

Irvine Area Committee
23 November 2011

IRVINE, 23 November 2011 - At a Meeting of the Irvine Area Committee of North Ayrshire Council at 2.00 p.m.

Present

Pat McPhee, Tom Barr, Matthew Brown, Ian Clarkson, Ruby Kirkwood, John Moffat, David O'Neill and Joan Sturgeon.

In Attendance

E. Murray, Chief Executive; A. Bodie, Head of Infrastructure and Design, C. Dempster, Assistant Network Manager, D. Johnston, Team Manager Risk and Insurance and A. Grossart, Finance Manager (Finance and Infrastructure); M. Armstrong, Head of Logistics and Infrastructure, D. Yuille, Project Manager, J. McHarg, Assistant Manager (Community Services), B. Anderson, Performance/Grants Information Officer and P. Chow, Development Worker Ethnic Minorities (Education and Skills); A. Laurenson, Team Manager (Regeneration) and S. Taylor, Planning Officer (Corporate Services); and A. Little, Committee Services Officer (Chief Executive's Service).

Also In Attendance

P. Singh, Ayrshire Minority Ethnic Communities Association; Inspector G. Jones, Strathclyde Police; M. Lawless and G. Smith, LA Architects.

Chair

Provost McPhee in the Chair.

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 Committee held on 12 October 2011 were signed in accordance with Paragraph 7 (1) of Schedule 7 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973.

3. Ayrshire Minority Ethnic Communities Association

The Committee received a presentation from P. Singh, Chair of the Ayrshire Minority Ethnic Communities Association.

The Association was established in 2009 and is a registered charity. It represents various local cultural groups and presents a collective voice for the local community, campaigning for social justice, equality and tackling racism. The Association works in partnership with the Police, Health Board and Council and provides guidance, support and advocacy to members of settled minority ethnic communities, and new migrant communities. Regular multicultural activities are organised as well as culturally sensitive awareness raising sessions on a variety of topics.

Members asked questions and were provided with information in relation to:-

- the availability of the Centre for Councillor surgeries; and
- the development of a Business Plan for AMECA.

Noted.

4. Strathclyde Police

Submitted report by Strathclyde Police on activity in the Irvine area for October 2011.

Inspector Jones provided information on local crime statistics for the Central Irvine, Vineburgh, Castlepark, Redburn, Fullerton, Harbour and Girdle Toll, Bourtreehill and Broomlands areas of Irvine. The priorities of the Community Policing Plans for Irvine were formulated from the public consultation exercise and include drunk or disorderly behaviour, assault and violent crime, anti-social behaviour and drug use and drug dealing.

Inspector Jones gave further detail on the following:-

- the work of the Multi Agency Problem Solving Group (MAPSG);
- the preparation of a Safer Streets Violence and Robbery Plan that commenced on 8 November 2011; and
- a proposed Open Day in Vineburgh Community Centre in December for the community to meet with the local Community Police Officers, Housing Officers, Warden Services, Youth Services and other statutory and voluntary partners.

Members asked questions, and received further information, on the following:-

- the continuation of the licensing arrangements that prevents entrance to licences premises after a specific time, throughout the festive period;
- partnership work with Streetscene officers in relation to the prevention of litter and dog fouling; and
- work with Trading Standards on test purchasing and bottlemarking.

Noted.

5. Strathclyde Fire and Rescue

Submitted report by Strathclyde Fire and Rescue on activity in the Irvine area between 12 October and 14 November 2011.

Noted.

6. Irvine Town Centre

6.1 Irvine Town Centre Development

J. Ledgerwood, Irvine Bay Regeneration Company, provided an update on the regeneration projects in Irvine Town Centre Development.

The works will focus on four projects, namely, Bridgegate area, Trinity Church, Bridgegate House and the development of an new sports and leisure centre for the town centre.

An update was provided on the following areas:-

- a full planning application for public realm works and improvements for the Bridgegate area was submitted to the Council, and the main tender process will commence early in 2012.
- the Council have agreed the transfer of ownership of Trinity Church from Trinity Trust and an initial site preparation tender has been completed.
- the tender for the 'cladding package' of Bridgegate House has been returned and is being reviewed.

Noted.

6.2 New Leisure Centre Irvine

The Committee received a presentation on proposals for a new sports and leisure centre for Irvine town centre.

