

Ardrossan and Arran, Saltcoats and Stevenston Area Committee  
24 June 2010

**STEVENSTON, 24 June 2010** - At a Meeting of the Ardrossan and Arran, Saltcoats and Stevenston Area Committee at 2.00 p.m.

**Present**

Anthony Gurney, William Gibson, John Hunter, Ronnie McNicol and Alan Munro.

**In Attendance**

K. MacDonald, Finance Manager (Finance and Infrastructure); J. McHarg, Assistant Manager (Community Services) and B. Anderson, Performance/Grants Information Officer (Education and Skills); J. Cumming, Project Officer (Economic Development) and M. Anderson, Committee Services Officer (Chief Executive's Service).

**Also In Attendance**

Station Commander M. Gallacher and L. Brady, Community Safety Officer (Strathclyde Fire and Rescue); Constable J. Dougall (Strathclyde Police); and P. Allison, Scottish and Southern Energy Limited.

**Chair**

Councillor Gurney in the Chair.

**Apologies for Absence**

Margie Currie, Peter McNamara and David Munn.

**1. Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest by Members in terms of Standing Order 16.

**2. Strathclyde Police**

Constable Dougall reported on his role within the Community Policing Team for Ward 5, commenting in particular on the positive working relationship which has been developed between the team and the Community Wardens serving the Ardrossan North area, as well as local community and neighbourhood watch groups. Constable Dougall indicated that there continued to be problems associated with the consumption of alcohol by youths towards to bottom end of Glasgow/Montgomerie Street, Ardrossan but that work was being done to tackle this.

Members asked questions, and received information, on:-

- The role of adults acting as agents to obtain alcohol for underage drinkers and action by the Police to address this; and

- The negative impact on local businesses of disruption associated with a recent Police initiative to stop and check motor vehicles at the top of Hamilton Street, Saltcoats, and whether anyone had been charged with an offence as a result of the exercise.

Constable Dougall undertook to obtain information for Members on any offences detected as a result of the Police initiative at Hamilton Street, Saltcoats.

Noted.

### **3. Strathclyde Fire and Rescue**

Submitted report by Strathclyde Fire and Rescue on activity from 24 March to 14 June 2010, which included information on community initiatives, deliberate fire raising, property fires, secondary fires, malicious false alarms, road traffic incidents and other special services.

Station Commander Gallacher provided further information on the following:-

- The increase in rubbish and grass fires during the recent period of dry weather and the role of school liaison officers in educating young people on the dangers of setting fires;
- The audit work carried out by the Community Safety Enforcement Team following refuse fires at commercial premises;
- The welcome reduction in both malicious false alarm calls and attacks on fire crews; and
- Ongoing initiatives, such as Home Fire Safety Visits, Firereach and work experience courses.

The Community Safety Officer also gave information on:-

- The Arran Avoids Accidents event to be held at Lamlash on 3 July 2010 and the fundraising activities being undertaken to support this initiative; and
- A road safety event being planned in partnership with the Police and potentially the Ambulance service, to be held on 27 July 2010 at a venue on Arran (to be agreed).

Members asked questions, and received further information, on:-

- A recent grass fire near the roundabout at the top of Dalry Road, Ardrossan; and
- The circumstances surrounding deliberate grass fires near North Crescent and the North Shore area of Ardrossan.

The Community Safety Officer undertook to provide further details, when available, on the 27 July 2010 road safety event on Arran.

Noted.

#### **4. Community Benefit Fund**

P. Allison of Scottish and Southern Energy Limited provided a verbal report to the Area Committee on the recent sale of the Ardrossan Windfarm by Scottish and Southern Energy Limited to Infinis (part of Terra Firma) and on the expectation that the new owners would continue to support the Community Benefit Fund.

Noted.

##### **4.1 Criteria for Disbursement of the Fund**

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on the proposed criteria for the disbursement of the Community Benefit Fund.

At its meeting on 18 February 2010, the Committee agreed that the Project Officer, Economic Development circulate a short questionnaire to Elected Members and to Airtricity, seeking to clarify views regarding the future criteria for disbursement of the Fund, and report back the findings to a future meeting of the Area Committee.

Section 3.1 of the report summarised the proposed criteria for disbursement of the fund based on the outcome of the consultation exercise. Members discussed the proposed criteria and expressed the view that greater clarity was required on the issue of an upper limit for grants.

The Project Officer (Economic Development) then reported verbally on a proposal to incorporate within the officer assessment pro forma a series of tick boxes to allow the each application for funding to be categorised according to the terms of the approved Minute of Agreement.

