

Three Towns Area Committee
10 October 1996

Saltcoats, 10 October 1996 - At a Meeting of the Three Towns Area Committee of North Ayrshire Council at 10.30 a.m.

Present

David Gallagher, David Munn, Margaret Munn, Alan Munro and Samuel Taylor.

In Attendance

D. Anderson, Head of Cultural and Community Services, W. Simpson, Community Development Services Officer, S. Herd, Community Education Worker (Community and Recreational Services), J. Mason, Principal Engineer Traffic and Lighting (Planning, Roads and Environment), A Moynihan, Principal Trading Standards Officer (Legal Services), E. MacLean, Early Years Adviser (Education), S. King, Corporate Policy Officer, A. Osborne, Corporate Policy Officer, S. Bale, Administration Officer and A. Little, Assistant Administration Officer (Chief Executive).

Also In Attendance

Inspector Reilly (Strathclyde Police).

Apologies for Absence

Samuel Gooding and Peter McNamara

1. Minutes Confirmed

The Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 29 August 1996, copies of which had previously been circulated, were confirmed.

2. Local Agenda 21

The Chair welcomed Mrs King to the Three Towns Area Committee and asked her to report on the background and progress in relation to Local Agenda 21.

Mrs King gave an informative presentation on the background and progress of Local Agenda 21. Local Agenda 21 is a plan of action devised by the Earth Summit which took place in Rio De Janeiro in 1992 and provides a framework of objectives and activities for environmental protection and sustainable development. The role of the local authority is to educate, mobilise and encourage the public to participate in this process. Links have been formed with local groups and organisations and a close working relationship will be encouraged. An Officers group has been established to prepare a draft policy document outlining the Council's priority aims and objectives on environmental issues. Area Committees will then be given the opportunity to consider the terms of the draft policy, with a composite response being used in the formation of the final concise single policy document.

The Committee thanked Mrs King for her presentation.

3. Road Safety Concerns: Burns Avenue at Junction with Simpson Drive, Saltcoats

Submitted report by the Director of Planning, Roads and Environment on the current position regarding the new road links between Burns Avenue, Saltcoats and Sorbie Road, Ardrossan.

An investigation had been undertaken in terms of the volume of traffic at Burns Avenue/Simpson Drive. The volume of traffic in this area was recorded as being minimal and there was no evidence of speeding.

The Committee agreed to request the Director of Planning, Roads and Environment investigate changing priorities at Burns Avenue and Simpson Drive.

4. Petrol Prices

Submitted report by the Legal Services Manager on the results of a petrol price survey conducted throughout the area.

The Principal Trading Standards Officer reported on the findings of the survey on petrol prices undertaken in North Ayrshire and the follow-up survey which encompassed South and East Ayrshire. It would appear that prices are locally led and there is very little competition

After full a discussion the Committee agreed to (a) instruct the Legal Services Manager to investigate the pricing of the bulk purchase of diesel by Commercial Services; and (b) to write to the local petrol stations requesting an explanation of their pricing policy.

5. Monitoring Reports

a) Analysis of Grants Paid to 20 September 1996

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on analysis of grants to 20 September 1996.

Noted.

b) Roads Maintenance Contracts

Submitted report by the Director of Planning, Roads and Environment on roads maintenance contracts.

The Committee agreed to request the Director of Planning, Roads and Environment to investigate the condition of the pavements at Morrison Avenue and Hyslop Road, Stevenston.

c) Road Lighting

Submitted report by the Director of Planning, Roads and Environment on road lighting.

The Principal Engineer Traffic and Lighting advised that North Ayrshire Council are responsible for the management of road lighting and have contracted the maintenance work to BEI who undertake all planned, unplanned and emergency work. Technical explanations were provided clarifying the difficulties arising from the Scottish Power System.

Noted

d) Nursery Education Initiative

Submitted report by the Director of Education on the nursery education initiative.

