

Ardrossan and Arran, Saltcoats and Stevenston Area Committee
23 April 2008

SALTCOATS, 23 April 2008 - At a Meeting of the Ardrossan and Arran, Saltcoats and Stevenston Area Committee of North Ayrshire Council at 3.30 p.m.

Present

Anthony Gurney, David Munn, Margie Currie, William Gibson, John Hunter, Ronnie McNicol and Alan Munro.

In Attendance

J. Leckie, Head of Service (Educational Services); J. McConnachie, Transportation Manager and T. Paterson, Assistant Transportation Manager (Roads) and I. Kinghorn, Facilities Maintenance Officer (Property Services); A. Milson, Learning Manager, Quality Development and B. Anderson, Performance/Grants Information Officer (Educational Services); M. Anderson and D. McCaw, Corporate Support Officers (Chief Executive's).

Also In Attendance

Inspector I. Ness (Strathclyde Police); and L Brady, Community Safety Co-ordinator (Strathclyde Fire and Rescue).

Chair

Councillor Gurney in the Chair.

Apologies for Absence

Peter McNamara.

1. Minutes

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 14 February 2008, copies of which had previously been circulated, were confirmed.

2. Strathclyde Police

Inspector Ness provided the following information to Members:-

- Details of crime statistics for the area, including an overall reduction in serious/violent crimes;
- Efforts to respond to unacceptable levels of domestic violence;
- Information on officers policing trains in order to tackle youth disorder;
- An operation targeting sales of alcohol to underage youths;
- A new system of Community Police generating Hotspot Action Plans to target problem areas where a more concentrated Police presence is required;
- A recent drug operation which targeted 3 houses and recovered in excess of £2,000 worth of drugs;

- Support for alcohol-free discos funded by the NHS and ADAT and attended by 1st and 2nd year pupils from St. Matthews, Auchenhavie and Ardrossan Academies; and
- measures to tackle cannabis cultivation within North Ayrshire.

Members asked for, and received, further information on measures to tackle adult buyers procuring alcohol for underage drinkers and on test purchasing of alcohol by underage buyers.

Noted.

3. Strathclyde Fire and Rescue

Liz Brady, Community Safety Co-ordinator, provided the following information to Members:-

- A rescue event which took place at Arran Pier in March over a 2 day period, attended by P7 and S2 pupils and well supported by volunteers;
- "Fire Reach" courses run at Dreghorn Fire Station for S2 and S3 secondary school pupils offering 12 places per course;
- An event to tackle reckless driving took place in March involving 1400 pupils from East Ayrshire and North Ayrshire over a 3 day period;
- The "Cut it Out" national educational programme on road traffic accident awareness, in which all secondary schools in North Ayrshire will be offered the chance to participate;
- The "Clued Up Kids" experiential learning event which will take place in June at Eglinton Park, Irvine; and
- Targeted home safety leaflet drops offering free home safety visits.

Members praised the "Fire Reach" courses at Dreghorn Fire Station and welcomed the fire safety talk provided for older people at Currie Court.

Noted.

4. Traffic Regulation Order: B714 Dalry Road, Saltcoats: Speed Limit Extension

Submit report by the Corporate Director (Property Services) on proposed speed limit extension proposals for the B714 Dalry Road, Saltcoats.

The B714 at this location is a traffic distributor route linking the three towns of Ardrossan, Saltcoats and Stevenston with Dalry and Kilbirnie . This section of the B714 Dalry Road provides junction access to residential areas of Saltcoats.

The 30 mph speed restriction currently extends to the limit of the existing residential area and the road is subject to National Speed Limit restrictions thereafter.

A new housing development is currently under construction outwith the existing 30 mph limit on land adjacent to Dalry Road north of Carrick Avenue and a request has been made to North Ayrshire Council, Roads and Transportation Services and Strathclyde Police Traffic Management section to extend the existing 30mph limit to include the new development. In the interests of road safety, it is proposed to extend the existing 30mph restriction northwards to include this development.

The Committee agreed to (a) note that the investigation, preparation and statutory process is underway for a Traffic Regulation Order identified in the report; and (b) approve the implementation of the Order should no objections be received.

5. Community Grants and Local Youth Action Fund 2008/09

5.1 Budget Allocations

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on budget allocations for Community Grants and the Local Youth Action Fund in financial year 2008/09.

At its meeting on 19 February 2008, the Executive approved a report on proposals for the allocation, administration and monitoring of Corporate Grants, including Community Grants in 2008/09. Area Committees have responsibility for awarding monies in respect of the Community Development Grants Scheme, which includes an element for Town Twinning activities. In addition, the CPP Safer Communities has provided £60,000 for the Local Youth Action Fund.

The Area Committee has been allocated £38,480 from the Community Grants budget and £16,800 for the Local Youth Action Fund. These budgets will be released to the Area Committee in 2 instalments (50% in April 2008 and 50% in September/October 2008).

Noted.

5.2 Applications for Financial Assistance

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Educational Services) on applications for financial assistance under the Council's Community Development Grants Scheme and the Local Youth Action Fund.

The Committee agreed to make the following awards:-

Organisation	Award
Feis Arainn	£1,200
Creative Hands for Mission	£400
The International Historical Cultural and Geographical Agency	£1,000
Arran Theatre Arts Trust	£1,500
Caledonian Pipe Band	£2,000 together with an underwrite of up to £1,000 should the Group's application for funding from Awards for All be unsuccessful
Retirement Group Yoga	£1,500
Lochranza and Catacol Village Hall	£1,500
Arran Sports Association	£1,750
Whiting Bay Public Hall Management Committee	£2,000
SNAP Craft Group	£300
Ardrossan Highland Games	£1,500
Saltcoats Gala Committee	£1,500

6. Grants to Elderly Groups

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on the allocation of the elderly groups grants budget across the five Area Committees in 2008/09.