The Committee agreed to (a) approve the following criteria for the disbursement of the Community Benefit Fund, viz:- (i) applications for environmental projects will have priority in grant funding, but the Fund will continue to support applications which do not have an environmental perspective; (ii) the funding criteria will be the same in the three localities; (iii) there shall be no maximum limit of grant funding from the Fund (although grants will not normally exceed £4,000 and any awards above this figure will be the exception); (iv) there will be no minimum limit on grant funding from the Fund; (v) grant awards will be treated as one-off contributions except in exceptional circumstances; and (vi) local groups will be given priority (with national organisations only being considered if their application demonstrates a direct benefit to the communities of Ardrossan, Saltcoats, Stevenston and Arran); and (b) note that the officer assessment pro forma for future grant applications would be amended to incorporate tick boxes allowing each application to be categorised according to the terms of the approved Minute of Agreement.

## 4.2 Applications for Grant Aid

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on applications for grant received in respect of the Community Benefit Fund. An officer assessment in respect of a further application for funding, received from Ardrossan Xmas Decorations Committee, was circulated at the meeting.

The Project Officer (Economic Development) advised that, following the award by Scottish and Southern Energy Limited of the 2010/11 funding allocation, there was now a total of £36,415.23 available for disbursement from the Fund, split by locality as follows:- £18,408.84 for the Ardrossan area, £15,622.87 for Saltcoats and Stevenston and £2,383.52.

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

### **Saltcoats and Stevenston Awards**

<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Award</b>
St. Andrew's Episcopal Church	£391.60
Auchenharvie Sports Club	£1,600.00

### **Ardrossan Awards**

<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Award</b>
Friends of the Holm Plantation	£1,000.00
Ardrossan Xmas Decorations Committee	£5,500.00

and (b) continue consideration of the application from Whiting Bay Public Hall to a future meeting to avoid committing the majority of Arran funding early in the financial year, when other applications which may better meet the funding criteria could be submitted.

## **5. Community Development Grants Scheme and Local Youth Action Fund 2010/11: Applications for Financial Assistance**

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

The Assistant Manager (Community Services) referred to an application from Gateside Pony Club for Local Youth Action funding which was continued at the last meeting of the Area Committee and indicated that an amended application by Ardrossan Academy and Gateside Pony Clubs had resolved the issues identified by the Area Committee at its meeting on 1 April 2010.

The Performance/Grants Information Officer reported that the application from the Cronies Social Club of Stevenston had been withdrawn by the group to allow it to seek advice on its accounts.

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

### **Community Development Grants Scheme**

#### **Organisation**

#### **Award**

St. John's Hall Committee

£600.00

Ayrshire Thai Community Group

£500.00

Hit It

£1,000.00

Auchenharvie Community Sports Group

£720.00

Arran Sports Association

£700.00, and that the group be advised to explore alternative avenues for future funding

SNAP Craft Group

£150.00

Stella Maris Youth Group

£1,000.00, subject to the group submitting a letter from its bank to confirm its account details

Arran Farmers Society

£1,000.00, and that the group be advised to explore alternative avenues for future funding

Women's Interest Collective

£1,072.00

Arran Highland Dancers

£362.00

### **Local Youth Action Fund**

#### **Organisation**

#### **Award**

Ardrossan Academy/Gateside Pony Club

£2,000.00

(b) continue to the next meeting consideration of the applications from (i) Isle of Arran Community Council, for further information on the detailed costings of the project and (ii) Arran Theatre and Arts Trust, to allow the group to carry out some fundraising activities to support the project; and (c) note that the application from The Cronies Social Club of Stevenston had been withdrawn by the group.

## **6. Ardrossan Common Good Fund: Draft Accounts**

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Finance and Infrastructure) on the draft revenue account in respect of Ardrossan Common Good Fund for the year to 31 March 2010 and proposing a level of grant funding for 2010/11.

In 2009/10, the Fund was overspent by £2,438 following a reduction in interest received through a general fall in interest rates as a result of the economic recession. The only source of income to the Fund is from interest on balances and this dropped to £1,101 for 2009/10. Grants amounting to £3,450 were distributed during the year and these were detailed in the appendix to the report. The only other expenditure was a charge for administration.

It is not anticipated that interest rates will change dramatically in 2010/11 and it is envisaged that a similar level of income will be received. As a result, the report recommended that £1,000 be made available in 2010/11 for disbursement from the Fund.

The Committee agreed to continue to the next meeting consideration of the recommended level of disbursement from the fund in the year 2010/11 pending a further report by the Corporate Director (Financial and Infrastructure) providing details on (i) the rate of interest currently applicable; (ii) how the funds are invested at present; and (iii) whether consideration could be given to investing the funds elsewhere at a more advantageous rate, including the possibility of aggregating the monies held by the three separate Common Good Funds in order to secure a better return on the investment.

