

North Coast Area Committee
24 March 2016

Millport, 24 March 2016 - At a Meeting of the North Coast Area Committee at 1.45 p.m.

Present

Alex Gallagher, Alan Hill, Tom Marshall and Grace McLean.

In Attendance

Y. Holland, Project Manager, T. Reaney, Senior Manager, (Streetscene), Helen Miller, Streetscene Officer (North Coast) (Place); George Hunter, Town Centre Manager, Jim McHarg, Senior Manager, Participation and Empowerment and Bernadette Anderson, Performance/Information Officer (Economy and Communities); Mhari Burley, Communications Support Officer, M. Anderson, Committee Services Team Leader and Ann Pearson, Committee Services Support Officer (Chief Executive's Service).

Also In Attendance

G.Fleming (Scottish Fire & Rescue) and Bruce MacAulay (6274).

Chair

Councillor Gallagher in the Chair.

1. Chair's Remarks

In terms of Standing Order 9.3, the Chair agreed to vary the order of business to allow earlier consideration of Agenda Item 6.1 (Millport Flood Protection Scheme).

2. Declarations of Interest

In terms of Standing Order 10 and Section 5 of the Code of Conduct for Councillors, Councillor Hill declared an indirect financial interest in Agenda Item 7 (Local Youth Action Fund: Application for Financial Assistance) in relation to the grant application by Largs Colts.

3. Minutes

The accuracy of the Minutes of the ordinary Meeting of the Committee held on 11 February 2016 was confirmed and the Minutes signed in accordance with Paragraph 7 (1) of Schedule 7 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973.

4. Haylie Brae: Augmented Reality Information Board

The Committee received a presentation from a representative of the company 6274 in respect of the 'Augmented Reality' information sign planned for Haylie Brae car park.

The presentation highlighted proposals for a totem pole approximately 2m high, with augmented reality content which might include information on local wildlife and flora, as well as general information on Largs.

The Members present and, at the invitation of the Chair, members of the public in attendance, asked questions, and received clarification, on the following:-

- the estimated cost of the sign and any ongoing maintenance costs;
- security of Haylie Brae car park location, including any road safety considerations;
- process of updating content
- ownership of any stand-alone domain website;
- timescale for implementation;
- the possibility of similar facility on Cumbrae and elsewhere in the North Coast area; and
- whether there were public toilet facilities at this location.

The Area Committee agreed to (a) express its support for the proposed augmented reality sign; and (b) note that officers would liaise with local Members on the augmented reality content.

5. CPP Partners

5.1 Police Scotland

The Committee noted that, on this occasion, a Police Scotland representative was not in attendance.

5.2 Scottish Fire and Rescue Service

Submitted report by Scottish Fire and Rescue Service on incidents within the North Coast area for the period 29 January to 10 March 2016, including information on the following:-

- some 25 incidents in the local area, comprising 19 in the Largs area, 2 in Skelmorlie and 4 in Millport;
- 16 unwanted fire alarm incidents and 4 special services events; and
- community safety initiatives including post domestic reviews, Home Fire Safety Visits and spring Thematic Action Plans.

Members discussed the following:-

- visits to local schools as part of the Spring Thematic Action Plan; and
- the reduced number of grass fires (secondary fires);

Station Manager Fleming undertook to provide Members with information on trends in terms of incidents within the committee's area.

Noted.

6. Largs Report

6.1 Largs Sea Front Car Park - Update on Projects and Car Park Usage

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Place) on the implementation of agreed projects and the usage of the Largs Sea Front Car Park between 1 July and 31 December 2015.

The Senior Manager (Streetscene) provided a verbal update on a recent development in relation to the Largs sea front car park, advising that, as a result of cabling problems, the car park barrier had been removed. The Committee was advised of interim arrangements to manage access the car park pending a quote for the future repair and maintenance of the barrier system.

Members discussed the following:-

- current balance of car park fund;
- parking durations for the period July - December 2015;
- possible reasons for a reduction in the number of vehicles using car park;
- the cost of retaining public toilet provision in Largs; and
- the loss of income arising from issues with the seafront car park barrier system.

The Senior Manager (Streetscene) undertook to (i) circulate to local Members a copy of the options appraisal report on the car park barrier system, when this became available; and (ii) clarify when the Council decision to provide funding from Largs Car Park Fund for public toilet provision in Largs would take effect.

Noted.

