

Three Towns Area Committee
29 August 1996

Stevenston, 29 August 1996 - At a Meeting of the Three Towns Area Committee of North Ayrshire Council at 10.30 a.m.

Present

David Gallagher, Samuel Gooding, Margaret Munn, Alan Munro and Samuel Taylor.

In Attendance

A. Herbert, Head of Accountancy Services (Financial Services). S. Burns, Manager, Area Services (Social Work), A. Pettigrew, Young Persons Development Officer, J. McKinlay, Area Community Development Officer (Community & Recreational Services), G. Clark, Operations Manager Grounds Maintenance (Commercial Services), C. Forsyth, Senior Engineer (Planning, Roads and Environment), S. Bale, Administration Officer and A. Little, Assistant Administration Officer (Chief Executive and Corporate Support).

Also In Attendance

Superintendent Young, Inspector Reilly, (Strathclyde Police), S. Wright, Manager Three Towns Initiative.

Chair

Mr Gallagher in the Chair.

1. Minutes Confirmed

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 20 June 1996, copies of which had previously been circulated, were confirmed.

2. Three Towns

Mr S Wright, Manager of the Three Towns Initiative gave an informative presentation on the work of the Three Towns Initiative.

An outline of the purpose of the Initiative was provided which included helping to increase the levels of local employment, training and education opportunities, and assisting local businesses, voluntary and community organisations improve the local economy and image of the Three Towns.

In an effort to stimulate employment and training opportunities and provide a focus for economic and social regeneration a Priority Partnership Area bid has been submitted to the Scottish Office under the Programme for Partnership (Urban Programme) which could attract additional funding and investment from the Scottish Office and Europe.

The Committee thanked Mr Wright for the presentation and agreed to note the

report.

3. Community and Recreational Services Directorate: Young People's Development Services

Mr A Pettigrew, Young Person's Development Officer provided a presentation on work undertaken by the Young People's Development Service.

The priorities for this service include targeting problem young people and assisting in the development of personal and social skills; improving accessibility to information, advice and counselling services; delivery of social education programmes and developing partnerships with young people to increase their involvement in decision making about the service provision.

The Committee thanked Mr Pettigrew for the presentation and agreed to contact the Young People's Development Service with information on problem young people who may benefit from the involvement of this service.

4. Traffic Conditions at Mayfield and St. Anthony's Primary Schools

a) Traffic Conditions at Mayfield Primary School

Submitted report by the Director of Planning, Roads and Environment on the outcome of consultations in respect of the provision of a pedestrian guardrail at Mayfield Primary School, Saltcoats.

The Senior Engineer advised that a meeting took place with the Head Teacher of Mayfield Primary School, who agreed there would be no requirement for an extension to the present guardrail once the proposed "School - Keep Clear" yellow zig-zag carriageway markings were in place.

Noted.

b) Long Term Access Problem at Dykesmains Road, Saltcoats

Submitted report by the Director of Planning, Roads and Environment on the investigation undertaken on the long-term access problem at Dykesmains Road, Saltcoats.

The Senior Engineer advised that meetings and consultations have taken place with the resident of 39 Dykesmains Road, Saltcoats, Strathclyde Police, the Education Directorate and the Head Teacher of St. Anthony's Primary School in relation to road safety at this location. A pedestrian guardrail erected 2.0m back from the road edge and opposite the resident's home, will alleviate the access problem and allow passage to larger vehicles.

Noted.

5. Publicity for Area Committees

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on the Publicity Strategy for Area Committees agreed by the Corporate Strategy Committee on 30 July 1996.

The Administration Officer presented the Publicity Strategy for Area Committees, highlighting the pre-publicity, post publicity and ad hoc publicity framework which will run in sequence with the Area Committee cycle.

After discussion the Committee agreed (a) to request that a poster be placed in the venue of the Area Committee, prior to the meeting; (b) to publicise the dates, times and locations of Area Committee meetings on the North Ayrshire Close Up on West Sound Radio; and (c) otherwise to note the report.

6. Monitoring Reports

a) Monitoring Reports

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on the first selection of monitoring reports and the plans to submit further monitoring reports to future meetings.

The Committee agreed (a) that regular monitoring reports be submitted to future meetings; and (b) otherwise to note the report.

b) Analysis of Grants Paid to 9 August 1996

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on the analysis of grants paid and balances remaining at 9 August 1996.

