

Garnock Valley, North Coast, Arran and Cumbrae Area Committee
2 June 2006

BEITH, 2 June 2006 - At a Meeting of the Garnock Valley, North Coast, Arran and Cumbrae Area Committee of North Ayrshire Council at 10.00 a.m.

Present

Richard Wilkinson, John Bell, Margie Currie, Jean Highgate, Elisabeth Marshall, Robert Rae, John Reid and Ian Richardson.

In Attendance

I Mackay, Assistant Chief Executive (Legal and Protective); A Milson, Learning Manager, Quality Development and D Whyte, External Grants Development Officer, Community Learning and Development (Educational Services); C McCourt, Finance Manager (Finance); J Mason, Transport Manager (Property Services); M Francey, Local Manager (Social Services); C Hollas, Monitoring and Support Officer, Community Planning; and M Anderson and C Graham, Corporate and Democratic Support Officers (Chief Executive's).

Also In Attendance

Inspector N Kerr and PC R McCormick (Strathclyde Police); and Station Manager D Davidson (Strathclyde Fire and Rescue).

Chair

Councillor Wilkinson in the Chair.

Apologies for Absence

Alan Hill and Elizabeth McLardy.

1. Minutes

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 13 April 2006, copies of which had previously been circulated, were confirmed.

2. Declarations of Interest

Councillor Wilkinson declared a non-pecuniary interest in the application from Hansel Alliance (HASTE) at Item 5 on the agenda, vacated the Chair during consideration of that application and took no part in the discussion thereon.

Councillor Marshall declared a non-pecuniary interest in the application from the Largs Viking Festival at Item 7 on the agenda.

Councillor Richardson declared a non-pecuniary interest in the application from the St Inan's Festival at Item 7 on the agenda and took no part in the discussion thereon.

Councillor Highgate declared a non-pecuniary interest in the applications from the Beith Town Centre Initiative and the Beith Playpark Action Group at Item 7 on the agenda and took no part in the discussion thereon.

Councillor Reid declared a non-pecuniary interest in the application from the Isle of Cumbrae RBLs Pipe Band, which was considered as an urgent item, and took no part in the discussion thereon.

3. Strathclyde Police

Submitted reports by Strathclyde Police on (a) trends in crime figures in the Committee's area in the period from 27 March to 7 May 2006; (b) the Mobile Police Office; and (c) the Community Well-Being Fund.

(a) Crime Trends

Inspector Kerr reported on progress in the detection of a number of high profile offences, including an attempted murder, 2 serious assaults and an attempted robbery. He advised that Action Plans have been implemented to tackle instances of youth-related anti-social behaviour in the Fudstone area of Kilbirnie, West Kilbride and Largs and that there has been partnership working with the British Transport Police to tackle disorder on the trains between West Kilbride and Largs.

Information was provided on the launch on 26 May 2006 of a knives amnesty as part of the ongoing 'Safer Scotland' campaign.

Inspector Kerr also reported on a DVD on youth disorder which is being piloted in secondary schools within the Irvine area and which, it is hoped, will be rolled out to other parts of North Ayrshire.

Members advised of concerns in relation to speeding cars along Greenock Road, Largs and into Skelmorlie and requested Strathclyde Police to make a concerted effort to tackle the problem.

Noted.

(b) Mobile Police Office

Inspector Kerr introduced Constable Robert McCormick, the officer responsible for the mobile police office. The mobile office was officially launched on 9 January 2006 and operates principally Monday to Friday, from 8 a.m. until 4 p.m. It is proposed, however, that the mobile office will also be utilised during the summer evenings and will be in attendance at some special events over the summer period.

In the period from 18 April to 19 May 2006, the mobile office received a total of 59 visitors and dealt with complaints, requests for information, crime prevention enquiries and a road accident.

The Committee agreed to request Strathclyde Police to (a) consider the possibility of the mobile police unit visiting Barrmill; and (b) provide a further report on the operation of the mobile police unit to the Committee in the autumn of 2006.

(c) Strathclyde Police Community Well-Being Fund

The Local Government in Scotland Act 2003 provides the opportunity for agencies including Joint Police Boards to use funding secured from the Proceeds of Crime Act to promote and improve the well-being of their area. In 2004/05, Strathclyde Police secured funding under the scheme and launched a pilot Community Well-Being Fund to support local projects in the Paisley area. The Joint Police Board subsequently approved the roll out of the funding to all Divisions.

