

Ardrossan and Arran, Saltcoats and Stevenston Area Committee
17 December 2009

STEVENSTON, 17 December 2009 - At a Meeting of the Ardrossan and Arran, Saltcoats and Stevenston Area Committee of North Ayrshire Council at 2.00 p.m.

Present

David Munn, Anthony Gurney, Margie Currie, William Gibson, John Hunter and Alan Munro.

In Attendance

J. McHarg, Learning Manager, Capacity Building (Community Learning and Development) (Educational Services); C. Forsyth, Assistant Transportation Manager, and D. Hilditch, Technician (Roads) (Property Services); J. Cumming, Project Officer, Economic Development, M. Anderson, Committee Services Officer and D. McCaw, Committee Services Support Officer (Chief Executive's).

Also In Attendance

Chief Inspector D. Conquer (Strathclyde Police); L. Brady, Community Safety Co-ordinator (Strathclyde Fire and Rescue) and P. Allison (Airtricity Developments Limited).

Chair

Councillor Munn in the Chair.

Apologies for Absence

Peter McNamara and Ronnie McNicol.

1. Declarations of Interest

In terms of Standing Order 16, Councillor Gurney declared an interest in Agenda Item 4: Community Benefit Fund: Applications for Grant Aid: Winton PS Parent Council, and took no part in the discussion thereon.

2. Strathclyde Police

Chief Inspector Conquer provided information on the following issues:-

- Operation Noel, which is part of the Safer Streets festive initiative and will run until 3 January 2010. The initiative involves additional officers on high visibility patrols; taxi marshals in town centres; partnership working with Trading Standards on the sale of alcohol to under 18s, and a focus on domestic violence incidents by enforcing outstanding warrants and supporting victims;
- the National drink driving campaign which includes additional powers to Police to seize vehicles;

- the discos at the Metro in Saltcoats, run by the Campus Officers, for S1/2 pupils from the 3 secondary schools in the area;
- the work with North Ayrshire Council to develop a protocol to ensure that independent security companies are industry approved;
- the theft of copper cabling from the Nobel/ICI premises in Stevenston; and
- the pro-active work of the Police on Arran in detaining the offender responsible for 7 break-ins in the Blackwaterfoot/Machrie area.

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

- the involvement of members of the local community in detaining the suspect responsible for the break-ins in the Blackwaterfoot/Machrie area;
- the ongoing investigation into the stabbing which took place at the Metro in Saltcoats; and
- the need for regular visits by the Police to the Metro to monitor anti-social behaviour and underage drinking.

Noted.

3. Strathclyde Fire and Rescue

Submitted report by Strathclyde Fire and Rescue on activity from 13 October to 29 November 2009, which included information on community initiatives, property fires, secondary fires, road traffic collisions and other special services.

The Community Safety Co-ordinator highlighted the following:-

- the success of bonfire night with no attacks on fire crews;
- the reduction in refuse fires from 71 in 2008 to 22 for the same reporting period in 2009; and
- the presentation by Chief Officer Brian Sweeney of an award to 2 local men for the rescue of a man from a property on the shore front at Ardrossan.

Noted.

4. Community Benefit Fund: Applications for Grant Aid

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

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

Organisation

St. Mary's Mini Bus

Winton PS

Award

£1,000 and advise the group to seek alternative avenues for future funding

£1,200

and (b) not to make awards to (i) RENA, and request that they submit a fresh application for consideration before the end of the current financial year detailing how the organisation is progressing; and (ii) Winton FC, and request that they submit a revised application outlining the benefits to the community.

5. Local Youth Action Fund 2009/10: Application for Financial Assistance

Submit report by the Corporate Director (Educational Services) on an application for financial assistance under the Council's Local Youth Action Fund.

The Committee agreed to award £2,000 to Ardrossan Youth Association.

6. Traffic Regulation Order: Harbourside, Ardrossan (Waiting Restrictions)

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Property Services) on progress with regard to the waiting restriction proposals for Harbourside, Ardrossan.

The Area Committee, at its meeting on 22 October 2009, agreed amendments to the proposed Traffic Regulation Order at Harbourside in Ardrossan and that the Head of Infrastructure and Design Services proceed to the next stage of the formal order process. Subsequent discussions with the local Members have resulted in the proposed length of "no waiting" and "no loading" restrictions being reinstated, primarily to improve the safety and operation of the traffic signals and facilitate bus operations.

The amended order will remove all of the proposed waiting restrictions between Glasgow Street/Princes Street traffic signals and the Princes Street level crossing, including the limited waiting. As a result of subsequent discussions with the local Members, the length of no waiting and no loading on Princes Street between the existing bus stop and the traffic signal stop line will be included as per the advertised order. This length of Princes Street will therefore remain unchanged from its current situation, with the exception of the aforementioned no waiting/no loading restriction. The remaining lengths of road will be as per the original traffic order proposals.

No correspondence has been received from any objector in connection with the revised order and, therefore, any objections can be deemed resolved.

The Committee agreed to (a) note that the statutory process is underway for a Traffic Regulation Order, as detailed in the report; (b) note the withdrawal of previous objections; and (c) approve the implementation of the Traffic Regulation Order.

7. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Area Committee will be held on Thursday 18 February 2009 at 2.00 p.m. in the Ardeer Neighbourhood Centre.

8. Future Agenda Items

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

9. Urgent Items

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

9.1 Stevenston Common Good Fund: The International, Historical, Cultural and Geographical Agency Stevenston

The Committee agreed, in terms of Standing Order 19, to suspend Standing Orders to allow reconsideration of the decision taken by the Area Committee at its meeting on 22 October 2009 to grant an underwrite, to a maximum of £9,050, to the International Historical, Cultural and Geographical Agency Stevenston from Stevenston Common Good Fund in connection with costs associated with the publication of a book.

Councillor Munro advised that £15,000 would be required as an underwrite in order to complete publication of the book.

The Committee agreed to amend the maximum underwrite from Stevenston Common Good Fund to £15,000 to the International Historical, Cultural and Geographical Agency Stevenston in connection with costs associated with the publication of the book.

9.2 Bus Route from Stevenston

A member of the public asked whether a response had been received from SPT regarding the request that the existing bus route serving Stevenston be extended to include stops at the Hawkhill retail park and the new Lidl store.

The Committee was advised that Stagecoach (West Scotland) had given consideration to this matter and previously advised the member of the public concerned that it considered the associated cost (in the region of £180,000) to be prohibitive.

The Committee agreed that it be remitted to the Chief Executive to contact the local Morrisons and Lidl stores to determine if there is a commercial case for requesting that the existing bus route serving Stevenston be extended to include stops at the Hawkhill retail park and the new Lidl store.

The Meeting ended at 3.10 p.m.