The presentation provided details and illustrations on:-

- the initial proposals for the boundary of the site and scale of the centre;
- the proposed layout of the centre and the flexible use of the facilities within it;
- the incorporation of the Townhouse as an integral part of the proposal, with entry to the Townhouse from the new centre and retention of the original Townhouse entrance for occasional use;
- the commencement of discussions with the British Legion on the proposed location of the war memorial in a prominent central position in the public realm area at the front of the site;
- sustainability and flexibility of the building and lifetime costs; and
- the design of specific car parking for disabled at the site.

Members asked questions and were provided with information in relation to:-

- Discussions with relevant bodies in respect of archeological issues at the site and investigations that will be undertaken at the preliminary stages of the build; and
- the future uses of the Townhouse.

The Committee welcomed the initial proposals presented and expressed an interest in viewing a proposal that extended the boundary at the front of the site.

6.3. Irvine Inspire

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on a proposed event entitled "Irvine Inspire".

The Robert Owen Institute in New Lanark have proposed that a meeting be held to bring residents and the local business community together to discuss how Irvine might be re-built, both physically and as a community.

Work by the Council in the regeneration of Irvine is currently underway. An officers meeting will be held on 12 December 2011 to develop the scope for the regeneration work, identify the focus of each of the key areas and the lead officers for each of the key areas. A workshop for Elected Members will then be arranged to consider the proposals arising from this group.

The Committee agreed to invite Mr Fulton of the Robert Owen Institute to a future meeting of the Committee.

7. Access Road to Irvine Golf Club, Bogside, Irvine

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Finance and Infrastructure) on the access road to Irvine Golf Club, Bogside, Irvine.

At its meeting on 22 June 2011, the Irvine Area Committee considered a request for funding of £11,000 from Irvine Common Good Fund for repairs to the access road to Irvine Golf Club, Bogside, Irvine. The Committee requested further information in order to consider this matter more fully.

The access road to the Irvine Golf Club at Bogside, Irvine is not an adopted public road under the terms of Section 1 of the Roads (Scotland) Act 1984, and is not maintained as part of the public road network. However, under the Irvine Common Good Fund the Council has responsibility for a section of the road from its junction at Sandy Road up to the Golf Club entrance as shown in Appendix 1 to the report.

The cost of resurfacing the full length of road from its junction at Sandy Road to the Golf Club entrance is estimated at £22,000. The estimated cost to surface only the section of the road in Common Good ownership would be £11,000. The Golf Club has advised that they are unable to contribute to the costs of resurfacing the full length from its junction at Sandy Road up to the Golf Club entrance.

The report provided information on the financial position of Irvine Common Good Fund and the current overspend of the Fund by £21,500.

Discussion took place on a number of areas, including the identification of ownership of the remaining sections of the road, adoption of the road by the Council, the sale of the Common Good section of the road to the Golf Club, classification of the road as an access route, and formally requesting the Golf Club to contribute to the repairs to the road.

The Committee agreed that the Corporate Director (Finance and Infrastructure) investigate the areas discussed and report back to a future meeting.

8. Community Development Grants Scheme and Local Youth Action Fund 2011/12: Applications for Financial Assistance

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Education and Skills) on applications received in respect of the Community Development Grant Scheme and Local Youth Action Fund 2011/12.

The Committee agreed to make the following awards:-

Community Development Grants

North Ayrshire Ice Hockey Club	£1,000.00
Townend Camera Club	£881.18
Castlepark 'Little Sunbeams'	£1,700.00
Irvine Duke of Edinburgh Award Group	£1,500.00
Breaking Ground	£768.00

Local Youth Action Fund

Irvine and District Brass Band	£1,200 on the condition that the group provide a recent bank statement
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9. Corporate Grants to Elderly Groups

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on the distribution of the 2nd instalment of Corporate Grants for Elderly Groups within its area in 2011/12.

The Committee agreed (a) to approve the awards, as detailed in the report; (b) that Drybridge Hall Management Committee be awarded the amount previously set aside for the disbanded Drybridge and District Senior Citizens Association; and (c) that elderly groups in Springside be encouraged to apply for the award previously set aside for the disbanded Springside Welfare Committee.

10. North Ayrshire Community Planning Partnership (CPP) Board: Minutes of Meeting held on 15 September 2011

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on the Meeting of the North Ayrshire Community Planning Partnership (CPP) Board held on 15 September 2011.

Noted.

The meeting ended at 3.45 p.m.