

Kilwinning, Dreghorn and Springside Area Committee
27 August 1997

Kilwinning, 27 August 1997 - At a Meeting of the Kilwinning, Dreghorn and Springside Area Committee of North Ayrshire Council at 10.30 a.m.

Present

Ian Clarkson, Gena Seales and Irene Oldfather.

In Attendance

J Ferguson, Assistant Principal Estates Officer (Legal Services); G Clark, Operations Manager, Grounds Maintenance (Commercial Services); H Hunter, Senior Accountant, Accountancy (Financial Services); J Mason, Principal Engineer, Roads Division and I McQuaker, Planning Officer (Planning, Roads and Environment); D Gilliland, Area Community Development Officer (Community and Recreational Services); and S Paxton, Administration Officer (Chief Executive).

Inspector G McLanaghan and Sergeant J Richmond, Strathclyde Police.

Chair

Mr Clarkson in the Chair.

Apologies for Absence

Patrick Browne and James Clements.

1. Minutes Confirmed

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 25 June 1997, copies of which had previously been circulated, were confirmed.

2. Monitoring Reports

(a) Garden Tidy Scheme

Submitted report by the Director of Commercial Services regarding the performance of the Garden Tidy Scheme.

The Garden Tidy Scheme, provides grass and hedge cutting services to persons who are over 80 years of age or in receipt of two benefits, one of which must be the Old Age Pension or Severe Disablement Allowance/Incapacity Benefit. The Scheme, which is in its second year of operation, commenced in mid-May 1997 and three grass cuts had been completed by the first week in August despite early inclement weather. It will not be possible to undertake six grass cuts this year as the implementation of the European Working Time Directive, which requires employees to take annual leave during the Scheme's operation has reduced the number of hours available for grass cutting.

Within the Irvine New Town area 1034 gardens were cut with a further 24 on the waiting list.

Noted.

(b) Surplus Properties

Submitted report by the Legal Services Manager regarding properties which had been approved as surplus to requirements by the Support Services Committee.

The Estates Section within the Legal Services Department has developed the Council's Property File which is a computerised database of property information detailing the nature of the Council's interests in properties, the holding Committee, the holding Directorate together with management records. The Property File, as well as providing records of current surplus properties, can also be used to monitor the progress of disposals. The report detailed the relevant information for Kilwinning, Dreghorn and Springside from the Property File.

It is anticipated that a report on surplus properties will be submitted to Area Committees on a quarterly basis.

Noted.

(c) Community Development Grants Scheme: Analysis of Grants Paid to 25 June 1997

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on the Community Development Grants paid to 25 June 1997 regarding applications in respect of the Kilwinning, Dreghorn and Springside area, including details of the balance of funding remaining.

Noted.

3. Community Consultation

(a) Meeting with Youth Organisations and Elderly Groups

(Previous Minute Reference: Kilwinning, Dreghorn and Springside Area Committee 25 June 1997.)

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on proposals for the third round of Community Consultation Meetings with representatives of youth organisations and elderly groups detailing the organisations to be included in the process.

The Committee in noting the organisations for inclusion in the next round of Community Consultation Meetings agreed that the Chief Executive in consultation with the Chair progress arrangements for the meetings to take place in late September 1997.

(b) Meeting with Kilwinning and Eglinton Angling Club

(Previous Minute Reference: Kilwinning, Dreghorn and Springside Area Committee 25 June 1997.)

Submitted report by the Chief Executive advising of the outcome of a meeting between the Area Committee and the Kilwinning Eglinton Angling Club which was held on 5 August 1997.

The Club has been established for almost a century, raises its own finance through subscriptions and holds the fishing rights from Dalgarven Mill to the sea estuary at Irvine Harbour. The Club lease the fishing of a small area of the River Garnock from the Council. In terms of the lease the Club is responsible for the preservation of the River and the embankments. The remainder of the fishings are leased from a number of landowners who own the adjacent riverbanks.

At the meeting on 5 August the Club advised the Committee of problems with the fishing in the River Garnock, namely flash flooding, silt deposits, bank erosion and lack of oxygen in the river, which have contributed to the death of fish in the river and a subsequent decline in membership. The Club has spent around £23,000 on improvements to the River Garnock and, in 1991 commissioned a study into the River's problems from Crouch Waterman and the West

Galloway Fisheries Trust. The Club is keen to restore the River to its former condition for the benefit of all local people who use the River and its environs for other leisure activities.