7. Cumbrae Report

7.1 Millport Flood Protection Scheme

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Economy and Communities) on the position in respect of the Millport Flood Protection Scheme.

The Senior Manager (Streetscene) provided a verbal update on the receipt of tenders for the outline design, the consultation process and the anticipated start of the design work.

Members asked questions and received information on the following:-

- the design scheme which will inform next phase of consultation;
- plans for the related public consultation; and
- the success of the consultation exercise in respect of the Largs flood prevention measures.

The Senior Manager (Streetscene) undertook to keep local Members informed on progress with this project, including public consultation arrangements.

Noted.

8. Further Largs Reports

8.1 Place Update - Largs

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Place) on the Largs Campus development.

The Project Manager(Place) provided a verbal update on the project, advising that it may be necessary to apply for an early works package in order to meet the planned project deadline and referring to plans to delay the transfer of secondary school pupils to the new facility to minimise any impact on educational attainment.

Members asked questions and received information on the following:-

- the potentially adverse impact of planned timing of the transfer to the new facility on secondary school pupils taking exams;
- the cost and source of steel for the project;
- any penalties which might arise in terms of the Scottish Future Trust in the event of a delay in all pupils transferring to the new campus.

The Project Manager (Place) undertook to provide local Members with a paper setting out an assessment of the options for transferring secondary school pupils to the new campus.

Noted.

8.2 Economy and Communities Update - Largs

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Economy and Communities) on updates in respect of the projects in the Largs area. A copy of the Masterplan document was circulated to Members for information prior to publication of the finalised document.

The report provided updates in respect of Largs Masterplan, including information on the prospectus for an Ayrshire Growth Deal, and Largs Matters BID, whose business plan includes a programme of summer festivals.

The Members present and, at the invitation of the Chair, members of the public in attendance, asked questions, and received clarification, on the following:-

- the decision at Council's budget meeting to include the Largs Masterplan in the Ayrshire Growth Deal;
- a suggestion that work on the promenade would be prioritised over improvements to Gallowgate Square;
- the potential compulsory purchase of a derelict building on Gallowgate Square and whether a planning application had now been received in respect of this property; and
- the positive work of Largs Matters in promoting festivals in the area.

The Committee agreed (a) to recommend that work to progress the Gallowgate Square element of the Masterplan be suspended pending the outcome of further consideration of the Masterplan priorities; and (b) otherwise, to note the content of the report.

9. Further Cumbrae Reports

9.1 Economy and Communities Update - Millport

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Economy and Communities) on actions taken in relation to the projects on Cumbrae, including developments in relation to the Millport Conservation Area Regeneration Scheme (CARS), the Garrison Grounds Estate Masterplan, Millport Economic Group, Millport Field Centre and Millport Pier Inner Harbour.

The Town Centre Manager provided a verbal update on the appointment of Jim Cumming (Economy and Communities) as the CARS Officer for Millport.

The Members present and, at the invitation of the Chair, members of the public in attendance, asked questions, and received clarification, on the following:-

- the likely timescale for further progress in respect of Millport Economic Group;
- the composition of Millport Economic Group;
- the role of the community council in contributing to the work of Millport Economic Group;
- the involvement of Cumbrae Community Development Company (CCDC) in Millport inner harbour and its plans for the project;
- the representativeness of CCDC and arrangements for publicising its meetings and Minutes;
- positive activity on Cumbrae and the importance of identifying projects to be taken forward in Fairlie and Skelmorlie; and
- the current state of repair of Millport Town Hall.

The Committee agreed (a) the request that local Members receive a copy of the Minutes of meetings of Cumbrae Community Development Company; and (b) otherwise, to note the content of the report.

10. Community Development Grant Scheme and Local Youth Action Fund: Application for Financial Assistance

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Economy and Communities) on applications received in respect of the Community Development Grant Scheme and the Local Youth Action Fund 2015/16.

The Senior Manager (Participation and Empowerment) provided a verbal update on the award of £2,000 from the Commonwealth Games Legacy fund for the Living Willow sculpture on Cumbrae.

The Committee agreed to make the following awards:-

Community Development Grant Scheme

Organisation	Award
Age Concern - Largs	£ 725.17

Local Youth Action Fund

Largs Colts	£ 555.60
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11. Largs Common Good Fund : Application for Financial Assistance

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

The Committee agreed to make an award of £2,000 to Largs Events.

The Meeting ended at 3.00 p.m.