

Irvine Area Committee
9 December 1998

Irvine, 9 December 1998 - At a Meeting of the Irvine Area Committee of North Ayrshire Council at 4.00 p.m.

Present

Joseph McKinney, Thomas Barr, Jack Carson, Stewart Dewar and David O'Neill.

In Attendance

A. Weir, Landscape and Amenities Services Manager, M. Smyth, Area Community Development Officer (Educational Services); S. Driscoll, Divisional Manager Irvine New Town (Property Services); D. Nibloe, Principal Officer Financial Services, M. McKeown, Administration Officer and A. Little, Assistant Administration Officer (Chief Executive).

Also In Attendance

Superintendent Keenan, Sergeant M Oates, Police Liaison Officer (Strathclyde Police); and Mr T Kane, Community Fire Safety Officer (Strathclyde Fire Brigade).

Chair

Mr McKinney in the Chair.

Apologies for Absence

Elliot Gray.

1. Minutes Confirmed

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 28th October 1998, copies of which had previously been circulated, were confirmed.

2. Monitoring Reports

(a) Housing Services

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Property Services) which provided information on the performance of Housing Services in respect of estates management, housing allocation, rent collection and housing benefit.

A report on linking the recovery of arrears to the Housing Benefit system, will be submitted to the next meeting of the Housing Services Committee.

Noted.

(b) Community Development Grants Scheme: Analysis of Grants Paid to 3 November 1998

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on Community Development Grants paid to 3rd November 1998.

Noted.

(c) Litter Awareness Hotline

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Property Services) on calls to the litter

awareness hotline in relation to the Irvine area.

The Committee agreed that the Corporate Director (Property Services) investigate the method and frequency of cleaning and cutting of grass at the edges of slip roads and roundabouts and report to a future meeting.

3. Community Development Grants Scheme: Applications for Grant Aid

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Educational Services) on applications for financial assistance.

(a) Fullarton Junior Badminton

The Committee agreed to award £200.00;

(b) Redburn Over 60's Carpet Bowlers

The Committee agreed to award £651.23;

(c) North Irvine District Guides

The Committee agreed to award £400.00;

(d) Irvine Operatic Society

The Committee agreed to award £500.00;

(e) Kut-o-Lok Fu Chinese Elderly

The Committee agreed to award £630.00; and

(f) Fullarton Wheelers Cycling Club

The Committee agreed to award £278.00.

4. Irvine Common Good: Requests for Financial Assistance

Submitted reports by the Chief Executive on requests for financial assistance from Irvine Common Good Fund:-

(a) Irvine Old Parish Church

On 28th October 1998 the Committee considered an application from Irvine Old Parish Church for financial assistance towards the costs of redecorating the church interior in preparation for the Millenium and agreed to (i) award £5,000 towards the redecoration costs; and (ii) seek further information on plans and estimated costs for restoring the chairs in the Council loft within the Church.

This information was subsequently received and the Chair authorised the restoration work to proceed at an estimated cost of £210.00. A bill for £145.00 was subsequently submitted by the Church.

The Committee homologated the decision of the Chair to fund the restoration of the chairs in the Council Loft at a cost of £145.00.

(b) Christmas Lights, Irvine Town Centre

The Area Committee at its meeting on 28th October 1998 requested an inspection of, and

report on, the condition of the Irvine Christmas Lights.

The inspection revealed that the existing lights were in need of replacement, and set out proposals to replace them with a safer low voltage variety at a cost of £6900. Costings for additional decorations will not be available until Spring.

The Committee agreed (i) in principle to replace and enhance Irvine Christmas lights; (ii) to hire a “cherry picker” to position the lights higher in 1999; and (iii) to authorise the Chair to select decorations and set pieces when they become available.

(c) Irvine Incorporated Trades, Trades Shields

Irvine Incorporated Trades have requested financial assistance towards the costs of repairing the ‘Trades Shields’ which are displayed at important occasions. It was noted that the shield depicting the arms of the Royal Burgh of Irvine is beyond repair.

The Committee agreed (i) to award Irvine Incorporated Trades £350 towards the repair of the Trades Shields; and (ii) to request information on the cost to replace the shield depicting the arms of the Royal Burgh of Irvine.

(d) John Galt Primary School, Trip to Arran Outdoor Centre

John Galt Primary School have requested financial assistance towards the costs of the Primary 7 trip to Arran Outdoor Centre in January 1999.

The cost of the trip will be £70 per child and the Committee acknowledged that despite the School’s efforts in raising £380 towards the trip, many parents may find this cost difficult to meet so soon after Christmas.

