

Kilwinning, Dreghorn and Springside Area Committee  
1 April 1998

**Kilwinning, 1 April 1998** - At a Meeting of the Kilwinning, Dreghorn and Springside Area Committee of North Ayrshire Council at 10.30 a.m.

**Present**

Ian Clarkson, James Clements, Jane Gorman, and Gena Seales.

**In Attendance**

I Mackay, Legal Services Manager; G Clark, Operations Manager, Grounds Maintenance (Commercial Services); S Driscoll, Divisional Manager (Housing Services); J Leckie, Head of Education Services (Education); K Nichols, Accountant (Financial Services); L Scott, Supervising Engineer, Roads Division (Planning, Roads and Environment); D Gilliland, Area Community Development Officer (Community and Recreational Services); M Oates, Police Liaison Officer; S Paxton, Administration Officer and C Graham, Assistant Administration Officer (Chief Executive).

Inspector H McFadden, Sergeant J Richmond, Constable P Simpson (Strathclyde Police); and T Kane, Community Fire-fighter (Strathclyde Fire Brigade).

**Chair**

Mr Clarkson in the Chair.

**Apologies for Absence**

Patrick Browne and Irene Oldfather.

**1. Chair's Remarks**

The Chair advised that this was the first of three meetings to be held in the Secondary Schools within Kilwinning, Dreghorn and Springside and welcomed the pupils from St Michael's Academy to the meeting.

**2. Minutes Confirmed**

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 18 February 1998, copies of which had previously been circulated, were confirmed.

**3. Monitoring Reports**

**(a) Kilwinning, Dreghorn and Springside: Empty Houses**

Submitted report by the Director of Housing Services on empty Council Houses in the Kilwinning, Dreghorn and Springside areas.

As at 16 March 1998 there were 13 void properties in the Kilwinning area, excluding properties in Montgomerie Terrace which are subject to an alternative strategy, representing 0.7% of the total stock. There are 6 void properties within Dreghorn and Springside, representing approximately 0.6% of the total stock in that area. Accordingly, there are 19 void properties in the Committee's area which is equal to 0.7% of the total stock.

Noted.

**(b) Area Committee Statistics**

Submitted report by the Director of Education on the statistical information relating to attendance, running costs and leaver destinations in relation to schools serving pupils within

Kilwinning, Dreghorn and Springside and providing data on pupils attending the Council's four special schools covering North Ayrshire as a whole.

The statistics provided a comparison of average figures for North Ayrshire and Scotland indicating (a) that running costs per pupil for secondary schools compare favourably with the national average; and (b) that school attendance returns, both primary and secondary are largely in line with national figures. School leaver destination statistics, are valuable to school staff and the Ayrshire Careers Partnership who make use of the results when advising young people on the opportunities available to them when leaving school.

The Committee in noting the report, agreed to receive annual reports on the attendance, running costs and leaver destinations in relation to schools within its area.

#### **(c) Community Development Grants Scheme: Analysis of Grants Paid to 31 March 1998**

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on the Community Development Grants paid to 31 March 1998 in respect of Kilwinning, Dreghorn and Springside. As a result of a return of grant the Committee ended the financial year with an underspend of £269.48.

Noted.

#### **4. Community Development Grants Budget for Area Committees 1998/99**

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on the Community Development Grants budget for Area Committees for 1998/99.

The budget for 1998/99 was approved by the Corporate Strategy Committee on 3 March 1998 and although the Council's grants budget was reduced by 6%, the Area Committee budgets were maintained at the 1997/98 level giving the Kilwinning, Dreghorn and Springside Area Committee the sum of £14,091 for disbursement during the 1998/99 financial year.

The Committee was advised that the Playscheme Support remains within the Corporate Strategy central budget, however applications would continue to be decided by the Area Committee.

The Corporate Strategy Committee further agreed to continue a Challenge Budget for Community Safety in 1998/99, set at £2,000 for each Area Committee.

The Committee in noting the Community Development Grants budget for 1998/99 agreed to proceed to consider grant applications submitted against that budget.

#### **5. Requests for Financial Assistance: Community Development Grants Scheme**

Submitted report by the Director of Community and Recreational Services on the undernoted applications for community grants to voluntary organisations:-

##### **(a) Cranberry Moss Tiny Tots**

The Committee agreed to award £500 to the Cranberry Moss Tiny Tots;

##### **(b) Dreghorn Gala**

The Committee agreed to award £400 to the Dreghorn Gala Committee;

##### **(c) Whitehirst Park Playgroup**

The Committee agreed to award £400 to Whitehirst Park Playgroup.

#### **6. Easter Playschemes 1998**

Submitted report by the Director of Community and Recreational Services on the award of grants to Easter Playschemes 1998.

The Chair had agreed to award (a) the use of Freedom Travel Passes to Muirfield Place Special Needs Playscheme, Kilwinning; (b) a grant of (i) £157.89 to Springside Playscheme; and (ii) £181.32 to Cranberry Moss Playscheme, Kilwinning from the underspend within the Playscheme Support budget 1997/98.

The Committee agreed to homologate the awards agreed by the Chair.

## **7. Spotlight Partnership on Fly-Tipping**

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on the Joint Initiative between Strathclyde Police and the Council to tackle the problem of fly tipping.

The establishment of the Litter Hotline has enabled the Council to respond quickly to complaints from members of the public regarding illegal dumping, a problem which has been aggravated by the necessity for companies to pay a Landfill Tax to dispose of their refuse in approved sites. To date warnings have been given to several companies and individuals in relation to fly-tipping and more serious cases have been referred to the Procurator Fiscal whose response is awaited. Although the formal Initiative has ended, the partnership which has been established between Strathclyde Police and North Ayrshire Council will continue.

