

Ardrossan and Arran, Saltcoats and Stevenston Area Committee
23 October 2008

SALTCOATS, 23 October 2008 - At a Meeting of the Ardrossan and Arran, Saltcoats and Stevenston Area Committee at 3.30 p.m.

Present

Anthony Gurney, David Munn, Margie Currie, William Gibson, John Hunter, Peter McNamara, Ronnie McNicol and Alan Munro.

In Attendance

I.T. Mackay, Assistant Chief Executive (Legal and Protective); J. McConnachie, Transportation Manager and T. Paterson, Assistant Transportation Manager (Environment and Related Services) (Property Services); A. Milson, Learning Manager - Quality Development and B. Anderson, Performance/Grants Information Officer (Educational Services); K. MacDonald, Finance Manager (Finance); J. Cumming, Project Officer - Economic Development and M. Anderson, Team Leader - Committee Services (Chief Executive's).

Also In Attendance

P. Wiggins, Chief Executive and J. Ledgerwood, Project Manager (Irvine Bay Regeneration Company); Inspector I. Ness and Sergeant S. Leary (Strathclyde Police) and P. Allison, Community Liaison Officer (Airticity Developments Limited).

Chair

Councillor Gurney in the Chair.

1. Declarations of Interest

Councillor Gurney declared an interest in Agenda Item 7 (North Ayrshire Community Benefit Fund) in relation to the application from Winton Parent Council, vacated the Chair for consideration of that application and took no part in the discussion thereon. Councillor Munn assumed the Chair for consideration of that application.

Councillor McNicol declared an interest in Agenda Item 8 (Community Development Grants Scheme and Local Youth Action Fund: Applications for Grant Aid) with regard to the application from North Ayrshire Sports Council and took no part in the discussion thereon.

2. Presentation: Ardrossan, Saltcoats and Stevenston Town Plans

The Committee received a presentation by Patrick Wiggins, Chief Executive, and James Ledgerwood, Project Manager, Irvine Bay Urban Regeneration Company, on the Town Plans for Ardrossan, Saltcoats and Stevenston and the process for taking them forward.

The Committee received information on the key development areas for each of the three towns, the design code principles and key themes, the development of the proposals, the anticipated phasing of the various elements of the plans and an assessment of risks.

Questions were asked in relation to:-

- the vision for developing of the wider 'coastal park' linking the Three Towns and beyond;
- the ongoing maintenance of structures developed as part of the Town Plan proposals;
- the concept of 'leisure living' in relation to the Auchenhavie area, Stevenston;
- the scoring of proposals and the scope for the further development of the marina area, Ardrossan; and
- possible infrastructure improvements to facilitate and support initiatives such as Christmas lights.

Noted.

3. Strathclyde Police

Inspector Ness and Sergeant Leary provided information to Members of the following:-

- An initiative to tackle the consumption of alcohol by underage drinkers in the Hayocks area in Stevenston and plans to address disruption caused by youths in the Harley Place area of Saltcoats;
- The availability on the Force's website of information on Community Police officers for each ward area;
- The introduction of a motorcycle unit comprising 4 Police constables and 1 Sergeant, based in Saltcoats and serving the wider Strathclyde area;
- Plans to deploy North Ayrshire Council's mobile CCTV camera to tackle problem areas for period of 3-4 months at a time;
- The measures which will be implemented by the Police, in partnership with the Fire Brigade and the Council, to ensure public safety during Bonfire night and the period leading up to it;
- The success of the alcohol-free 'underage discos' currently funded by the Police, and plans for their continuation with the support of the Metro in Saltcoats;
- Saltcoats town centre parking restrictions;
- Recent serious fires within the Three Towns area; and
- The enforcement of restrictions on the use of mobile 'phones by drivers.

Members requested, and received, further information on the following:-

- Arrangements for the Remembrance Day parade in Saltcoats;
- The noticeable increase in the number of Police Officers 'on the beat' in the Three Towns area; and
- The initiative to tackle underage drinking in the Hayocks area.

The Committee commended the work done by the police in organising and running the Youth Alcohol-Free events.

Noted.

4. Roads Issues

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Property Services) on proposals regarding speeding, congestion and road safety issues in the Three Towns area.

