleansing and Grounds Maintenance (Commercial Services); J. McHarg, Community Services Development Manager and M. Smyth, Area Community Development Officer (Community and Recreational Services); R. Lee, Assistant Principal Accountant (Financial Services); and J. Bannatyne, Administration Officer (Chief Executive).

**Also In Attendance**

Inspector M. Scally (Strathclyde Police); and T. Barr, Community Fire Officer (Strathclyde Fire Brigade).

**Chair**

In the absence of the Chair, the Committee unanimously agreed that Margaret Highet take the Chair.

**Apologies for Absence**

John Sillars.

**1. Minutes Confirmed**

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 5 January 1998, copies of which had previously been circulated, were confirmed.

**2. Monitoring Reports**

**(a) Collection of Bulky Household Items**

Submitted report by the Director of Commercial Services on service delivery regarding uplift of bulky household items.

North Ayrshire Council provides a continuing service for the free collection of bulky household items and details of the operation of the service were given in the report. There has been considerable growth in the service to date (i.e. 443 uplifts per week in 1988 and 709 uplifts per week in 1997/8) amounting to a 60% increase since the commencement of the contract. Current performance indicators show that 100% of the uplifts within the scheme are completed within the required timescale in the North Coast and Arran area.

Noted.

**(b) Community Development Grants Scheme: Analysis of Grants Paid to 5 January 1998**

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on analysis of Community Development Grants paid to 5 January 1998 in respect of the North Coast and Arran area, including details of the balance of funding remaining.

Noted.

### **3. Community Development Grants Scheme: Requests for Financial Assistance**

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

#### **(a) Largs Pupils Out of School Care Club**

The Committee agreed to award the Largs Pupils Out of School Care Club £136.92.

The Committee further agreed that subject to there being no restrictions within the Community Development Grants Scheme, to increase the above grant by £22.88 being the balance of funding remaining for such grants for the financial year 1997/98.

### **4. Public Open Spaces: Playing of Ball Games**

(Previous Minute Reference: Community and Recreational Services Committee: 3 February 1998)

Submitted report by the Director of Community and Recreational Services on the playing of ball games in public open spaces.

The Community and Recreational Services Committee on 3 February 1998 remitted to the Area Committee for consideration proposals in relation to the playing of ball games in public open spaces in view of complaints received. These problems are particularly prevalent in housing estates during the summer months.

A number of solutions to control the nuisance were suggested including (a) incorporating features in future open space landscaping to reduce or eliminate the possibility of the playing of ball games; (b) the local community and local members, in association with the Housing Services Directorate, identifying suitable sites where ball games would be acceptable; and (c) the possible introduction of a Bye-Law to control behaviour in public open space.

The Committee agreed to the proposals to address the playing of ball games in public open spaces in the terms indicated in the report.

### **5. Revenue Budget 1997/98 and 1998/99: Freezing of Adult Education Vacancy**

Submitted report by the Director of Community and Recreational Services on the Adult Education Programme as it affects the North Coast and Arran area.

The report provided details on the background and current position on the Adult Education Programme in respect of the North Coast and Arran area including the implications resulting from the freezing of a post within the Adult Education Services Team and details of the classes affected.

The Community Services Development Manager confirmed his intention to make arrangements for a presentation on the Adult Education Programme to which all Members of the Council would be invited to attend.

The Committee welcomed the proposed presentation.

### **6. West Kilbride Beach/Seamill: Toilet Facilities**

(Previous Minute reference: North Coast and Arran Area Committee: 5 January 1998)

In accordance with the decision of the Committee on 5 January 1998 the Director of Commercial Services has investigated the possibility of providing a portable public toilet in the vicinity

of the Waterside Inn, Seamill, West Kilbride linked to the existing sewerage services at that location. A report on the matter was considered by the Commercial Services Committee on 11 February 1998 indicating that although the Commercial Services Directorate has an appropriate toilet unit in stock, the location proposed is not in the ownership of the Council and the installation of the facility will require Planning Permission. The Commercial Services Committee agreed to instruct the Director of Commercial Services to obtain costs for the provision of the proposed toilet facility from the Architectural Services Manager and report further to that Committee.

Noted.

## **7. Millport: Toilet Facilities**

Mr. Rae made reference to the condition of the existing public toilet facilities on Cumbrae and requested that consideration be given to replacing some of the existing facilities with portable toilets where appropriate. The Committee was advised that proposals are currently in hand for the provision of new toilet facilities at Cumbrae Slip and details were provided on the current position regarding the other public toilet facilities on Cumbrae. While there is some evidence of abuse with regard to the existing public toilet facilities on Cumbrae, their upgrading/replacement is dependent on the extent of the funding available.

The Committee agreed that the Director of Commercial Services continue to monitor the provision of public toilet facilities on Cumbrae with a view to the upgrading/replacement of these facilities in the future when funding becomes available.

## **8. Largs: Former Destructor Building/Site**

Submitted report by the Director of Planning, Roads and Environment on the current position regarding the use of the former destructor building/site in Largs.

The site is allocated in the adopted North Coast and Cumbraes Local Plan for rental and low cost housing but no development can be undertaken until a suitable alternative site can be found to relocate the existing Commercial Services depot. One option being considered is to vacate the existing destructor building which is in need of repair and re-organise the depot facilities in the lower part of the site. If this option proved practical, and the capital cost of re-organising the depot was made available, a Development Brief could then be prepared for that part of the site declared surplus to requirements to enable its redevelopment to be undertaken in accordance with the Local Plan allocation. It was suggested that it might be appropriate to investigate the possible provision of facilities on the site through a Private Finance Initiative.

After discussion the Committee agreed (a) that the Director of Commercial Services, in consultation with the Director of Planning, Roads and Environment, continue his investigations into the feasibility of the proposals outlined in the report; and (b) that the Committee be kept informed of any developments.

## **9. Largs: Moorburn House: Housing Enquiries**

Mrs. McLardy indicated that notwithstanding the recent setting up of a First Stop Shop in Moorburn House, Largs, enquiries relating to housing matters are being redirected to a separate telephone number. In addition, the services provided by the Housing Surgery situated in Kirkton Hall, West Kilbride have been withdrawn apparently for security reasons.

The Committee agreed (a) that clarification be sought on these matters and the Local Member notified of the position; and (b) that an appropriate report also be submitted to the next meeting.

**10. Strathclyde Fire Brigade: Fire Statistics**

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

Noted.

**11. Urgent Items**

The Chair agreed that the following matter be considered as a matter of urgency.

**12. Largs: Footpath Running from Cairnie's Quay to Bowencraig Walk**

Councillor Wilkinson expressed concern over the continuing erosion of the coastline and its effects on the public footpath between Cairnie's Quay and Bowencraigs, Largs which is used regularly by walkers.

The Committee agreed that appropriate Officers be requested (a) to investigate this matter to ascertain what works can be undertaken to prevent the continuing erosion of the coastline; and (b) to inspect the footpath and take action where appropriate.

The meeting ended at 11.55 a.m.