Within North Ayrshire, Community Officers have been liaising with community groups to identify potential projects or initiatives which may be suitable for funding of up to £500. The Community Well-Being Fund will continue in 2006/07 and Community Officers will again engage with community groups on the distribution of funding.

Examples of successful projects in the Committee's area in 2005/06 include:-

- an anti-vandalism DVD in the Garnock Valley
- repairs to the Ardrossan and Largs Sea Cadet hut and
- the Arran Cycle Safe Project

The Committee agreed to request Strathclyde Police to report to the Committee on funding provided to groups within the Garnock Valley, North Coast, Arran and Cumbrae over the course of the year.

4. Strathclyde Fire and Rescue

Submitted report by Strathclyde Fire and Rescue on activities within the Committee's area in the period 13 April to 22 May 2006.

During the period of the report, 84 emergency calls were attended by Strathclyde Fire and Rescue, 13 of the incidents resulting in the recording of a fire report.

There continues to be concern regarding the number of vehicle fires in the Committee's area and the Service is working with Strathclyde Police to address particular incidents occurring in the early hours of the morning.

A total of 35 secondary fires were attended, a slight increase on the previous report. This continues to be a concern for the Fire and Rescue Service and accounts for 42% of the service's activity. The number of grass fires has reduced by 50% (from 20 to 10) but refuse fires have more than doubled to 25. Malicious calls have also become a major issue in the reporting period, with 10 recorded between 16 April and 19 May 2006.

The Fire and Rescue Service's commitment to carrying out home fire safety visits continues and it is anticipated that a dedicated Community Firefighter will be in post within North Ayrshire in the near future to promote this initiative.

The Service recently attended Dalry Nursery School, passing on fire safety education to the nursery pupils and teachers, and will continue to visit schools and groups on request.

Noted.

5. Regenerating Our Community Fund 2006/07

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on applications received for financial assistance from the Regenerating Our Community Fund 2006/07.

As the Chair had declared an interest in application no. 34 (Hansel Alliance) he vacated the Chair when this application was being considered. Councillor Richardson took the Chair at that point and, following consideration of the application, Councillor Wilkinson resumed the Chair.

The Regenerating Our Community Fund has a budget of £125,000 per year for 3 years. The Fund is available to community/voluntary organisations, as well as frontline statutory agency staff, who are working together with local communities to support community-based initiatives which benefit the people living in the Regeneration Areas.

Forty-one applications, totalling £512,491, were received for 2006/07, including 15 North Ayrshire-wide applications and 5 in the Committee's area. An application from the Garnock Addiction Family Foundation (ALBA Project) was, however, subsequently withdrawn. The Committee expressed concern over the process for consideration of the applications. Councillor Bell requested, for information, a copy of the application submitted by NAC Educational Services - North Ayrshire Community Sports Club.

After a lengthy discussion, the Committee agreed (a) to approve the Appraisal Panel's recommendations and make the following awards:-

Organisation	Award
NAC Educational Services St Bridget's Breakfast Club, Kilbirnie	£ 8,238
NAC Community Learning and Development Kilbirnie Youth Project	£10,000
NAC Social Services Gypsy Travellers Project	£ 8,000
NAC Community Learning and Development Community Support Programme	£12,000
North Ayrshire Women's Aid Open Doors	£10,000
NAC Educational Services North Ayrshire Community Sports Club	£10,000
Befriending and Respite Services (BARS) Young People Outreach Service	£ 9,135
Volunteer Centre North Ayrshire First Steps	£ 5,000

and (b) to advise the Community Planning Partnership of the Committee's concerns about the current mechanism for processing applications and request consideration of a revised process for 2007/08.

6. Traffic Management

The Transport Manager (Property Services) advised the Committee of the undernoted traffic management issues within the Committee's area:-

- the installation of traffic signals at the Lynn Bridge in Dalry
- the installation of traffic calming measures at Blair Road in Dalry
- a study in relation to conditions on the A737
- the introduction of 20 mph speed restrictions in the vicinity of the schools on Arran
- consideration of a number of amendments to the Largs Traffic Management Scheme, following which the Scheme will again be advertised for consultation prior to commencement of works after the summer period
- an examination of conditions at Eglinton Street/Roebank Road, Beith

- the provision of a traffic island on the Beith relief road and
- the preparation of Route Accident Reduction Plans for 2 'B' class roads in the Garnock Valley area.

The Transport Manager confirmed that the Roads Service had received a request to site a pedestrian crossing at James Street, Dalry, which would be given consideration in due course.

Noted.