Complaints have been received about the following number of roads issues:-

- Speeding traffic on Eglinton Road and at South Beach railway bridge, Ardrossan;
- Congestion and excessive waiting times at the Glasgow Street/Princes Street junction of Ardrossan, particularly when the Arran ferry arrives; and
- Difficulties associated with accessing the Hillcrest Drive area of Stevenston due to the positioning of the bus lane.

The matter of speeding traffic in Ardrossan has been raised with Strathclyde Police for monitoring purposes. Subject to their findings, as well as budget considerations, the Council's Infrastructure and Design Services will review the possibility of installing variable message signs advising drivers to slow down.

Appendix A to the report set out proposed alterations to the signalised junction at Glasgow Street/Princes Street, Ardrossan. These are intended to increase the throughput of the junction and alleviate the congestion problem.

The operation of the junction providing access to Hillcrest Drive in Stevenston has been review and discussed with Strathclyde Police. Subject to a revision of the Bus Lane Order, the termination point of the north-bound bus lane will be pulled back 20m to assist drivers wishing to access the nearside lane prior to the junction and then manoeuvre safely into Hillcrest Drive.

The Committee agreed that Infrastructure and Design Services provide an update to a future meeting of the Area Committee on (a) the issue of speeding traffic on Eglinton Road and a South Beach railway station, Ardrossan; (b) the implementation of the alterations to the signalised junction at Glasgow Street/Princes Street, Ardrossan, including the statutory position in respect of any requirement for the Council to provide taxi ranks; and (c) the outcome of the consultation process to revise the Bus Lane Order in relation to Stevenston.

5. Traffic Regulation Order: A841 Main Street and The Ross Road, Lamlash - 30mph Speed Limit Extension

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Property Services) on the proposed extension of the speed limit for the A841 Main Street and the Ross Road, Lamlash, Isle of Arran.

The 30mph speed restriction on the A841 currently extends to a point 77 metres south west of its junction with Murray Crescent in Lamlash. The Ross Road at this location is currently unrestricted.

Northbound vehicles travelling into Lamlash on the A841 must negotiate a steep downhill approach and a sharp bend at Monamore Bridge. Vehicles approaching Lamlash from the Ross Road can be unaware of the nearby residential development. In the interests of road safety, it is proposed that the existing 30mph speed limit on the A841 Main Street be extended by 320 metres to a point 100 metres east of Monamore Bridge and that a new 30mph speed limit be implemented on the Ross Road to a point 155 metres west of its junction with the A841 Main Street. The Appendix to the report illustrated the current position and proposals.

The Committee (a) noted the commencement of the investigation, preparation and statutory process for a Traffic Regulation Order in respect of the A841 and the Ross Road, Lamlash, Isle of Arran, as set out in the report; and (b) approved the implementation of the Order should no objections be received.

6. North Ayrshire Community Benefit from Renewable Energy Fund

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on proposed procedures for the disbursement of grants from the Community Benefit Fund.

The Community Benefit from Renewable Energy Fund is a fund to which renewable energy operators may contribute, to support renewable energy projects in North Ayrshire. To date, the Fund has received monies from one developer and there is currently a balance of £24,391.43 available for disbursement. At its meeting on 7 November 2007, the Council agreed that Area Committees should distribute this initial funding, and approved the establishment of a Community Benefit Renewable Energy Committee to manage future contributions to the Fund,

The Appendix to the report provided an officer assessment of five applications received. A further officer assessment was circulated at the meeting in respect of a late application from Ardrossan Christmas Decorations Committee for Christmas lighting/illuminations.

The Committee agreed to (a) make the following awards:-

Organisation	Award
Friends of Holm Plantation	£ 3157.46
Kilwinning Sports Club	£ 1000.00
Mayfield Primary School	£ 1272.00
Stanley School Parents Council	£ 1422.00
Winton Parent Council	£ 452.00
Ardrossan Christmas Decorations Committee	£ 5000.00

and (b) requested that, where possible, future officer assessment reports include details of each group's current bank balance.

7. Community Development Grants Scheme and Local Youth Action Fund: Applications for Grant Aid

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Educational Services) on applications for financial assistance under the Council's Community Development Grants Scheme and the Local Youth Action Fund.

