

Liaison Meeting between the Three Towns Area Committee and the Community  
Planning Partners  
1 March 2006

**ARDROSSAN, 1 March 2006** - At a Liaison Meeting between the Three Towns Area Committee and the Community Planning Partners at 10.00 am.

**Present**

Councillors David Munn, Gordon Allison, Peter McNamara, Margaret Munn, Alan Munro and Nan Wallace (North Ayrshire Council); Marella O'Neill (North Ayrshire Community Health Partnership); Inspectors Ian Ness and Neil Kerr (Strathclyde Police); and Station Managers Murdo Henderson, Derek Davidson and Mark Roden (Strathclyde Fire and Rescue).

**In Attendance**

S Bale, J Bannatyne and E Fisher, Corporate and Democratic Support Officers (Chief Executive's).

**Chair**

Councillor D Munn in the Chair.

**Apologies for Absence**

Councillor Samuel Taylor.

**1. Minutes**

The Minutes of the Liaison Meeting held on 16 November 2005 were approved subject to the following amendment:-

Page 2 Item 3(a) Last Paragraph Line 4 delete "Barga" and insert "Barnett".

**1.1 Matters Arising**

**1.1.1. Saltcoats: Health Centre: Parking**

The Clerk reported that the Head of Roads has confirmed that the grassed area opposite the Health Centre in Saltcoats is not in the Council's ownership. The use of the area for extra parking space as suggested at the last meeting, would require to be taken up with the owners.

The Liaison Meeting agreed that the Clerk consult further with the Head of Roads and the Community Planning Partners to ascertain what action can be taken to alleviate the parking problems associated with users of the Health Centre, and report.

## **2. Health Issues: Health Service Developments**

Submitted report by the Public Health Practitioner, North Ayrshire Community Health Partnership on Health Service developments.

Although Scotland's health is improving it still experiences poorer health overall compared to the rest of the UK and Europe. North Ayrshire areas of deprivation have been identified as being amongst the worst 15% in Scotland's index of Multiple Deprivation. Seventeen areas of deprivation identified in North Ayrshire include areas within the wards located in the Three Towns Area. Within North Ayrshire there is a significant health inequalities gap between the most deprived and least deprived postcode areas.

The range of indicators targeted to reduce health inequalities for the most deprived communities includes:-

- Coronary Heart Disease mortality under 75 years;
- Cancer mortality under 75 years;
- Adults smoking;
- Smoking during pregnancy;
- Teenage pregnancy (13-15 years);
- Suicide in Young People (10-14 years).

It is intended to meet these targets by the development of the health promotion role of Community Pharmacies and the health promotion role of Public Health Nurses.

There are currently 22 pharmacies in or around the regeneration areas involved in the development of the health promoting role of Community Pharmacies. These pharmacies will offer lifestyle 'MOTs', covering areas such as carrying out blood pressure, glucose and cholesterol level checks. Smoking cessation advice and support, Chlamydia testing and treatment and free sexual health advice to reduce teenage pregnancies will also be offered. They will also offer free sunscreens to assist in reducing skin cancer and will work with mental health services to help reduce the number of teenage suicides.

Two new posts of Public Health Nurses have been created to assist in the development of the health promotion role and these posts have been filled and the postholders will commence in March.

Discussion took place on a number of Community Pharmacy issues arising from the report, including marketing and advertising, maintaining patient confidentiality, staff training and the overall availability of services. Reference was also made to the possibility of linking the duties of the Public Health Nurses to the Ardrossan Youth Centre (formerly known as the Stanley Hut) which is owned and managed by Ardrossan Youth Association and is regularly used by schools and organisations.

The Liaison Meeting agreed (a) that the Public Health Practitioner (i) submit details of the pharmacies involved in the new project in the Three Towns Area to the Clerk; and (ii) advise the Clerk whether the Partners can be of assistance in providing areas for advertising; and (b) that the Clerk provide the Public Health Practitioner with details of the Ardrossan Youth Centre.

### **3. Open Forum**

The Open Forum provides an opportunity for members of the public to ask questions of the Community Planning Partners present at the meeting.

The following issues were raised by the members of the public in attendance at the meeting:-

- Vandalism and youths drinking and drug taking in the Shaw Place area of Saltcoats.
- Vandalism at the bus shelter in Dalry Road at the junction with Sannox Drive, Saltcoats.
- Vandalism in the lane between Ailsa Road and High Road, Saltcoats and the need to repair the existing lighting and a desire to have the lane closed.

Inspector Ness advised of an initiative involving highly visible police patrols in the area. This initiative will also seek to involve parents by inserting an article in the local press entitled "Do you Know where your Child is?". CCTV footage recording incidents of vandalism etc can also be shown to parents if considered appropriate. He also advised that for charges to be made against individuals, witnesses need to come forward. He urged those in attendance to assist the police in this regard whenever possible.

Councillor David Munn undertook to further investigate the issues raised regarding the need for a change of style of bus shelter in Dalry Road, the maintenance of lighting in the lane between Ailsa Road and High Road, Saltcoats, and the feasibility of closing the lane.

Councillor McNamara advised that addressing issues such as vandalism had been assisted in his area by the setting up of a Residents' Association. Confirmation was given that the local residents are in the process of forming a Residents' Association. Councillor Margaret Munn suggested that Neighbourhood Compacts can also be of assistance.

The Learning Manager Quality Development undertook to forward the names of those residents who were interested to the existing Neighbourhood Compact in order that contact can be made.

The meeting ended at 12.00 pm