The Committee was also advised of a National Spring Clean Campaign during the month of April when the Police will be assisting with raising awareness and enforcing the legislation as required.

Noted.

## **8. Woodgreen Mortification Trust**

Submitted report by the Legal Services Manager on the purpose of the Woodgreen Mortification Trust.

The Trust, established in 1740 “for and in name and behoof of the poor of the Town and Parish of Kilwinning” has passed to North Ayrshire Council through the various changes in local government since the 18th Century.

The purpose of the Woodgreen Mortification Trust differs from a Common Good Fund in that it is clearly designated to address poverty rather than benefit the community. The conversion of a Trust to a Common Good Fund would require a petition to the Court of Session seeking variation of the Trust’s purposes. This would be an expensive procedure and the Court would only entertain such a petition if it could be proved that the existing Trust purposes were unenforceable or frustrated to the point of impossibility. Neither case is applicable at this time.

The Trust’s capital reserves are valued at £66,000 from which annual revenue of around £6,000 is derived. This money is available for disbursement by the Trustees. It is the duty of all the Members of North Ayrshire Council, as Trustees, to administer the fund in a proper and responsible fashion and, as there is no statutory definition of “poor” in relation to the Trust, make their decision in respect of any application to the Trust on the facts placed before them.

Having heard the Legal Services Manager in response to members questions, the Committee agreed (a) to note the purpose of the Woodgreen Mortification Trust; and (b) to continue to utilise the Trust to alleviate poverty.

## **9. Roads Management and Maintenance Revenue Budget Programme**

Submitted report by the Director of Planning, Roads and Environment on the proposed programme of works within the Kilwinning, Dreghorn and Springside Area for the financial year 1998/99.

On 18 March 1998 the Infrastructure and Environment Services Committee approved the Roads Management and Maintenance Revenue Budget Programme for the year 1998/99. Details were given on the programme of works proposed for the Kilwinning, Dreghorn and Springside area. In compliance with the “Best Value” Regime, approximately one-third of all Schemes will be subject to competitive tendering.

The Committee, in noting the report, agreed that the Director of Planning, Roads and Environment be instructed to advise the Local Members of the scheduled dates for the works to be carried out in their areas.

## **10. Community Safety**

### **(a) Crime Statistics**

Submitted report by Strathclyde Police “UA” Sub-division on the level of recorded crime within the Area Committee’s boundaries.

The report gave the crime statistics, excluding traffic offences, for the month of February

1998. Statistics for the year to date highlighted a 16% decrease in crime compared with the same period last year within the Kilwinning, Dreghorn and Springside areas. Across U Division, crime has been reduced by 11% from 386 to 345 over the same period, while the detection rate has increased from 37% to 44%.

Noted.

**(b) Strathclyde Fire Brigade: Fire Statistics for the Period 1 October 1997 to 31 December 1997**

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on Fire Statistics for the period 1 January to 28 February 1998.

The number of hoax calls is declining. The situation, however, will continue to be monitored.

The Committee was advised of a certificated training course on safety issues commencing 29 April involving the Fire Brigade, Police, Coastguard, Paramedics etc., available to persons who actively participate running voluntary and community organisations. The venues for the course will be Kilmarnock College Annexe, Irvine and Kilmarnock College.

Noted.

**11. Urgent Items**

The Chair agreed the following items be considered as a matter of urgency.

**(a) Kilwinning Pedestrian Precinct**

Submitted report by the Director of Planning, Roads and Environment on the conditions of the pedestrian precinct in Kilwinning Town Centre and the necessary remedial action required.

At its meeting on 14 May 1997 the Committee requested that the Director of Planning, Roads and Environment prepare a report on the condition of the pedestrian precinct. Following receipt of the Director's report the Committee agreed that the Director of Planning, Roads and Environment further investigate the matter and report to a future meeting.

Following the completion of the new gas main in Kilwinning Town Centre in November 1997, the Director of Planning, Roads and the Environment had updated his previous survey of the Town Centre, presented to the Committee in August 1997, which confirmed that the Town Centre Precinct remains in a poor condition.

The Directors of Planning, Roads and the Environment, Community and Recreational Services and Commercial Services and the Legal Services Manager will identify remedial works which can be undertaken within existing resources while the Chief Executive will report to the next meeting of the Committee on works which cannot be undertaken within existing budgets. At the moment no Directorate has a co-ordinating role or corresponding resource allocation for the maintenance of town centres.

The Roads Division (Planning Roads and the Environment) is currently pursuing remedial works with British Gas Transco in relation to the reinstatement of paved surfaces in terms of statutory undertakings.

Following discussion, the Committee agreed (a) to instruct the Directors of Planning, Roads and Environment and Community and Recreational Services and where applicable the Director of Commercial Services to undertake, as a matter of urgency, works in Kilwinning Town Centre appropriate to their Directorates within the current operational budgets; (b) that a report be submitted to the next meeting on works outstanding; and (c) to highlight to the Corporate Strategy Committee the lack of overall co-ordination between Directorates in the implementation of these works.

**(b) Kilwinning: Boundary Signs**

The Chair requested that a report be submitted to the next meeting of the Committee in respect of boundary signs in Kilwinning.

**(c) Kilwinning: Bus Services**

The Chair requested that a report be submitted to the next meeting on the bus services

operating at Stevenston Road in Kilwinning, excluding the Pennyburn route.

The meeting ended at 11.20 a.m.