7. Community Development Grants Scheme and Local Action Fund

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Educational Services) on awards paid to 17 May 2006, including the balances of funding remaining, and applications received in respect of the Community Development Grants Scheme and the Local Action Fund.

The Learning Manager, Quality Development, advised that outstanding financial information in respect of the West Kilbride Environment Group application had been submitted by the Group.

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

Community Development Grants Scheme

Organisation	Award
Kilmory Public Hall Committee	£1,500
North Ayrshire Sports Council	£1,500
Largs Viking Festival	£2,500
Lochranza Village Hall	£1,500
St Inan's Festival Committee	£ 750 to be paid with immediate effect
Beith Town Centre Initiative	£1,000
Beith Playpark Action Group	£ 300 and that the Group be advised to seek assistance from the External Grants Development Officer on funding from other sources
Largs Museum Trust	£ 500
Indian Traders	£ 203.25
Arran Farmers Society	£1,000
Largs & District Community Association	£3,000
Friends of the Elderly Group - Millport	£ 250 and that the Group be advised to seek assistance from the External Grants Development Officer on funding from other sources

West Kilbride Environmental Group	£ 465
Isle of Arran Music Society	£ 181.75

Local Action Fund

Organisation	Award
Arran Junior Singers	£1,500
Beith Playpark Action Group	£2,000
STEPS Programme	£1,000
Arran Junior Football Club	£1,000
The Film Factory	£ 900
Arran Sports Association Limited	£1,800

(b) noted that the budget for the Community Development Grants Scheme in financial year 2006/07 has now been fully committed; and (c) agreed that the Corporate Director (Educational Services) report to a future meeting of the Committee with a breakdown of Community Development Grants awarded, together with proposals for the consideration of applications in 2007/08.

8. Largs: Routenburn: Golf Houses

Submitted report by the Assistant Chief Executive (Legal and Protective) on the position with regard to the sale of the Routenburn Golf Houses, Largs.

The agents acting on behalf of the owners of the area of the ground at the houses, to which the Council does not have title, have now intimated the terms on which their clients would be prepared to settle. The terms have been deemed to be reasonable and the Principal Estates Officer is currently in discussion with the agents to agree the precise boundary line of the ground to be conveyed to the Council. Once agreement has been reached, the appropriate officers will proceed with the acquisition of a title which will allow the Council to place the 2 houses on the market for sale.

It is anticipated the houses will be marketed for sale at an early date, with the net profit from the sales credited to the Largs Common Good Fund capital account.

Noted.

9. Largs Common Good

9.1 Draft Accounts 2005/06

Submitted report by the Assistant Chief Executive (Finance) on the draft accounts in respect of the Largs Common Good Fund for the year to 31 March 2006 and suggesting a level of income which should be made available for grants in 2006/07.

The Committee agreed to award grants to a maximum of £17,550 in 2006/07, including grants totalling £12,100 which have been awarded to date.

9.2 Applications for Financial Assistance

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on awards paid to 17 May 2006 and on an application for financial assistance from the Largs Common Good Fund.

The Committee agreed to make the following award:-

Organisation	Award
Largs and District Round Table	£1,000 underwrite

10. Margaret Archibald Bequest

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on applications for financial assistance from the Margaret Archibald Bequest.

The Committee agreed to make the following awards:-

Organisation	Award
Dalry Old Folks Welfare Committee	£5,000
Dalry Old Folks Treat Committee	£3,000

11. Millport Common Good

11.1 Draft Accounts 2005/06

Submitted report by the Assistant Chief Executive (Finance) on the draft accounts in respect of the Millport Common Good Fund for the year to 31 March 2006 and suggesting a level of income which should be made available for grants in 2006/07.

The Committee agreed to award grants to a maximum of £1,620 in 2006/07, including a grant of £800 which has been awarded to date.

11.2 Applications for Financial Assistance

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on awards paid to 17 May 2006 and applications for financial assistance from the Millport Common Good Fund.

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

Organisation	Award
Friends of the Elderly, Millport	£410
Cumbræ Scottish Country Dancing Association	£410

and (b) noted that the budget for the Millport Common Good Fund in financial year 2006/07 has now been fully committed.

12. Future Agenda Items

The Committee agreed that any items for inclusion on future agendas should be submitted to M Anderson, Corporate and Democratic Support Officer.

13. Urgent Items

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

13.1 Town Twinning Support Fund

Submitted report on an application for financial assistance from the Town Twinning Support Fund.

The Committee agreed to make the following award:-

Organisation	Award
Isle of Cumbræ RBLS Pipe Band	£1,000

The meeting ended at 11.50 a.m.