Noted.

c) Garden Tidy Scheme

Submit report by the Director of Commercial Services on the delivery of the Garden Tidy Summer Scheme.

The Operations Managers, Grounds Maintenance outlined the purpose of the Garden Tidy Scheme, the current criteria applied to applicants and the performance achieved to date. Discussion focused on the current criteria and the feasibility of extending the scheme to incorporate those residents requiring this service but currently excluded.

The Committee agreed (a) to request the Director of Commercial Services to re-evaluate the criteria for eligibility in relation to disability allowances; and (b) to remit to a future meeting of the Corporate Strategy Committee to examine the feasibility of extending the scheme by utilising the Community Service Scheme,

administered by the Social Work Directorate, Criminal Justice Services.

d) Social Work

Submitted report by the Director of Social Work on Social Work service delivery within the Three Towns area.

Discussion followed on the lack of Occupational Therapists and the isolation of New Street, Stevenston as a location for a duty service. The Manager (Area Services) advised that a report on the Occupational Therapy service generally will be completed shortly. Consultation with the Housing Directorate will take place regarding the feasibility of the use of a room in the local Housing office, to provide a more central location for the duty service.

Noted.

7. Environmental Improvements

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on progress in relation to addressing environmental improvement issues.

The Corporate Strategy Committee on 30 July 1996 considered a report on Local Agenda 21 with proposals on how the Council might seek to progress its application in relation to environmental activities. They agreed that a team of Officers draft an environmental policy and to prepare a programme of action with costs and report.

The Committee agreed (a) to support, in the meantime, prior to the draft environmental policy etc being drawn up, local proposals for environmental improvements by identifying assistance available both financial and in kind; (b) to encourage the submission of grant applications from community groups to promote environmental improvements and that such applications be viewed favourably; (c) to identify suitable sites for environmental improvements within the Three Towns and monitor progress and (d) invite Mrs S King, Corporate Policy Officer to the next meeting of the Three Towns Area Committee to provide an overview of the Council's position in terms of environmental issues.

8. Strathclyde Police: Community Safety Seminar/Attendance at Meetings

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on proposed attendance at a Community Safety Seminar and the attendance of a Police representative at Area Committee Meetings.

Strathclyde Police have invited a representative of the Area Committee, to attend a one day Community Safety Seminar on 17 September 1996 and have also formally requested that they be represented at the Area Committee meetings.

The Committee agreed (a) to nominate the Chair to attend the Community Safety Seminar on 17 September 1996 in the Mitchell Theatre, Granville Street, Glasgow;

and (b) that Strathclyde Police be represented at the Three Towns Area Committee by an officer at the level of Inspector or above.

9. Community Safety

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on the key issues affecting Community Safety and ways of addressing these.

The Committee agreed (a) to establish a Member/Officer Working Group, comprising Mr Gallagher, Mr Munro and appropriate Officers (i) to identify the ways in which the services are addressing this issue locally; and (ii) to meet with relevant local community and voluntary groups to discuss local concerns and report back within two cycles of Area Committee Meetings; (b) to invite local community organisations to submit proposals for local Community Safety Initiatives; (c) to give priority to Community Grant applications which address Community Safety Initiatives; and (d) to highlight Community Safety issues when meeting with local groups/organisations as part of the Community Consultation process.

10. Request for Financial Assistance

Submitted reports by the Chief Executive on requests received for financial assistance in respect of the Three Towns Area Committee

(a) Community Grants

(i) Three Towns Writers Workshop

The Committee agreed to grant the Three Towns Writers Workshop £ 300.00 towards the costs of publishing their third collection of writing.

(ii) St. Anthony's Language Group

St. Anthony's Language Group have applied for funding towards an after school Language Group.

After discussion the Committee agreed (a) to advise St. Anthony's Language Group to pursue funding from the Ayrshire Education Trust; and (b) to refer the St. Anthony's Language Group application to the Education Directorate for consideration.

(b) Sports and Arts Grants: Ardeer Recreation Bowls Club

The Committee agreed to grant Ardeer Recreation Bowls Club £100.00 towards the cost of bowls equipment for junior members.

11. Common Good Funds

a) Ardrossan Common Good Fund

Submitted report by the Director of Financial Services on the current financial position of the Ardrossan Common Good Fund.

The Head of Accountancy Services advised of the income and expenditure to the Ardrossan Common Good Fund for the year 1995/96 and proposed a disbursement level for the year 1996/97.