## **7. Saltcoats Common Good Fund: Draft Accounts**

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Finance and Infrastructure) on the draft revenue account in respect of Saltcoats Common Good Fund for the year to 31 March 2010 and proposing a level of grant funding for 2010/11.

In 2009/10, the Fund was overspent by £1,137 following a reduction in interest through a general fall in interest rates as a result of the economic recession. Income to the Fund arises from interest on balances and television relay payments. Total income for 2009/10 amounted to £1,157. Grants amounting to £2,206 were distributed during the year and these were detailed in the appendix to the report. The only other expenditure was a charge of £88 for administration.

It is not anticipated that interest rates will change dramatically in 2010/11 and it is envisaged that a similar level of income will be received. As a result, the report recommended that £1,000 be made available in 2010/11 for disbursement from the Fund.

The Committee agreed to continue to the next meeting consideration of the recommended level of disbursement from the fund in the year 2010/11 pending a further report by the Corporate Director (Financial and Infrastructure) providing details on (i) TV Relay Royalties; (ii) the rate of interest currently applicable; (iii) how the funds are invested at present; and (iv) whether consideration could be given to investing the funds elsewhere at a more advantageous rate, including the possibility of aggregating the monies held by the three separate Common Good Funds in order to secure a better return on the investment.

## **8. Stevenston Common Good Fund**

### **8.1 Draft Accounts**

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Finance and Infrastructure) on the draft revenue account in respect of Stevenston Common Good Fund for the year to 31 March 2010 and proposing a level of grant funding for 2010/11.

In 2009/10, the Fund was overspent by £5,981. Income to the fund fell through a reduction in interest received as a result of the economic recession. Grants amounted to £23,850, which included the cost of publishing the book "In the Shadow of the Dynamite", which, it is anticipated, will generate an income as the books are sold in future years. Expenditure on maintenance of property amounted to £1,233 with an administration charge of £177.

It is not anticipated that interest rates will change dramatically in 2010/11 and it is envisaged that a similar level of income will be received. As a result, the report recommended that £13,500 be made available in 2010/11 for disbursement from the Fund.

The Committee agreed (a) that the Corporate Director (Financial and Infrastructure) submit a report to the next meeting to provide details on (i) the rate of interest currently applicable; (ii) how the funds are invested at present; and (iii) whether consideration could be given to investing the funds elsewhere at a more advantageous rate, including the possibility of investing jointly the money contained in each of the three Common Good Funds in order to secure a better rate of return; and (b) in the meantime, to agree the recommended level of disbursement of £13,500 for 2010/11 in principle in order to allow funding applications to be considered.

### **8.2 Applications for Financial Assistance**

Submit report by the Chief Executive on applications for financial assistance from Stevenston Common Good Fund.

The Committee Services Officer advised that, in addition to withdrawing its application for Community Development Grant funding, the Cronies Social Club of Stevenston had also withdrawn its application for Common Good Fund support.

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

**Organisation**

Hayocks Schools Out Club

**Award**

£2,065.00, subject to any unspent monies being returned to the Common Good Fund in the event of the dissolution of the group, and on the basis that the award would benefit the community of Stevenston as a whole by allowing parents to be economically active through employment, providing their children with safe and rewarding care, and ensuring for the wider community that young people are properly supervised

John McCafferty

£750.00, on the basis that the applicant's achievements raise the profile of Stevenston in a positive way and increase the aspirations of the community as a whole

and (b) note that the application from The Cronies Social Club of Stevenston had been withdrawn by the group.

**9. Date and Venue of Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Area Committee will be held on Thursday 2 September 2010 in Arran Outdoor Education Centre, Lamlash.

**10. Future Agenda Items**

The Committee (a) highlighted a number of items for possible inclusion as future agenda items:-

- extending the use of the bus lanes at Hawkhill, Stevenston, to include taxis and, potentially, private hire vehicles;
- relocating the existing bus stop on Princes Street, Ardrossan, to address congestion issues associated with bus drivers changing vehicles at this stop;



- speed limits at Saltcoats seafront, particularly in the light of an Ardrossan and Saltcoats Herald article of 23 June 2010;
- the role of officers in commenting in the press;
- addressing pollution within watercourses such as the Stevenston Burn and the Stanley Burn;
- geographical accuracy in the naming of local facilities; and

(b) noted that any additional items for consideration at the next meeting should be submitted to M. Anderson or D. McCaw.

The Meeting ended at 3.50 p.m.