

Garnock Valley, North Coast, Arran and Cumbrae Area Committee
17 November 2006

LARGS, 17 November 2006 - At a Meeting of the Garnock Valley, North Coast, Arran and Cumbrae Area Committee of North Ayrshire Council at 10.00 a.m.

Present

Richard Wilkinson, John Bell, Gordon Clarkson, Elisabeth Marshall and Robert Rae.

In Attendance

P Shiach and C Graham, Corporate Support Officers (Chief Executive's).

Also In Attendance

Inspectors K McLachlan and J Seenan (Strathclyde Police); and Station Manager D Davidson (Strathclyde Fire and Rescue).

Chair

Councillor Wilkinson in the Chair.

Apologies for Absence

Margie Currie, Jean Highgate, Alan Hill, Elizabeth McLardy and Ian Richardson.

1. Minutes

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 29 September 2006, copies of which had previously been circulated, were confirmed.

2. Declarations of Interest

Councillor Wilkinson declared a non-pecuniary interest in the application from the Largs Town Twinning Association which was considered as an urgent item, vacated the Chair during consideration of the item and took no part in the discussion thereon.

Councillor Marshall declared a non-pecuniary interest in the application from the Largs Town Twinning Association which was considered as an urgent item, and took no part in the discussion thereon.

3. Strathclyde Police

Submitted report by Strathclyde Police on trends in crime figures in the Committee's area in the period 26 September to 24 October 2006.

Inspector McLachlan advised of police personnel changes in the Largs area and introduced Inspector James Seenan who will also attend future meetings of the Committee.

In the reporting period, 5 cases of recovery of offensive weapons were recorded, resulting in full police reports being submitted to the Procurator Fiscal. As reported to the last meeting of the Area Committee, and in accordance with the Lord Advocate's guidelines, offenders in this category are kept in police custody pending appearance in court.

Crimes of dishonesty have shown a slight downward trend compared to the summer months. Car crime has also reduced. Significant reductions in acts of vandalism have been apparent in Largs, Arran and West Kilbride and Community Constables will continue to work with colleagues and partners to tackle this issue.

With the approach of the festive season, it is anticipated that an increase in alcohol consumption will, inevitably, lead to increasing demands for policing services. Street drinking will continue to be tackled proactively and licensed premises will remain a focus of police attention.

Noted.

4. Strathclyde Fire and Rescue

Submitted report by Strathclyde Fire and Rescue on activities within the Committee's area.

During the 48 day period covered by the report, 130 emergency calls were attended within the Committee's area, an increase of 17 incidents on the last reporting period.

Of the 5 fires involving residential premises, 2 were confirmed as kitchen fires which occurred due to careless use or handling of cooking materials or equipment. That such incidents are still occurring, despite intensive awareness-raising and the provision of smoke detection equipment, is a matter of concern to the Fire and Rescue Service. A fire in a dwellinghouse in Beith required the attendance of 5 pumping appliances and up to 30 firefighters. Two separate incidences of fire occurred on the same date within a dwelling in Lamlash, Isle of Arran and the matter is now the subject of an investigation by CID.

Nineteen emergency calls were attended during this reporting period, 13 of those calls being to Road Traffic Collisions, 2 of which were of a serious nature. Discussions are taking place between the Fire and Rescue Service, Strathclyde Police and North Ayrshire Council's Road Safety Officer with a view to providing road safety awareness events.

Twenty-six incidents of false alarms due to faulty apparatus have been reported and will continue to be monitored. There continues to be a downward trend in malicious calls, from 6 to 2 during this reporting period, although it is a concern that both calls originated in Beith.

The intervention/home fire safety visits initiative continues, is available to every household upon request, and to date, 136 visits have been carried out and 202 smoke alarms fitted.

Station Manager Davidson advised the Committee that he would be taking up the temporary post of Group Manager, Community Safety with effect from 20 November 2006.

Noted.

5. Community Development Grants Scheme Awards

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Educational Services) on the arrangements for provision of a breakdown of Community Development Grants in the Committee's area and confirming that a report will be presented to the Area Committee at its meeting on 19 January 2007.

Noted.

6. Largs Common Good Fund

6.1 Applications for Financial Assistance

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on awards paid to 6 November 2006, including the balance of funding remaining and applications for financial assistance from the Largs Common Good Fund.

At its meeting on 2 June 2006, the Committee had agreed to the award of an underwrite to a maximum of £1,000 to the Largs and District Round Table. The organisation confirmed that the sum of £703 would be required and payment in that sum has been made.

The Committee agreed to make the following awards:-

Organisation	Award
Largs & District Community Association	£1,500 (a) without precedent for any future similar applications; and (b) that the Association be advised to discuss the continued provision of courses with Community Learning and Development
Largs St Vincent De Paul Society	£400 to be paid following approval by the Council's Corporate Policy Committee in view of the timescale for the event

6.2 1st Largs Boys' Brigade Parent and Friends Association

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on progress made by 1st Largs Boys' Brigade Parent and Friends Association in securing funding towards the purchase of a minibus.

At its meeting on 13 April 2006, the Committee considered a grant application from 1st Largs BB Parent and Friends Association seeking assistance towards the purchase of a new minibus. The Committee agreed, in principle, to award the sum of £2,000 subject to the organisation securing outstanding funding in the sum of £16,000 and to further consider the application in November 2006.

The Committee (a) noted the progress made by the Association in securing the funding in place; and (b) agreed to release the grant of £2,000 conditionally awarded in April 2006.

7. Venues for Future Meetings

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on proposed venues for Area Committee and Liaison Meetings to April 2007.

The Committee (a) noted the meeting dates to April 2007; and (b) agreed to the undernoted venues:-

	Date	Venue
Area Committee	Friday 19 January 2007	Bridgend Centre, Kilbirnie
Area Committee and Liaison Meeting	Friday 2 March 2007	Skelmorlie Community Centre

8. Future Agenda Items

The Committee agreed (a) to receive a report at the next meeting on progress with regard to the sale of the Routenburn Golf Houses, Largs; and (b) that items for inclusion on future agendas should be submitted to P Shiach, Corporate Support Officer.

9. Urgent Items

The Chair agreed to consider the following item as matter of urgency.

10. Town Twinning Fund Application

As Councillor Wilkinson had declared an interest in this item, he vacated the Chair. Councillor Rae took the Chair at that point.

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on an application for funding from the Largs Town Twinning Association from the Town Twinning Support Fund.

The Committee agreed to award the sum of £2,000 to the Largs Town Twinning Association.

The meeting ended at 10.50 a.m.