

Ardrossan and Arran, Saltcoats and Stevenston Area Committee  
11 June 2009

**STEVENSTON, 11 June 2009** - At a Meeting of the Ardrossan and Arran, Saltcoats and Stevenston Area Committee at 2.00 p.m.

**Present**

Anthony Gurney, Margie Currie, William Gibson, Ronnie McNicol, David Munn and Alan Munro.

**In Attendance**

I.T. Mackay, Assistant Chief Executive (Legal and Protective); J. McHarg, Learning Manager, Capacity Building, and B. Anderson, Performance/Grants Information Officer (Community Learning and Development) (Educational Services); J. Cumming, Project Officer, M. Anderson, Committee Services Officer and D. McCaw, Committee Services Support Officer (Chief Executive's).

**Also In Attendance**

S. Leary and I. Brown (Strathclyde Police); and L. Elliot (Strathclyde Fire and Rescue).

**Chair**

Councillor Gurney in the Chair.

**Apologies for Absence**

John Hunter and Peter McNamara.

**1. Strathclyde Police**

Sergeant Leary provided information on the following issues:-

- The ongoing action to tackle disorder and related issues in the Hayocks area of Stevenston;
- The assistance provided by the Police to the newly formed Stevenston Community Council which meets on the first Tuesday of every month in the High Kirk Hall;
- The continuing provision of 4 Community Police Officers mainly serving the Saltcoats area of Ward 4;
- Police personnel changes within the Committee area, including secondments to Arran;
- Operation Mermaid which was carried out by the Traffic Division to target bogus workmen;
- Operation Impact which targeted drug dealers across North Ayrshire and resulted in 10 arrests within the 3 Towns area and a number of drug offence charges being made;

- Operations Nelson and Fleet which is a multi-agency initiative involving the use of probationers to provide high visibility policing to target crime and disorder throughout the area; and
- multi-agency work as part of Operation Fleet, to tackle drugs and other offences in relation to the travelling community.

Councillor Gurney advised of a request he had received from Winton Primary School for a Police Officer to be in attendance at school drop off and pick up times to ensure that the "no parking" areas remained unobstructed by cars. Sergeant Leary indicated that he would action this matter.

Noted.

## **2. Strathclyde Fire and Rescue**

Submitted report by Strathclyde Fire and Rescue on activity from 1 January to 25 May 2009, which provided information on property fires, secondary fires and community initiatives in the Three Towns area.

Station Commander Elliot highlighted the following:-

- The reduction in the number of fires involving property within the Committee area in 2009, compared the same period last year;
- The continuation of the Home Fire Safety Visit initiative;
- The successful continuation of the Firereach and Work Experience courses at Dreghorn Community Fire Station;
- The first North Ayrshire schools advocates meeting, which took place in January 2009 involving a junior and senior pupil from all North Ayrshire mainland schools;
- The Arran Avoids Accidents community safety learning event, which took place at Lamlash Fire Station on 10 March 2009 for primary school pupils and at Lamlash Pier on 11 March 2009 for Arran High school pupils;
- The allocation of School Liaison Firefighters to the 8 mainland North Ayrshire schools to deal with fire safety issues;
- The new Reckless Driving Wrecks Lives presentation which was recently held at the Odeon Cinema, Ayr and attended by S5 and S6 pupils from most North Ayrshire secondary schools;
- The siting of the mobile Community Safety Vehicle outside Asda, Irvine on 19 May 2009 as part of the Community Planning Partnership week; and
- The chip pan demonstration unit, which will be at Eglinton Park, Kilwinning from 1 to 19 June 2009 for the Clued Up Kids experiential learning partnership event.

Members asked questions, and received further information on:-

- The definition of secondary fires;
- The number of false alarm calls which Fire and Rescue attend; and
- Grass fires along the railway line in Stevenston, and particularly behind Auchenhavie caravan site.

Noted.

### **3. New Schools within the Committee Area**

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Educational Services) providing feedback on questions raised at the Committee meeting held on 23 April 2009 in relation to the new schools within the Committee's area.

Members expressed concern that the 4 full size grass pitches at Laighdykes are categorised as Grade C and information was requested on the contractual agreement details with regard to these pitches. The Committee requested that a representative from Educational Services involved with the PPP Team process be invited to attend the next meeting to address the concerns raised.

The Committee agreed that a representative of Educational Services' PPP Team be invited to attend the meeting of the Area Committee scheduled for 22 October 2009 to address the Members' concerns in relation to the new schools in its area.

### **4. Roads Issues**

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Property Services) on progress in respect of roads issues previously raised by the Committee at its meetings on 23 October 2008 and 18 December 2008.

The Committee Services Officer clarified that, with reference to Section 2.1(a) of the report, the meeting between the traffic section and traffic police should have taken place on 1 June 2009 and not 1 July 2009, as stated in the report and that the meeting in question had now been postponed.

Members expressed concern regarding the following issues:-

- The lack of progress to date regarding the proposed revision of the bus lane order in Stevenston and concern over the low priority given to this matter;
- The value of allowing general access to bus lanes outwith peak times, as is the case in some other areas;

- The matter of moving the taxi rank at Princes Street, Ardrossan being considered in conjunction with discussions with Network Rail regarding the railway crossing at Princes Street. Members were of the view that these issues should be considered separately as the rail issue is more complex and could further delay the moving of the taxi rank; and
- The deteriorating condition of roads on Arran. Councillor Currie advised of her intention to promote the idea of trunking roads on the Island in an effort to secure capital funding for their improvement.

The Committee agreed (a) to receive an update on road issues at the meeting to be held on 22 October 2009; and (b) that a representative from Roads Services be in attendance at that meeting.

