

Garnock Valley and West Kilbride Area Committee
11 April 2012

WEST KILBRIDE, 11 April 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 Elizabeth McLardy.

In Attendance

C. Forsyth, Assistant Transportation Manager and P. Rowley, Structural Engineer (Finance and Infrastructure); C. Hester, Lifelong Learning Officer (Community Development Team)(Education and Skills); and A. Little, Committee Services Officer (Chief Executive's Service).

Also In Attendance

Station Commander T. Davidson, Strathclyde Fire and Rescue; and Sergeant L. Stewart, Strathclyde Police.

Chair

Councillor Barr in the Chair.

Apologies for Absence

John Reid.

1. Declarations of Interest

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

2. Minutes

The Minutes of the previous meetings of the Committee held on 9 March 2012 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 in the Garnock Valley and West Kilbride area in March 2012.

The report provided details on crimes and offences relating to beats 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12 and 23 which encompass the geographical area of Kilbirnie, Dalry, Beith and West Kilbride. A breakdown of the crimes/offences for the month of February 2012 (and a previous year comparison) was detailed in the report.

The main focus of activity and support for public reassurance continued to be the priorities listed in the local Community Policing Plan for 2011/12. The report provided information on:-

- thefts of metal gates in Kilbirnie; and
- an increase in assault, vandalism and threatening behaviour incidents in Beith.

Members asked questions and were provided with information in relation to:-

- a siege situation that had taken place in Beith;
- an increase in crime statistics in Beith as a result of a number of incidents at Geilsland; and
- a traffic campaign to target speeding, mobile phone and seatbelt offences.

Discussion took place on the facilities available in the evening for young people in West Kilbride.

Sergeant Stewart undertook to alert local officers to a litter problem as a result of young people gathering behind St. Margaret's Church, Dalry, and to provide to the Local Members information in relation to an incident in West Kilbride discussed at the meeting.

The Committee agreed to (a) request the Corporate Director (Education and Skills) to investigate the opening hours of the astro turf pitch in West Kilbride with a view to allowing local young people to use this facility in the evenings; and (b) otherwise note the report.

4. Strathclyde Fire and Rescue

Submitted report by Strathclyde Fire and Rescue on activity in the Garnock Valley and West Kilbride area.

The report, which covered the period from 28 February to 29 March 2012, presented the Committee with information on:-

- accidental and deliberate non-domestic fires;
- accidental and deliberate vehicle fires;
- rubbish and health and grass fires;
- deliberate derelict building fires;
- malicious and good intent false alarm calls;
- road traffic collisions;
- water incidents; and
- special services.

Noted.

5. Flood Mitigation in the Garnock Valley

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Finance and Infrastructure) on progress in the development of flood mitigation measures in the Garnock Valley.

In November 2010, the Area Committee received a report outlining the requirements of the Flood Risk Management (Scotland) Act 2009. The report highlighted actions being taken to implement the Act in relation to the Garnock Valley. A report was approved by the Executive in December 2011 and the Upper Garnock Valley Flood Risk Management Strategy was submitted to the Government for consideration for future funding.

Significant progress has been made in developing a range of measures to mitigate the effects of flooding in the Garnock Valley. Funding was allocated in 2011/12 for the implementation of flood assistance work. Following surveys of all affected properties by the Scottish Flood Forum, arrangements are now being made to purchase vent covers and door protection - initially piloting work around selected Council houses, then making assistance available to private house owners. Private owners will be able to benefit from the Council's procurement opportunities to obtain equipment at competitive prices.

The Council approved the allocation of £2m for the Garnock Valley Scheme in year 2013/14, with £100k available in 2012/13 to allow the scheme design and statutory processes to proceed. It is anticipated that a submission to the Government for a Flood Prevention Order will be made by December 2012.

Design work on a final scheme is now underway using accurate rainfall data from SEPA, who are bringing forward their activities in this area to help tie-in with the Council's work. An Environmental Impact Assessment is required and this has started using specialist consultant support.

Members asked questions and were provided with information in relation to:-

- 'green' options that will also be considered to mitigate flooding;
- the provision of 'flood sacs' within "at risk" areas identified by the local Flood Groups;
- a request to Strathclyde Fire and Rescue to store flood sacs in local stations;
- flooding incidents at Mill Park, Dalry and the responsibility of the landowner to repair the boundary wall of the field at the north end of the A737, opposite Mill Park.

The Committee agreed to (a) request the Corporate Director (Finance and Infrastructure) to write to the landowner of the field at the north end of the A737, opposite Mill Park, Dalry, in relation to the repairs required to the boundary wall and outlining his responsibility in terms of the Flood Risk Management (Scotland) Act 2009; and (b) otherwise note the report.

6. Community Development Grants Scheme: Application for Grant Aid

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

The Committee agreed to make the following award:-

Beith Community Council	£526
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7. Margaret Archibald Bequest: Applications for Financial Assistance

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:-

Rosearden (Old Folks) Club	£715
St. Palladius Guild	£500

8. North Ayrshire Community Planning Partnership (CPP): Board Minutes of Meeting held on 15 March 2012

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on the minutes of the meeting of the North Ayrshire Community Planning Partnership (CPP) held on 15 March 2012.

Noted.

9. Chair's Remarks

The Chair noted that this was the last meeting of the Garnock Valley and West Kilbride Area Committee in the current administration and took the opportunity to record his thanks to Elected Members and to former and current Officers for their contribution to the work of the Committee.

The meeting ended at 3.00 p.m.