

Garnock Valley Area Committee
23 June 1998

Dalry, 23 June 1998 - At a Meeting of the Garnock Valley Area Committee of North Ayrshire Council at 10.30 a.m.

Present

Robert Reilly, Thomas Dickie, James Jennings, Thomas Morris and George Steven.

In Attendance

The Legal Services Manager; A. Weir, Parks and Horticultural Services Manager, D. Gilliland, Area Community Development Officer (Community and Recreational Services); P. Doak, Accountant (Financial Services); J. Barr, Area Officer, Cleansing and Grounds Maintenance (Commercial Services); J. Bannatyne, Administration Officer and D. McCaw, Assistant Administration Officer (Chief Executive).

Also In Attendance

Inspector C. McCreath and M. Oates, Police Liaison Officer, (Strathclyde Police); and T. Barr, Community Fire Officer (Strathclyde Fire Brigade).

Chair

Mr. Reilly in the Chair.

1. Minutes Confirmed

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 12 May 1998, copies of which had previously been circulated, were confirmed.

2. Monitoring Reports

(a) Legal Services: North Ayrshire Council Industrial Estate Factories

Submitted quarterly report by the Legal Services Manager on the letting/availability of factories on Council Industrial Estates within the Garnock Valley area.

The Bridgend Industrial Estate, Kilbirnie comprises 7 units. The current occupancy rate is 86% and 13 full-time and 2 part-time staff are employed in connection with these units.

The Paddockholm Industrial Estate (Riverside Place), Kilbirnie comprises 4 units. The current occupancy rate is 100% and 28 full-time staff are employed in connection with these units.

The Paddockholm Industrial Estate (River Place), Kilbirnie comprises 9 units. The current occupancy rate is 55% and 19 full-time and 3 part-time staff are employed in connection with these units.

Noted.

(b) Commercial Services: Litter Awareness

Submitted report by the Director of Commercial Services on service delivery regarding litter awareness.

The report detailed instances of fly tipping and calls to the litter hotline for the Garnock

Valley area [i.e. March (10), April (5) and May (2)].

Noted.

(c)Community Development Grants Scheme: Analysis of Grants Paid to 12 May 1998

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on Community Development Grants paid to 12 May 1998 in respect of the Garnock Valley area, including details of the balance of funding remaining.

Noted.

3. Community Development Grants Scheme: Requests for Financial Assistance

Submitted report by the Director of Community and Recreational Services on requests for financial assistance.

(a)Garnock Dolphins Synchronised Swimming Club

The Committee agreed to award the Garnock Dolphins Synchronised Swimming Club £200;

(b) Beith Harriers

The Committee agreed to award the Beith Harriers £300;

(c) North Ayrshire Youth Band

The Committee agreed to award the North Ayrshire Youth Band £200 and that the Band be requested to perform in Town Centres within the Garnock Valley;

(d) Garnock Playgroup

The Committee agreed to award the Garnock Playgroup £350.

4. Kilbirnie and Glengarnock Common Good (Charitable Trust): Applications for Financial Assistance

Submitted report by the Legal Services Manager giving details on three applications received for grant assistance from the Kilbirnie and Glengarnock Common Good Charitable Trust, of which the Council are Trustees.

Details were provided on the background and purposes of the Trust which has assets of approximately £3,200 invested with the North Ayrshire Municipal Bank and has annual income of approximately £220 per annum.

After a full discussion, the Committee determined the applications which meet the criteria for grant as follows:-

Organisation	Decision
Kilbirnie and Glengarnock Age Concern (Scotland)	Refused
Elizabeth Halbert, 14 Kersland Road, Glengarnock	Agreed £150
Garnock Valley Biblical Garden	Refused

5. Garnock Valley Junior Football Grounds

Submitted report by the Director of Community and Recreational Services advising on the current condition of the Garnock Valley junior football pitches, including the work programmed for summer 1998 and financial requirements to upgrade the facilities.

The Garnock Valley has three junior football pitches, namely:-

- Merksworth Park, Dalry [home of Dalry Thistle];
- Ladeside Park, Kilbirnie [home of Kilbirnie Ladeside]; and
- Bellesdale Park, Beith [home of Beith Juniors].

The Council own all three grounds and are responsible for the maintenance of the pitches, the terracing, changing rooms, enclosures and boundary walls/fences. Details were provided on the summer maintenance programme for 1998 including estimated costs, which have been included in the Directorate's capital list but not yet approved. It is unlikely that in the foreseeable future the necessary finance will be available for the works to these pitches as junior pitches cannot be considered in isolation from other pitch provision. An option would be to investigate the feasibility of the junior football clubs leasing or buying back their grounds, which would enable the clubs to access grants from a range of sources not available to the Council.

The Committee agreed (a) that the Director of Community and Recreational Services submit a report to the Community and Recreational Services Committee on the feasibility of the clubs leasing or buying back their grounds; and (b) otherwise to note the position.

6. Community Safety

(a) Crime Statistics

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on crime statistics within the Garnock Valley for April 1998, provided by Strathclyde Police.

There were 81 crimes in the Garnock Valley in April 1998, the same number as for April 1997. Serious crime has fallen from 4 in April 1997 to 2 in April 1998, a clear indication that the spotlight and other initiatives are having a positive effect on the 'weapons culture'.

Crime in the Garnock Valley is maintaining a downward trend and the detection rate for crimes of dishonesty is 45.6% to date, which is well above the average for the force and division.

The Committee agreed to request that an indication of individual area speeding figures be included in the next report.

(b) Fire Statistics

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on Fire Statistics within the Garnock Valley for the period 1 April to 1 June 1998.

The report detailed incidents within the Garnock Valley by station area and using specific Fire Brigade codes. There were no fatalities or serious injuries during this period.

Noted.

The meeting ended at 11.10 a.m.