The Club was advised of the legal position with regard to any works carried out on the River and of possible sources of funding for any remedial or restoration work, including the Scottish Sports Council Lottery Sports Fund.

The Committee agreed (a) that the Chief Executive arrange for appropriate officers of the Council to assess the 1991 report by Crouch, Hogg, Waterman and the West Galloway Fisheries Trust on the River Garnock; (b) that the Club advise the Chief Executive of all the problem areas together with landowners in its area of operation; (c) that the Director of Community and Recreational Services discuss with the Club long-term funding measures; and (d) that the Committee meet again with the Club in January 1998.

4. Requests for Financial Assistance: Community Development Grants Scheme

Submitted report by the Director of Community and Recreational Services on the undernoted applications for grants to voluntary organisations.

(a) Townend Playgroup

The Committee agreed to award Townend Playgroup £422;

(b) WRVS Darby and Joan Club

The Committee agreed to award the WRVS Darby and Joan Club £200;

(c) Kilwinning and Eglinton Angling Club

The Committee agreed to award the Kilwinning and Eglinton Angling Club £1,000;

(d) Blacklands Community Association

The Committee agreed to remit the matter of replacing curtains for the main rooms at the Nethermains Community Centre to the Director of Community and Recreational Services for his attention;

(e) Dreghorn Youth Darts Team

The Committee agreed to award the Dreghorn Youth Darts Team £300;

(f) Springside Women and Health Group

The Committee agreed to award Springside Women and Health Group £1,250;

(g) Springside Mother and Toddler Group

The Committee agreed to award Springside Mother and Toddler Group £274;

(h) Woodwynd Health and Fitness Group

The Committee agreed to award Woodwynd Health and Fitness Group £500; and

(i) Irvine New Town Youth Panel

The Committee agreed to award Irvine New Town Youth Panel £250

(j) Townend Camera Club

The Committee agreed to award Townend Camera Club £430

5. Dog Fouling: Pilot Project Areas

(Previous Minute Reference: Kilwinning, Dreghorn and Springside Area Committee 25 June 1997.)

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on the initiative to combat dog fouling in the five pilot areas identified and to determine future action.

The Committee was informed that the measures taken to date have been positively received by the general public and the high usage of dog bins has necessitated an increase in the frequency of emptying. Demand has also been high for dog tidy bags.

In order to streamline and simplify the system for reporting and responding to complaints of dog fouling, the Officers Team has proposed the following options for future provision:

(a) identifying further pilot projects;

(b) with the co-operation of Strathclyde Police, providing a more general application of existing measures; and

(c) deferring further spending in this financial year pending an investigation into the possibility of appointing a new post of Dog Warden to cover tasks currently undertaken by several Directorates of the Council.

After discussion, the Committee agreed (i) to defer any further spending in the current financial year pending an investigation into the possibility of appointing a Dog Warden whose work would cover most of the tasks currently undertaken by several Directorates; and (ii) to recommend submission of a report to the next meeting of the Corporate Strategy Committee with a view to establishing a consensus on such future provision.

6. Dreghorn: Station Brae

(Previous Minute Reference: Kilwinning, Dreghorn and Springside Area Committee 25 June 1997.)

Submitted report by the Director of Planning, Roads and Environment regarding a request to remove the traffic restriction on Station Brae, Dreghorn.

The former Irvine Development Corporation as part of its Community Route Strategy for the Bourtreehill/Broomlands area restricted part of Station Brae, between the playing fields and Towerlands Road for use by buses only. Station Brae currently provides a link for bus services between Irvine Town Centre, Broomlands, Bourtreehill and Dreghorn areas. The unrestricted section of Station Brae currently provides vehicle access to Dreghorn Cemetery, the Commercial Services Directorate's facility in the area and the playing fields. The pedestrian link between Bourtreehill/Broomlands and Dreghorn is provided by footways and paths along Station Brae.

Concerns have been expressed about the personal safety of pedestrians using the route. The lifting of the traffic restriction would allow additional surveillance of persons or activities along the route. Any amendments to the present situation would, however, require the promotion of a Traffic Regulation Order.

The Committee agreed that the Director of Planning, Roads and Environment should review the current situation and report.