The Early Years Adviser reported on the current position of the nursery education initiative with 1200

local authority and 600 private and voluntary sector nursery places now being provided within North Ayrshire. The Three Towns area have 520 part-time places. Whilst participating in the national evaluation, conducted by Stirling University, North Ayrshire Council have established a local evaluation group. This group have prepared a questionnaire for parents and anticipate an initial report being available in November.

The Committee agreed that the Director of Education provide information in terms of (a) the number of children per band ; and (b) the number of 4 year old children awaiting a nursery place.

6. Draft Revised Community Development Grants Scheme

Submitted report by the Director of Community and Recreational Services on the draft revised community development grants scheme.

The Head of Cultural and Community Services presented the draft Community Development Grants Scheme and advised that the best practices from Strathclyde Regional Council and Cunninghame District Council grants schemes had been amalgamated. Further work requires to be completed on the layout and graphics but it is anticipated that a finalised version will be presented to the Community and Recreational Services Committee on 5 November 1996. A press launch will be arranged following final approval from the Corporate Strategy Committee.

Noted.

7. Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1992: Bylaws for the Prohibition of the Consumption of Alcohol in Public Places

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on a decision of the Protective Services Committee to establish a Working Group to consider the problems associated with drinking in public places.

The Protective Services Committee have requested a member of the Three Towns Area Committee be appointed to serve on the Working Group.

The Committee agreed that Councillor M Munn be appointed to serve on the Working Group.

8. Community Consultation Meeting

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on proposed public meetings.

As a follow on from the community consultation process a proposal to hold a public meeting specific to Southbeach Ward has been received from Councillor McNamara.

After discussion the Committee agreed (a) not to hold public ward meetings; (b) to arrange further community consultation meetings and (c) to seek clarification on the level of support that is available to Members when attending meetings.

9. Requests for Financial Assistance

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on requests for financial assistance.

The Committee agreed the following grants be awarded:-

Stevenston Horticulture Show	£ 150.00
Whitlees Art Group	£ 150.00
Three Towns Elderly Federation	£ 550.00

10. Stevenston Common Good Fund: Request for Financial Assistance

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on a request for financial assistance from the Stevenston Common Good Fund by Ardeer Thistle Junior Football Club.

On 29 August 1996 the Committee agreed to continue consideration of this application for further information on previous financial assistance. Ardeer Thistle Football club received £210.00 from the Stevenston Common Good Fund in 1995.

The Committee agreed that the application by Ardeer Thistle Junior Football Club for £180.00 to purchase 10 training balls and 2 match balls be granted in kind.

11. Urgent Items

The Chair agreed that the following items be considered as matters of urgency:-

a) Saltcoats: Hamilton Street/Chapelwell Street

Mr. Munn stated the high speed of traffic at this corner makes it difficult for pedestrians to cross and suggested the erection of railings to direct pedestrians to a safer area to cross.

The Committee agreed that the Director of Planning, Roads and Environment investigate the possibility of erecting a railing at the corner of Hamilton Street and Chapelwell Street, Saltcoats.

b) Saltcoats: Eglinton Court

A request was made for an extension to the double yellow lines. The Principal Engineer Traffic and Lighting advised that this street accommodates street parking easily and further parking enforcements would have to be on the grounds of amenity.

The Committee agreed that the Director of Planning, Roads and Environment investigate the possible extension of double yellow lines at Eglinton Court, Saltcoats.

c) Saltcoats: Focus Learning Centre

With regard to the refurbishment of the Focus Learning Centre, Mr Taylor advised that a report on repairs to make the Centre wind and water tight will be considered by the Corporate Strategy Committee on 22 October 1996. In considering the Capital Programme for 1997/98 at a later meeting the Corporate Strategy Committee will consider the inclusion of major refurbishment works to the Centre including the provision of an entrance ramp.

Noted.

d) Dropped kerbs

A request was made for the provision of double yellow lines at dropped kerbs to prevent parking.

The Committee agreed that the Director of Planning, Roads and Environment investigate the provision of double yellow lines at dropped kerbs and report.

The meeting ended at 12.30 p.m.