

Ardrossan and Arran, Saltcoats and Stevenston Area Committee
6 December 2007

SALTCOATS, 6 December 2007 - 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, William Gibson, John Hunter, Peter McNamara, Ronnie McNicol and Alan Munro.

In Attendance

R. Small, Head of Roads and Transportation and T. Paterson, Assistant Transportation Manager (Roads) (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 J. Seenan (Strathclyde Police); P. Wiggins, Chief Executive and J. Ledgerwood, Project Manager (Irvine Bay Regeneration Company).

Chair

Councillor Gurney in the Chair.

Apologies for Absence

Margie Currie.

1. Minutes

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 4 October 2007, copies of which had previously been circulated, were confirmed.

2. Declarations of Interest

Councillor Gibson declared an interest in Item 9, Ardrossan Common Good Fund application for funding from Ardrossan Academicals RFC and took no part in the discussion thereon.

3. Progress of Irvine Bay Urban Regeneration Company

Patrick Wiggins, Chief Executive, and James Ledgerwood, Project Manager, Irvine Bay Urban Regeneration Company (URC) provided a presentation on the progress of the company since it was established in October 2006 and, in particular, on the company's plans for Ardrossan, Saltcoats and Stevenston.

Irvine Bay URC is Scotland's largest urban regeneration company in terms of its land mass. The company's objectives are shaped by the Scottish Government's Regeneration Policy Statement: People and Place. Through rediscovering the coast and local connections to Glasgow, the URC aims to create a vibrant Irvine Bay with a strong economy, a high quality of life, and an enhanced environment.

The visions for the 3 towns area are as follows:-

- Ardrossan is visualised as the gateway to Arran and a good place to live and relax next to the sea in a regenerated town centre servicing the existing and incoming community. Early action includes the promotion of Princess Street business space, headland development to provide good opportunities for housing and development of the Marina area.
- Saltcoats is visualised as a modern upmarket seaside resort which is seen as a good place to visit and to live. Early action includes streetscape improvements for the Hamilton Street and Dockhead Street area, development of the quayside and harbour area and the re-development of the Ardrossan Road site via an RIAS competition.
- Stevenston is visualised as an attractive coastal town set within an area of forest planting with a distinctive residential offer. Early action includes the establishment of a business centre, community-based start-up opportunities and looking at industrial provision in the area.

The Committee was advised that the URC will work closely with the Council's Planning Department in the establishment of new design codes for anyone considering developing in the 3 Towns area.

It is intended that a draft Master Plan will be produced in March/April 2008 following consultation with the public and all other interested parties. The Final Master Plan will be produced in May 2008.

The Committee asked questions about the detail of the proposals for the 3 Towns area and, in particular, about the future of key sites such as the Jack Millers building and former bingo hall in Princes Street, Ardrossan, the former bingo hall in Stevenston, the vacant building adjacent to Saltcoats station and the former Grange Hotel at Saltcoats seafront.

Noted.

4. Strathclyde Police

Inspector Seenan provided the following information to Members:-

- The second phase of the "Safer Scotland" initiative commenced on Monday 3 December and will run until Christmas. The initiative will focus on street and underage drinkers.
- A local initiative "Operation Antler" also commenced on Monday 3 December and will run until 6 January 2008. This initiative will provide additional staffing resources in town centre areas over the Christmas and New Year period.
- A taxi marshalling service will be provided over the festive period. Security guards and Police will patrol taxi ranks in the local area every night during this time.
- A major drug enforcement operation entitled "Achilles" had targeted houses in the 3 Towns area with over £7,500 worth of drugs and £2,000 in cash recovered to date.

Councillor McNamara advised of his intention to write to the Police about non attendance at Neighbourhood Compact meetings and indicated he would inform the Committee of the outcome.

Noted.

5. Traffic Management/Roads Issues: Eglinton Road/Dalry Road, Ardrossan

Submitted report by the Head of Roads on the circumstances surrounding the installation of traffic signals at the junction of Eglinton Road and Dalry Road, Ardrossan.

In 2001, Clydeport plc developed a Master Plan for the Harbourside area of Ardrossan. Roads Services, as part of the planning approval process for the Master Plan, were asked to comment and considered that a traffic assessment should be carried out by consultants. This assessment was carried out by Douglas Baillie Associates, Consulting Engineers, who considered that the junction at Dalry Road/Eglinton Road, Ardrossan, would effectively become gridlocked by 2015 and concluded that traffic signals would be required to control the junction.

Roads Services then advised the Planning Authority that they considered traffic signals should be installed as part of a Section 75 Agreement at the developer's expense and prior to the opening of the Asda superstore in the area. This was agreed as part of the Planning Consent in November 2004. The traffic lights became operational on 25 September 2007.

At the time of installation of the lights, 4 representations were received. Following some minor alterations, 3 of the respondents have been satisfied, with 1 respondent continuing to raise opposition to the installation of the lights.

The Committee then discussed various issues in relation to the installation of the lights and, in particular, whether a follow-up study had been carried out to provide up-to-date trunk road usage figures following the establishment of the new bypass and about the lack of statutory obligation for public consultation on such matters.

The Committee agreed that the Head of Roads and Transportation (a) advise Councillor Gurney on whether a follow-up study had been carried out by Transport Scotland following the opening of the new bypass; and (b) ensure that, if a Section 75 Agreement is entered into which includes the installation of traffic signals, this matter be advertised locally by either the Roads or Planning service.

6. Support for Voluntary Organisations

The Committee noted that this item had been withdrawn pending the outcome of a meeting of all interested parties on Tuesday 11 December 2007.

7. Local Youth Action Fund/Town Twinning Fund 2007/08

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Educational Services) on the allocation of funding and applications for financial assistance under the Local Youth Action Fund and Town Twinning Fund.

The Local Youth Action Fund has a balance of £8.711 and the Town Twinning Fund has a balance of £16,000 available for disbursement.

The Committee agreed (a) to make the following awards in respect of the Local Youth Action Fund:-

Organisation	Award
KSC Girls	£ 228
Ardrossan Sea Scouts	£2,000
Three Towns Award Group	£2,000
3TFM	£2,000
Stevenston Thistle Boys & Girls FC	£ 929

and (b) to make an award from the Town Twinning Fund to St. John's Youth Group in the sum of £1,500, together with an underwrite of a further £1,500 if required by the Group.

8. Ardrossan Common Good Fund

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

The Ardrossan Common Good Fund has a balance of £2,740 available for disbursement.

The Committee agreed to award £1,000 to Ardrossan Academicals Football Club on the basis that a grant to this organisation will be of benefit the whole community through encouraging participation in sporting activities.

9. Dates of Meetings

The next meeting of the Area Committee will be held on Thursday 14 February 2008 at 3.30 p.m.

The next informal meeting of the Committee will be held on Tuesday 15 January 2008 at 12 noon in Cunninghame House, Irvine.

10. 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.

The Meeting ended at 5.15 p.m.