

Kilwinning Area Committee
4 August 2011

KILWINNING, 4 August 2011 - At a Meeting of the Kilwinning Area Committee of North Ayrshire Council at 2.00 p.m.

Present

John Ferguson, Andrew Chamberlain and Margaret McDougall.

In Attendance

J. McHarg, Assistant Manager, Community and Culture, Community Development Team and B. Anderson, Performance/Grants Information Officer (Education and Skills); and A. Little, Committee Services Officer (Chief Executive's Service).

Also In Attendance

Constable A. Fletcher (Strathclyde Police).

Chair

Councillor Ferguson in the Chair.

Apologies for Absence

E. Brady, Community Safety Co-ordinator (Strathclyde Fire and Rescue).

1. Declarations of Interest

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

2. Minutes

The Minutes of the previous meeting of the Kilwinning Area Committee held on 26 May 2011 were signed in accordance with paragraph 7(1) of Schedule 7 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973.

The Committee discussed Agenda Item 6 - Corporate Grants to Elderly Groups, and in particular the allocation of grants on the basis of historical elderly population information.

The Committee agreed that the Chief Executive provide a report to the next meeting of the Committee on the current elderly population in the Kilwinning area and the pro rata split for the areas covered by the Kilwinning Burgh Old People's Welfare Committee and Kilwinning Landward Old People's Welfare Committee.

3. Strathclyde Police

PC Fletcher provided information on local crime statistics, advising that, during the month of April 2011, there had been a total of 604 calls from the Kilwinning ward area, compared with 555 calls in the same period in 2010. These included calls relating to complaints (118), disturbances (33), assaults (16), robbery (2), housebreaking (16), car crimes (3), vandalism (33), offensive weapons (2), drug misuse (3) and street drinking (17). PC Fletcher also reported that there had been 42 detections in April 2011, compared with 35 for the same period last year.

PC Fletcher further advised of the following:-

- a number of break-ins to Tournament Cafe, and complaints regarding youths gathering in the playpark, within Eglinton Country Park;
- changes to local Police personnel serving the Kilwinning area; and
- a number of forthcoming Orange Walks at which the Police would be on duty.

Members asked questions, and received further information, on the increased Police patrols in Eglinton Country Park in response to the break-in and complaints regarding youths gathering in the playpark.

The Committee discussed the issues surrounding youths gathering in public places, the age range for the playpark within Eglinton Country Park, the adverse perception of the public to these gatherings of young people and intervention work undertaken by the Youth Team (Education and Skills).

The Committee agreed (a) to request a report by the Corporate Director (Education and Skills) on intervention work that could be done with youths in the Kilwinning area and in particular those gathering in Eglinton Country Park; and (b) that the Corporate Director (Education and Skills) consider the installation of signage at the playpark within Eglinton Country Park indicating the permitted age range of children eligible to use the playpark.

Noted.

4. Strathclyde Fire and Rescue

Submitted report by Strathclyde Fire and Rescue on activity within the Committee's area in the period 1 June to 21 July 2011.

Noted.

5. Community Development Grants Scheme - Application for Grant Aid

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Education and Skills) on an application received in respect of the Community Development Grants Scheme.

The Committee agreed to award the sum of £900 to Corsehill Community Centre Association.

6. North Ayrshire Community Planning Partnership (CPP): Board: Minutes of Meeting held on 16 June 2011

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on the Minutes of the Meeting of the North Ayrshire Community Planning Partnership (CPP) held on 16 June 2011.

Noted.

7. Future Agenda Items

7.1 Local Voluntary Groups

The Committee discussed an appropriate vehicle to bring together community councils, community groups and associations in order to co-ordinate local events, work together in seeking funding opportunities and fund-raising activities.

The Committee was advised that the Ayrshire Community Trust is working to support and develop third sector organisations and may be the appropriate vehicle to take this forward.

The Committee agreed to invite a representative of the Ayrshire Community Trust to the next meeting to provide information on the work they are undertaking in the Kilwinning area and to discuss whether the Trust could work with Kilwinning groups to establish a forum to enable groups in the Kilwinning area to work together.

8. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Area Committee is scheduled for Thursday 15 September 2011.

9. Urgent Items

The Chair agreed that the following item be considered as a matter of urgency to allow Members to discuss information recently received on the ponding at Whitehirst Park.

9.1 Whitehirst Park Ponding

The Committee discussed the information that had been provided to Elected Members by Amey in relation to the ponding at Whitehirst Park. Amey have acknowledged the problem of ponding is partly a result of water emanating from the adjacent carriageway.

The Committee agreed to request that the Head of Infrastructure and Design Services in conjunction with the Head of Environment and Related Services write to Amey Highways to confirm the company's intentions to address the issue of water from the carriageway discharging onto the area in question.

The meeting ended at 2.30 p.m.