The Committee agreed to (a) make the following awards:-

Community Development Grants Scheme

Organisation	Award
SISG Enterprises Ltd (Ayrshire Hearing Support)	£ 190.00
Ardrossan Community Council	£ 500.00
Self Defence Personal Safety Team	£ 1200.00
Ardrossan Elderly Forum	£ 290.00
Ardrossan Park Parish Church	£ 1000.00
St. Andrew's Episcopal Church	£ 500.00
Focus Photography Group	£ 400.00
Argyle Quilting Group	£ 960.00
Ardeer I.T. Support Group	£ 800.00
Ardeer Craft Club	£ 500.00
1st Ardrossan, 15th Ayrshire Cub Scouts	£ 808.00
North Ayrshire Forum on Disability	£ 200.00
Barnardo's - North Ayrshire Families Service	£ 400.00
HIT It	£ 1545.00
Three Towns Firework Festival Group	£ 800.00
Isle of Arran Museum Trust	£ 800.00
Isle of Arran Music Society	£ 600.00

Local Youth Action Fund

Organisation

1st Ardrossan Scout Troup
TASS Thistle F.C.

Award

£ 1500.00
£ 1500.00

and (b) continue consideration of the application by the undernoted organisation to the next meeting:-

Community Development Grants Scheme

North Ayrshire Sports Council

8. Ardrossan Common Good Fund

8.1 Accounts 2007/08

Submitted report by the Assistant Chief Executive (Finance) on the draft accounts in respect of Ardrossan Common Good for the year to 31 March 2008 and suggesting a level of income which should be made available in grants in 2008/09.

The Appendix to the report detailed all revenue transactions in respect of Ardrossan Common Good Fund for the year 2007/08 and indicated that a revenue surplus of £2836 arose for the year, resulting in a cumulative balance of £47,482 at 31 March 2008. A level of total disbursements for 2008/09 in the sum of £3,780 was recommended.

The Committee agreed to consider applications to Ardrossan Common Good up to a total of £3,780 in the year 2008/09.

8.2 Application for Financial Assistance

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

The Committee agreed to make an award of £2,000 to Ardrossan Sea Cadets.

9. Stevenston Common Good Fund

9.1 Accounts 2007/08

Submitted report by the Assistant Chief Executive (Finance) on the draft accounts in respect of Stevenston Common Good for the year to 31 March 2008 and suggesting a level of income which should be made available in grants in 2008/09.

The Appendix to the report detailed all revenue transactions in respect of Stevenston Common Good Fund for the year 2007/08 and indicated that a revenue surplus of £3,476 arose for the year, resulting in a balance of £120,693 at 31 March 2008. A level of total disbursements for 2008/09 in the sum of £18,000 was recommended.

The Committee agreed to consider applications to Stevenston Common Good up to a total of £18,000 in the year 2008/09.

9.2 Applications for Financial Assistance

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

The Committee agreed to make the following awards:-

Organisation	Award
3 Towns Fireworks Festival Group	£ 750.00
Stevenston Christmas Lights	£ 2000.00

10. Saltcoats Common Good Fund

10.1 Accounts 2007/08

Submitted report by the Assistant Chief Executive (Finance) on the draft accounts in respect of Saltcoats Common Good for the year to 31 March 2008 and suggesting a level of income which should be made available in grants in 2008/09.

The Appendix to the report detailed all revenue transactions in respect of Stevenston Common Good Fund for the year 2007/08 and indicated that a revenue surplus of £772 arose for the year, resulting in a balance of £17,381 at 31 March 2008. A level of total disbursements for 2008/09 in the sum of £1,530 was recommended.

The Committee agreed to consider applications to Saltcoats Common Good up to a total of £1,530 in the year 2008/09.

10.2 Applications for Financial Assistance

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

The Committee agreed (a) to make the following award:-

Organisation	Award
3 Towns Fireworks Festival Group	£ 850.00

and (b) not to make awards to William Edgar and Irene Murray on the grounds that it could not be demonstrated that an award would benefit the inhabitants of the area as a whole.

11. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Area Committee will be held on Thursday 18 December 2008 at 3.30 p.m. in the Argyle Centre, Saltcoats.

12. 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 6.00 p.m.