The Committee noted that the grant payments already approved in 1996/97 have exceeded the proposed disbursement level and any further payments will affect the capital balance of the Fund.

b) Saltcoats Common Good Fund

Submitted report by the Director of Financial Services on the current financial position of the Saltcoats Common Good Fund.

The Head of Accountancy Services advised of the income and expenditure to the Saltcoats Common Good Fund for the year 1995/96 and proposed a disbursement level for 1996/97.

The Committee noted that the proposed sum available for disbursement in 1996/97 is £490.00 and any disbursement above this amount will affect the capital balance of the Fund.

c) Stevenston Common Good Fund

i) Current Financial Position

Submitted report by the Director of Financial Services on the current financial position of the Stevenston Common Good Fund.

The Head of Accountancy Services advised of the income and expenditure to the Stevenston Common Good Fund for the 1995/96 and proposed a disbursement level for 1996/97

The Committee noted that the proposed sum available for disbursement in 1996/97 is £7,500.00 and any disbursement above this amount will affect the capital balance of the Fund.

ii) Request for Financial Assistance

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on requests received for financial assistance in respect of the Stevenston Common Good Fund.

The Administration Officer referred to the financial assistance approved by the

Committee on 20 June 1996 of £5,000 to Ardeer Parish Church to be awarded when the £40,000 balance required was secured. Ardeer Parish Church have advised that they are unlikely to meet their £40,000 total within this financial year. The £5,000 awarded could therefore become available for disbursement in this financial year.

a) High Kirk of Stevenston

The Committee agreed to fund 50% (£2,875.50) of the upgrading work, on the condition the High Kirk meet the remaining 50% balance, or complete 50% of the work.

b) Ardeer Thistle Junior Football Club

The Committee agreed to continue consideration of this application for further information on previous financial assistance.

c) Stevenston Credit Union

The Committee agreed to grant £500.00 as a one off payment towards the cost of an Accounts software package.

12. Ardrossan: Old Town Hall Restoration Project

Submitted report by the Director of Planning, Roads and Environment on the funding implications for the Old Town Hall, Ardrossan Restoration Project in 1997/98.

The Administration Officer reported that the Special Corporate Strategy Committee on 28 August 1996 approved a contribution of £10,000 towards the repairs/facelift of Ardrossan Old Town Hall from Capital Expenditure in 1996/97 and therefore there was now no requirement to consider funding in 1997/98.

Noted.

11. Urgent Items

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

12. Ardrossan Cemetery

Mrs Munn raised the issue of repeated vandalism at Ardrossan Cemetery, which included the smashing of headstones.

The cemetery is open on two sides and is used as a shortcut and throughway by local people.

The Committee agreed recommend to the Corporate Strategy Committee (a) that they consider the removal of debris, repair of broken headstones and if necessary the erection of a boundary wall or fence; and (b) that they contact the Architectural

Liaison Officer (Strathclyde Police) for advice regarding the erection of a boundary wall and the general security of the cemetery.

13. Matters Arising from Community Consultations

The Committee discussed various matters arising from the Community Consultation Meeting.

After discussion the Committee agreed (a) to request the Director of Housing for clarification on the provision of a bin store at Montgomerie Street, Ardrossan; (b) to request the Director of Community and Recreational Services to provide a path from Dalry road to Central Avenue, Ardrossan when finance becomes available; (c) to request the Director of Education to investigate where the Video Editing Suite formerly located at Greenwood Teachers Centre is now located; and (d) request the Principal Officer Building Control to look into the condition of the shops at Shore road, Stevenston.

14. Cost of Petrol within the Three Towns Area

The cost of petrol within the Three Towns area appears to be up to 7 pence per litre higher than that of other areas.

The Committee agreed to request the Principal Trading Standards Officer to investigate and report to the next meeting.

15. Saltcoats: Burns Avenue

Concern was raised at the increased volume and speed of traffic on Burns Avenue, Saltcoats since the opening of Arran View Nursing Home. The requirement of a bus stop at Arran View was also raised.

The Committee agreed (a) to request the Head of Roads to investigate the requirement for traffic calming measures on Burns Avenue and the current position regarding the adoption of the this road and report to the next meeting of the Area Committee; and (b) that clarification be sought from Strathclyde Passenger Transport Executive regarding the siting of a bus stop at Arran View Nursing Home, Burns Avenue, Saltcoats.

The meeting ended at 1.25 p.m.