At its meeting on 19 February 2008, the Executive, in approving the budget for Community Grants in 2008/09, allocated the sum of £71,683 for disbursement to elderly groups to contribute towards the costs of summer outings and Christmas events. The Executive further agreed that Area Committees would receive a report on the distribution of grants to elderly groups within their respective areas.

The elderly grants budget has been distributed across the five Area Committees based on each area's share of the population of North Ayrshire of pensionable age. The Ardrossan and Arran, Saltcoats and Stevenston Area Committee has been allocated £19,719.99. The appendix to the report set out proposals to allocate funding as follows:-

Age Concern Arran Branch	£3,510.43
Age Concern Stevenston	£4,600.72
Ardrossan Old People's Welfare Committee	£4,806.73
Saltcoats Old Folks' Welfare Committee	£6,802.11

In order to meet the Following the Public Pound criteria, groups are required to formally apply for the funding and each organisation must agree to the Council's conditions of grant. Awards will be issued in two separate payments, covering the summer and the Christmas event.

Noted.

7. Common Good Funds

7.1 Ardrossan Common Good Fund

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on an application received in respect of the Ardrossan Common Good Fund.

An indicative budget of £3,240 will be available for disbursement in 2008/09.

The Committee agreed to award £2,000 to the EU Congregational Church, Ardrossan on the basis that a grant to this organisation will be of benefit to the whole community (a) through extensive use of the Church Hall by local groups and (b) by enhancing the appearance of Glasgow Street.

7.2 Stevenston Common Good Fund

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on applications received in respect of the Stevenston Common Good Fund.

An indicative budget of £18,000 will be available for disbursement in 2008/09.

The Committee agreed (a) to award £2,000 to The International Historical, Cultural and Geographical Agency for costs in respect of the Celtic Connections Festival and the International Scots Night events which will benefit the community as a whole; and (b) to continue consideration of the application from The Cronies Club, Stevenston to the next meeting in order to obtain additional information.

8. Street Naming

Submitted reports by the Assistant Chief Executive (Legal and Protective) on street naming at the following locations:-

8.1 Saltcoats: Dalry Road: Site south of Sharphill Industrial Estate: Naming of 5 new streets within housing development by Cunninghame Housing Association

The Committee agreed to name the main street into the development Windmill Wynd and to name the other 4 streets Bryson Place, White Place, Keeper Place and Farmhill Place.

8.2 Ardrossan: Site off Princes Street: Naming of new street within housing development by George Wimpey West Scotland Limited

The Committee agreed (a) not to name the development Brodick Gardens; and (b) to remit to officers, in consultation with the 4 Local Members, to determine a suitable name for the street.

9. Recreation Facilities for Young People

The Committee discussed the arrangements in place for the distribution of commuted sums received from developments in the local area. Councillor Currie considered that the needs of a particular community should be considered before a decision is made on the spend of commuted sums from the developers. Those needs could be a play area for young children, a landscaped area for the enjoyment of older people (subject to consideration of ongoing maintenance issues) or a facility for youths.

The Facilities Maintenance Officer advised the Committee that talks are currently ongoing with the Planning Section regarding levels of funding obtained from developers and on the distribution of this funding.

The Committee agreed (a) that the Clerk contact relevant officers to obtain additional information on the amount of money currently obtained through commuted sums from developers and on how these funds have been expended in recent years; and (b) to receive a report at the next meeting of the Committee on distribution of this funding.

10. Operation of Rotating Chair Arrangement

The Committee agreed that the current arrangements whereby Councillors Munn and Gurney rotate the position of Chair of the Ardrossan and Arran, Saltcoats and Stevenston Area Committee on a meeting by meeting basis, should continue.

11. Dates of Meetings

The Committee discussed arrangements for the next meeting of the Area Committee to be held on Thursday 5 June 2008 on Arran. Arrangements will be confirmed to all Members in due course.

Noted.

12. Future Agenda Items

The Committee noted that any items for consideration at the next meeting of the Area Committee should be submitted to M. Anderson or D. McCaw.

13. Saltcoats Town Hall: Restoration Proposal

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Educational Services) on the proposals for the restoration of the Saltcoats Town Hall.

The restoration plans for the Saltcoats Town Hall, a "B" listed building dating from around 1890, were considered by the former Three Towns Area Committee in September 2006. The plans were put on public display and comments were invited from the Community.

The proposals for the restoration are intended to address three issues:-

- securing the future of the building by repairing the roof and the stone work;
- the requirements arising from modern standards, eg Fire, DDA and Entertainment Licences; and
- meeting the requirements of Historic Scotland.

The project was initially estimated to cost £3.1 million. However, discussions with the Council's Technical Services Section have resulted in a more modest restoration project for the Saltcoats Town Hall. This revised project is estimated at £1.95 million.

This revised programme of works will address the wind and watertight integrity of the building, provide a level of restoration of the stonework to ensure that it is in a safe condition and meet the requirements of modern legislation and building standards. These works will require the agreement of Historic Scotland. The proposals would bring the Town Hall back into full use and would enable a wide variety of functions and events to be held in the Hall. Early indications are that Technical Services will be in a position to start work on-site by autumn 2008.

Noted.

The Meeting ended at 5.10 p.m.