## **5. North Ayrshire Community Benefit Fund**

### **5.1 Criteria for Disbursements**

Submitted report by the Assistant Chief Executive (Legal and Protective) on the background to the criteria for the disbursement of monies in respect of the Community Benefit Fund.

In November 2007, the Council had agreed to establish a Community Benefit Fund Committee and that the funding provided by Airtricity Developments Limited, in connection with the windfarm at Busbie Muir, Ardrossan, would be available for projects throughout North Ayrshire, with the exception of West Kilbride as that community had a separate agreement with the company. The Council further agreed at that meeting that funding from Airtricity be ring-fenced for use for the benefit of the people of Ardrossan and that decisions thereon be made by the Area Committee.

The disbursement of monies was the subject of further discussion at an informal meeting on 26 March 2009, involving Members from Wards 4 and 5, officers of the Council and representatives of Airtricity. At this meeting, options were considered to clarify the arrangements for disbursement of the funds. Of these, Airtricity favoured the drafting of a revised Minute of Agreement to ring-fence (a) the £12,000 recurring funding in relation to the windfarm behind Ardrossan, for projects benefitting the community of Ardrossan and (b) the £6,000 recurring funding in respect of the extension to the windfarm behind Ardrossan, for projects benefitting the communities of Saltcoats and Stevenston. There would be provision within the revised Minute of Agreement for any monies from either ring-fenced pot which remained unspent by a given deadline annually to be made available to projects outwith the Three Towns area.

The Assistant Chief Executive (Legal and Protective) advised that Airtricity has indicated that it would prefer the above option to be amended to include Arran in the £6,000 allocation proposed for the Saltcoats and Stevenston areas.

Members discussed the various options for disbursement of the Fund.

Councillor Munro, seconded by Councillor Currie, moved that the Area Committee agree to allocate £10,000 of the funding to Ardrossan, £2,000 to Arran and £6,000 to the Saltcoats and Stevenston area.

As an amendment, Councillor Gibson, seconded by Councillor McNicol, proposed that the Area Committee accept the option to allocate £12,000 of funding to Ardrossan and £6,000 to the Saltcoats and Stevenston area only.

On a roll call vote, there voted for the amendment, Councillors Gibson, McNicol and Gurney and for the motion Councillors Munro, Currie and Munn. On the casting vote of the Chair, the amendment was declared carried.

Accordingly, the Committee agreed, subject to the agreement of Airtricity, that a revised Minute of Agreement be drafted to (a) ring-fence £12,000 recurring funding in relation to the windfarm behind Ardrossan, for projects benefitting the community of Ardrossan and £6,000 recurring funding in respect of the extension to the windfarm behind Ardrossan, for projects benefitting the communities of Saltcoats and Stevenston; and (b) provide for any monies from either ring-fenced pot which remain unspent by a given deadline annually to be made available to projects outwith the Three Towns area.

## **5.2 Applications for Financial Assistance**

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on applications for financial assistance received in respect of the Community Benefit Fund.

The Committee agreed to defer consideration of both applications pending agreement in connection with the disbursement of monies from the Fund.

## **6. Community Development Grants and Local Youth Action Fund 2009/10: Applications for Financial Assistance**

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

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

### **Community Development Grant Scheme**

<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Award</b>
The Three Towns Firework Festival Group	£1,200
Ardrossan Highland Games	£1,500
The Cronies Social Club of Stevenston and District	£1,000
Evolution Skate Park Scotland Ltd.	£2,000
The Autumn Club	£ 450
Arran Theatre and Arts Trust	£1,500
Hit-It	£2,034
Ardrossan Youth Association	£2,000

### **Local Youth Action Fund**

<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Award</b>
Arran Sports Association Ltd.	£1,000
Evolution Skate Park Scotland Ltd.	£2,000
School Daze Project	£1,500

(b) continue consideration of the application from Ardrossan Eglinton Angling Club for clarification on the possible purchase of Busbie Muir Reservoir; and (c) refuse the application from Arran Highland Dancers Club, continued from the last meeting.

## **7. Grants to Elderly Groups**

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on the distribution of Corporate Grants for elderly groups within the Committee's area in 2009/10.

The Executive, at its meeting held on 10 March 2009, agreed to allocate £19,720 for disbursement to elderly groups in the Ardrossan and Arran, Saltcoats and Stevenston area.

Elderly grants are traditionally paid to fund social events such as summer outings and Christmas lunches. Awards can now be used to support other activities including running costs of centres.

The Committee agreed to make the following awards, to be paid in 2 instalments:-

<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Award</b>
Age Concern Arran Branch	£3,510.43
Age Concern Stevenston	£4,600.72
Ardrossan Old People's Welfare Committee	£4,806.73
Saltcoats Old People's Welfare Committee	£6,802.11

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

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

Concern was expressed by the Committee at the wording of the comments from Legal and Protective in connection with grants to private clubs. The Assistant Chief Executive (Legal and Protective) advised the Committee that, with regard to future applications from private clubs, if membership of that Club is effectively open and unrestricted, then the Committee will be advised that a grant can be made.

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

<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Award</b>
The Cronies Social Club of Stevenston and District	£2,000
Chelsea Burns	£ 500, on the basis that the applicant is raising the profile of Stevenston and will pass on her skills to local young people
Ardeer IT Group	£ 500

and (b) that the Assistant Chief Executive (Legal and Protective) amend the assessment and reporting mechanisms within his Service, as they relate to applications submitted by private clubs.

## **9. Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Area Committee will be held on Thursday 20 August 2009 at 11.00 a.m. in the Council Offices, Lamlash, Isle of Arran.

Noted.

## **10. Future Agenda Items**

The Committee agreed that any items for consideration at the next meeting of the Area Committee, with specific reference to Arran, should be submitted to M. Anderson or D. McCaw.

The Meeting ended at 3.25 p.m.