

Garnock Valley and West Kilbride Area Committee
26 January 2012

BEITH, 26 January 2012 - At a Meeting of the Garnock Valley and West Kilbride Area Committee of North Ayrshire Council at 2.00 p.m.

Present

Robert Barr, Anthea Dickson, Jean Highgate and John Reid.

In Attendance

J. McHarg, Assistant Manager (Community Development) and B. Anderson, Performance/Grants Information Officer (Education and Skills); J. McCrae, Principal Officer, Criminal Justice (Social Services and Health); and P. Shiach, Committee Services Officer (Chief Executive's Service).

Also In Attendance

Station Commander D. Devaney (Strathclyde Fire and Rescue) and Sergeant I. Oliphant (Strathclyde Police).

Chair

Councillor Barr in the Chair.

Apologies for Absence

John Bell and Elizabeth McLardy.

1. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest by Members in terms of Standing Order 16.

2. Future Venues

Members of the Area Committee referred to the lack of public attendance at meetings, and suggested that the current practice of conducting the meeting throughout the Garnock Valley and West Kilbride area be reviewed by the incoming administration, following the forthcoming Local Government elections.

Noted.

2. Minutes

The Minutes of the previous meeting of the Garnock Valley and West Kilbride Area Committee held on 3 November 2011 were signed in accordance with paragraph 7(1) of Schedule 7 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973.

3. Strathclyde Police

Submitted report by Strathclyde Police on activity within the Garnock Valley and West Kilbride in the period October to December 2011.

Sergeant Oliphant provided information relating to beats 7,8,9,10,11,12 and 23 which encompass a geographical area including Beith, Dalry and West Kilbride. Information relating to Fairlie was also included with the beat 23 report which referred mainly to West Kilbride.

The Community Policing Team continues to make contact with local community based organisations, including the Community Councils. The main focus of proactivity continues to be the priorities listed on the local Community Policing Plans published for 2011/2012 i.e.

- Drug dealing and drug use;
- Drunk and disorderly behaviour (including vandalism and graffiti;
- Assault and violent crime, and
- Housebreaking and other theft.

A breakdown of the crime/offence statistics for October/November 2011, together with a comparison with the same period for 2010/2011 was detailed in the report.

Action Plans have been undertaken around Beith and Dalry primary schools in connection with parking issues caused by persons dropping off and uplifting pupils before and after school. Although there has been some success, the issues persist and the action plans remain ongoing.

A month-long action plan was instigated in the West Kilbride area during November aimed at tackling incidents of anti-social behaviour and a spate of house breakings. Officers conducted high visibility patrols to reassure residents and several persons have been reported for various disorder offences.

An increase in thefts in the Dalry area is currently being examined to establish if there is any pattern to the activity and a policing plan will be implemented to target the areas identified.

Noted.

4. Strathclyde Fire and Rescue

Submitted report by Strathclyde Fire and Rescue on activity within the Garnock Valley and West Kilbride area in the period 1 November to 31 December 2011.

Information was provided on the numbers and types of incidents within the Committee area in the reporting period, including:-

- two deliberate non-domestic fires
- one deliberate vehicle fire and
- a number of rubbish fires, the majority of which were in Beith

No deliberate dwelling fires or accidental non-domestic fires are reported. One incident of smoke inhalation is recorded.

Eleven malicious fire calls were recorded during this period and the situation will continue to be monitored.

Noted.

5. Community Payback Orders

The Principal Officer, Criminal Justice (Social Services and Health) provided a presentation on the Community Payback Scheme.

The presentation provided background information on Community Sentencing in Scotland over the last 20 years and the introduction on 1 February 2011 of Community Payback Orders, which are enshrined in the Criminal Justice and Licensing (Scotland) Act 2010. CPOs replace probation, community service and supervised attendance and their introduction includes a presumption against custodial sentences of 3 months or under. The orders have 9 requirements, namely supervision, unpaid work/other activity, programmes (of which there are 3 types available in Ayrshire), residence, mental health, drug treatment, compensation and conduct.

Level 1 CPOs provide for up to 100 hours of unpaid work/activity, which must be completed in under 3 months, while completion of Level 2 orders, of up to 300 hours of unpaid work, must be within 6 months. There will be annual consultation with the community on unpaid work placements, which the Scottish Government expects to include a wide range of consultees, from the Chief Constable and Sheriff Principal to the Community Planning Partnership and individual community groups such as community councils.

In order for CPOs to be meaningful to communities, work needs to be done to build links with those communities and ensure that the unpaid work carried out is valued by them. In addition, the benefits of unpaid work requires to be promoted to combat the fear of crime, and the speed with which orders are initiated and completed needs to be increased to improve public confidence in them. Finally, CPOs must be targeted properly in order to reduce levels of re-offending.

The Committee was provided with examples of the type of unpaid work which has been undertaken, including the production of garden furniture and improvements carried out to individual properties, including the mono blocking of a garden area, the construction of a ramp to allow greater access for a disabled teenager. and decking.

Members of the Area Committee sought, and received clarification on a number of aspects of the presentation, including the number of participants who re-offend, the type of works the participants are permitted to undertake, and measures the Council could take to assist the scheme.

Noted.

6. Community Development Grants Scheme and Local Youth Action Fund - Applications for Grant Aid

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Education and Skills) on applications received in respect of the Community Development Grants Scheme.

The Committee agreed to make the following awards:-

Community Development Grants Scheme

Organisation	Award
Dalry Primary School Parent Council	£1,000
Barrmill Community Association	£1,500
Dalry Rovers Football Club	£2,000
West Kilbride Music Club	£ 500

Local Youth Action Fund

Organisation	Award
MAP Duke of Edinburgh Award New Start Group	£2,000
Youth Making Beith Better (YMBB)	£2,000
Kilbirnie Community Football Club	£1,609

7. Margaret Archibald Bequest

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on applications for financial assistance received in respect of the Bequest.

The Committee agreed to make the following awards:-

Organisation	Award	
Dalry Old Folks Welfare Committee	£1,000	without precedent for any future similar applications
Rosearden OAP Club	£ 350	

8. Future Agenda Items

The Chair referred to the proposed Dalry Museum and indicated that the site suggested locally, the former Post Office building, was unsuitable due to the proposed costs involved.

The Area Committee agreed that consideration be given at a future meeting to investigating suitable premises to house the proposed Dalry Museum.

9. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Area Committee is scheduled for 8 March 2012, in West Kilbride Village Hall.

The meeting ended at 3.25 p.m.