7. Street Naming

(a) Kilwinning: off Heronswood

Submitted report by the Director of Planning, Roads and Environment on street naming of a new housing development by Acre Development off Heronswood, Kilwinning.

The Director of Planning, Roads and Environment consulted the local member who had suggested North Acre Grove as an appropriate name for the development.

The Committee agreed to name the development North Acre Grove.

(b) Kilwinning: off Bannoch Place

Submitted report by the Director of Planning, Roads and Environment on street naming of a new housing development by Tarmac off Bannoch Road, Kilwinning.

The Director of Planning, Roads and Environment consulted the local member who suggested Bannoch Gardens as an appropriate name for the development.

The Committee agreed to name the development Bannoch Gardens.

8. Community Safety: Crime Statistics

Submitted report by Strathclyde Police UA Division on levels of reported crime within the Area Committee's boundaries.

In July 1996 the total number of crimes in the Sub-Division was 580 while in July 1997 the total number of crimes in the Sub-Division was 429, a fall of 51. The report provided a snapshot of the position with regard to the levels of recorded crimes in the area, comparing July 1996 and July 1997. The level of reported crime throughout the "UA" Division of Strathclyde Police has fallen.

Noted.

9. Future Meeting Arrangements

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on arrangements for future Area Committee Meetings, Open Forums and Community Consultations.

The Area Committee since its inception in March 1996 has rotated its meetings between Kilwinning, Dreghorn and Springside which has given the Committee a profile in each of the three communities and provided local people with an opportunity to attend the Area Committee meeting itself and the Open Forum meetings which follow. The Committee has also met with various local groups as part of its Community Consultation exercise.

Attendance by the public at Area Committee and Open Forum meetings has varied. The Community Consultation meetings, however, have been consistently well attended. This may have resulted from the personal invitation to Community Consultations issued to groups in advance, together with details of the meetings format.

The work of the Area Committees is a regular feature in "Look North", the Council's Community Newspaper. Area Committee meetings are advertised in the local press and libraries.

The Committee agreed (a) to continue its present arrangements for Community Consultation meetings; (b) that meetings of the Area Committee continue to be rotated between Kilwinning, Dreghorn and Springside; (c) that the Chief Executive in consultation with the Chair invite specific local groups to attend the Area Committee meeting and the Open Forum meeting

following the conclusion of business; and (d) that the autumn issue of "Look North" should again feature the work of the Area Committee.

10. Urgent Items

The Chair agreed that the following item be considered as a matter of urgency.

(a) Kilwinning: Pedestrian Precinct

(Previous Minute Reference: Kilwinning, Dreghorn and Springside Area Committee 14 May 1997.)

Submitted report by the Director of Planning, Roads and Environment regarding the present condition of the pedestrian precinct in Kilwinning Town Centre.

The Kilwinning, Dreghorn and Springside Area Committee on 14 May 1997 requested that the Director of Planning, Roads and Environment report on the condition of the pedestrian precinct at Kilwinning Town Centre.

Kilwinning Main Street was pedestrianised in 1983, the street surface paved and new lighting and street furniture installed. In addition, buildings in the vicinity were either stone-cleaned or painted.

Since that time further improvements to Kilwinning Town Centre have been carried out, such as the development of the site at Main Street/Abbeygate, the refurbishment of the Main Street/Almswall Road Shopping Arcade and floodlighting to the historic Abbey Tower. The Irvine Development Corporation carried out an extensive scheme of environmental improvements to the Town Centre car parks which included a comprehensive range of new directional and information signs.

Appropriate officers from the Council have inspected the pedestrian precinct and repairs have been undertaken to certain sections of the street surface to eliminate potential dangers, a number of dead trees have been removed and weed growth has been cleared from the tree grilles. The report detailed the condition of and responsibilities for the maintenance of certain features within the Town Centre.

British Gas will undertake major works during the next four to five months which will involve the laying of a new gas main along the full length of Howgate and Main Street. British Gas will be responsible for the reinstatement of the area of the street surface disturbed by their works and for the maintenance of this repair for a minimum of two years following completion of the works.

The Committee in noting the terms of the report, agreed that the Director of Planning, Roads and Environment further investigate the matter and report to a future meeting of the Area Committee.

The meeting ended at 12.20 p.m.