

North Coast Area Committee
22 January 2015

LARGS, 22 January 2015 - At a Meeting of the North Coast Area Committee of North Ayrshire Council at 2.00 p.m.

Present

Alex Gallagher, Alan Hill, Tom Marshall and Grace McLean.

In Attendance

T. Fitzsimmons, Principal Officer - Strategy (Place); B. Anderson, Performance/Grants Information Officer (Community Development Team) (Economy and Communities); and M. Anderson, Acting Committee and Member Services Manager (Chief Executive's Service)

Also In Attendance

Inspector M. Oates (Police Scotland); and Group Commander Mark Gallacher (Scottish Fire and Rescue Service).

Chair

Councillor Gallagher in the Chair

1. Declarations of Interest

In terms of Standing Order 16 and Section 5 of the Councillors Code of Conduct, Councillor Marshall, as a member of the congregation of St. John's Church of Scotland, Largs, declared an indirect pecuniary interest in the group's funding application, which formed part of Agenda Item 7 (Largs Common Good Fund: Applications for Financial Assistance), and took no part in its determination.

2. Minutes

The accuracy of the Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 20 November 2014 was confirmed and the Minute signed in accordance with Paragraph 7 (1) of Schedule 7 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973.

3. CPP Partners

3.1 North Ayrshire Community Planning Partnership (CPP) Board: Minutes of Meeting held on 4 December 2014

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on the Minutes of the CPP Board meeting held on 4 December 2014.

Discussion took place on the extent to which the content of the Minutes is accessible to members of the public, and Members requested clarification on the following terms used in the Minute:-

- "the need to target tests of change appropriately" (page 3 of the Minute);
- "opportunities for coproduction" (page 4 of the Minute); and
- "high level 'can-opening' outcome indicators" (page 6 of the Minute).

The Committee agreed (a) that the Community Planning Team Leader be requested to provide clarification to Members of the Area Committee on the terminology used in the Minute; and (b) otherwise to note the content of the Minute.

3.2 Police Scotland

Submitted report by Police Scotland of local interest of the period on 2 October 2014 to 8 January 2015.

The report included information on the following:-

- crime statistics for the North Coast area;
- a number of local action plans to address speeding, housebreaking, mobile phones/disqualified drivers, drug supply and disorder/antisocial behaviour; and
- crimes of note, including offences in terms of the misuse of drugs, the purchase of alcohol and cigarettes for a person under the age of 18 years, motor vehicle offences, robbery, assault and housebreaking.

Further details were provided at the meeting on the following:-

- the overall reduction in reported crime within the area and the high levels of detection, particularly with regard to serious crimes; and
- work undertaken in conjunction with the Council's Antisocial Behaviour Investigation Team to tackle concerns previously expressed in relation to incidents at Nelson Street, Largs.

Members discussed the following:-

- a joint operation on 8 January 2015 between Police Scotland (Road Traffic division) and the Coastguard service in relation to vehicles boarding the Isle of Cumbrae ferry;
- the sale of alcohol to an underage person, which will be reported in due course to the Licensing Board; and
- measures to tackle littering by school pupils in the area.

Noted.

3.3 Scottish Fire and Rescue Service

Submitted report by the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service on incidents within the North Coast area during the period 8 December 2014 to 11 January 2015.

The report, which was revised to include only information relating to the North Coast and Cumbraes area, included information on the following:-

- the low number of incidents which occurred during the reporting period, including the absence of fatalities or casualties;
- the ongoing issue with equipment faults, despite extensive work undertaken to raise awareness of the issue within sheltered accommodation;
- a road traffic collision in Skelmorlie; and
- a number of special services and 'open doors' events.

Members discussed the part played by the Service's preventative work in lowering the number of incidents.

Noted.

4. North Coast Affordable Housing Provision

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Place) on social housing development opportunities in the North Coast Sub Housing Market Area, which comprises Largs, Fairlie, West Kilbride and Seamill, Skelmorlie and the Isle of Cumbrae.

The town of Largs is identified in the Local Housing Strategy (LHS) 2011-16 as having the greatest need for affordable housing investment within North Ayrshire and the remaining mainland North Coast Sub Housing Market area as having the third highest need for investment. The report set out factors which have an impact on the availability of land for affordable housing and measures which seek to address this issue. Section 2 of the report summarised the following:-

- provisions within the Local Development Plan, including the introduction of the mainland Affordable Housing Policy, which notes that market development in the entire North Coast Sub Housing Market Area (SHMA) will be subject to a developer contribution at a rate of 25%;
- the Affordable Development Programme for the North Coast area, as summarised in the table at Section 2.16 of the report;
- the designation of the entire North Coast SHMA as pressured in terms of Pressured Area Status, as a means of protecting existing social housing in the area; and
- legislation recently passed which will supersede Pressured Area Status by ending the right to buy for all tenants from 2016.

Members discussed the following:-

- the available options in terms of the delivery of the 25% developer contribution and the various factors which will influence how this is achieved;
- the extent to which the 25% developer contribution is negotiable on the basis of market conditions;
- the application of the developer contribution provisions to those developments which did not already have planning permission when the Local Development Plan was adopted;
- the background to slippage on the Lawhill Farm, West Kilbride project; and
- the need for sensitivity in the implementation of the Council's Allocation Policy.

Noted.

5. Community Development Grant Scheme and Local Youth Action Fund: Application for Financial Assistance

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Economy and Communities) on applications received in respect of the Community Development Grants Scheme.

The Committee agreed to make an award of £128.98 to Douglas Park Bowling Club as a contribution towards the purchase of anniversary badges only.

6. North Ayrshire Council (Largs) Charitable Trust - Application for Financial Assistance

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on an application received in respect of the North Ayrshire Council (Largs) Charitable Trust.

The Committee agreed (a) to refuse the application from Largs Community Sport and Leisure Club, given that (i) only a small amount of funding is available for disbursement and the application does not meet the principal purpose of the Trust, namely the relief of poverty and (ii) the application does not demonstrate development on the part of the group, which received a Community Development Grant Scheme award in 2013/14 for the same purpose; and (b) that the applicants be invited to seek advice from the Council's Performance/Grants Information Officer on potential alternative sources of funding.

7. Largs Common Good : Applications for Financial Assistance

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on an application received in respect of the Largs Common Good Fund.

The Committee agreed to (a) make an award of £2,500 to St. John's Church of Scotland, Largs; and (b) to continue consideration of the application by Largs First Responder to the next meeting, to allow the group to make arrangements for a suitable constitution and bank account to be put in place.

8. Date and Venue of Next Meeting

The Committee agreed (a) to note that the next meeting of the North Coast Area Committee will be held on 5 March 2015 in Largs Library; (b) that the subsequent meeting be held in Millport; and (c) that, subject to availability, the venue for meetings during the remainder of the current financial year should rotate between the main settlements within the North Coast area.

9. Future Agenda Items

The Committee agreed (a) to note that Members should advise Committee Services of any potential items for inclusion on a future Agenda; and (b) that standing items be introduced to the Agenda to allow regular progress to be reported on issues relating to each of the main settlements within the North Coast area.

The Meeting ended at 2.45 p.m.