After discussion, which included consideration of the timing of the trip, the Committee agreed (i) to match fund the amount raised by the school towards the costs of this trip; and (ii) to request Educational Services to consider allocating John Galt Primary School a week in autumn or spring each year for their trip to Arran Outdoor Centre.

(e) Fullarton Community Health House

Fullarton Community Health House have requested financial assistance towards the costs of sending one delegate to the ‘Community Involvement in Health’ conference to be held 26th - 28th February 1999.

The Committee agreed to award Fullarton Community Health House £222.45 towards the costs of the attendance at the Community Involvement in Health conference.

(f) Almswall Park Portacabins: Proposal to relocate to the Magnum Leisure Centre

Portacabins were purchased by Stevenston Common Good in July of this year and a portacabin at Almswall Park is now surplus to requirements. It is proposed that this unit be relocated to a site at the rear of the Magnum Leisure Centre to provide changing facilities for the two 7-a-side pitches recently provided.

After consideration the Committee agreed that Corporate Director (Educational Services) should consult with the Assistant Chief Executive (Legal and Regulatory Services) and submit a further report which (i) clarifies the appropriateness of this application to the Common Good Fund; and (ii) provides information on sports pitches provision in the Irvine area, including the possible use of school facilities in the evenings and at weekends.

5. Traffic Regulation Order: New Street, Irvine

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Property Services) on a proposed Traffic Regulation Order for New Street, Irvine which (a) revokes the existing one-way order which extends from Harbour Road round the Rivergate Centre and car parks to Fullarton roundabout; and (b) introduces a new one-way operation between Harbour Road and the proposed Rivergate roundabout, and between Station roundabout and Fullarton roundabout, resulting in two-way operations between the Station and Rivergate roundabouts. Works associated with the Order will commence in early 1999.

The Committee noted that a gate has been erected at the service entrance to the car park at Asda/Rivergate which could represent a potential danger to road users if vehicles prevented from entering the car park at this point attempt to reverse or turn into oncoming traffic.

The Committee (i) noted the proposed traffic management proposals for New Street, Irvine; and (ii) agreed to instruct the Head of Roads to investigate the safety of the traffic management system operated at the car park at Asda/Rivergate.

6. Disabled Parking within the Town Centre Area

The Committee noted that a report will be submitted to the next meeting.

7. Community Safety

(a) Community Safety Challenge Budget

(i) Irvine Advanced Drivers

Submitted request for financial support from Irvine Advanced Drivers.

The Committee agreed to award £500.

(ii) Armbands for North Ayrshire School Children

Submitted report from the Chief Executive seeking homologation of the decision taken by the Area Committee Chairs on 19th November 1998 to fund the provision of fluorescent armbands and safety stickers for North Ayrshire school children.

The Committee agreed to homologate the decision of the Area Committee Chairs.

(b) Fire Statistics

Submitted report by Strathclyde Fire Brigade on Fire Incidents in the Irvine area in the period to 31st October 1998.

The Community Fire Safety Officer advised that a Christmas campaign will begin shortly in an effort to avoid the most common cause of household fires which relate to cooking and dropped lights. Leaflets and posters will be distributed throughout North Ayrshire and will also be available in the Spotlight Initiative shop in the Rivergate Centre, Irvine.

Noted.

(c) Crime Statistics

Superintendent Keenan reported on the crime statistics in relation to the Irvine area for October 1998, which showed the total crime recorded (193) had decreased by 23 crimes on the same period last year. The detection rate for October 1998 was 61.8% as opposed to 45% for October 1997 and was higher than the force average.

Noted.

8. Urgent Items

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

(a) Street Naming

Submitted report by the Assistant Chief Executive (Development and Promotion) on the naming of a New Road, built by Dawn Developments Ltd, running through Riverway Retail Park, between Merryvale Roundabout and New Street, Irvine.

The Committee agreed that the road be named 'Riverway'.

9. Exclusion of the Public

The Committee resolved, in terms of Section 50A(4) of the Local government (Scotland) Act 1973, to exclude from the Meeting the press and the public for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 4 and 6 of Part 1 of Schedule 7A of the Act.

10. Irvine Fuel Relief Fund

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on applications under the Irvine Fuel Relief Fund.

After discussion the Committee agreed to instruct the Assistant Chief Executive (Financial Services) to make payments to successful applicants as per the report, subject to any representations from Members regarding the factual information about individual applicants contained in the report.

The meeting ended at 5.25 p.m.