

Ardrossan and Arran, Saltcoats and Stevenston Area Committee
1 April 2010

STEVENSTON, 1 April 2010 - 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, John Hunter and Ronnie McNicol.

In Attendance

J. McHarg, Learning Manager, Capacity Building and B. Anderson, Performance/Grants Information Officer (Community Learning and Development) (Education & Skills); J. Cumming, Project Officer, Economic Development and M. Anderson, Committee Services Officer (Chief Executive's Service).

Also In Attendance

Station Commander D. Davidson (Strathclyde Fire and Rescue); and Sergeant D. Cameron (Strathclyde Police).

Chair

Councillor Gurney in the Chair.

Apologies for Absence

Peter McNamara, David Munn and Alan Munro.

1. Declarations of Interest

Councillor Gibson declared an interest in Agenda Item 5 (Community Development Grants Scheme: Applications for Financial Assistance) in relation to an application by Ardrossan Academics R.F.C., and took no part in the discussion thereon.

2. Strathclyde Police

Sergeant Cameron provided information on the following:-

- Operation Equinox, tackling gang-related activity and anti-social behaviour;
- Operation Impact, focussing on domestic violence and other crimes of violence;
- Action plans to tackle bogus workers, including work on the island of Arran to be carried out jointly with the Department for Work and Pensions; and
- Crime statistics for the area, which show an overall decrease of 3.8% in reported crimes and a detection rate of 78.4%, with the latter including positive results in relation to robberies/violence and high-profile drug offence detection work.

Members of the Area Committee welcomed the positive statistics provided and discussed a recent meeting between local Elected Members, Katy Clark MP, Irene Oldfather MSP and the Police to consider crime and policing in the Ardeer area in particular.

Noted.

3. Strathclyde Fire and Rescue

Submitted report by Strathclyde Fire and Rescue on activity from 11 February to 23 March 2010, which included information on community initiatives, property fires, secondary fires, flooding incidents and other special services.

Station Commander Davidson referred to the relatively quiet period covered by the report and highlighted the fact that there had been no fatalities during the period covered.

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

- The circumstances of the grass fires referred to in the report, given the recent adverse weather;
- The lack of Home Fire Safety Visits undertaken on Arran; and
- Measures to discourage young people from accessing both vacant buildings in private ownership and other structures such as the Castle in 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	Award
St. John's Primary Parent Council	£950.00
FRIENDS	£1000.00
Glencairn Primary	£1350.00
James McFarlane School	£1500.00
Old Clachan Church Group	£2000.00

5. Community Development Grants Scheme: Application for Financial Assistance 2010/11

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

The Learning Manager, Capacity Building advised that funding in the amount of £16,800 had now been allocated to the Local Youth Action Fund for disbursement by the Area Committee, and suggested that the Area Committee may wish to consider awarding grants from that source to any eligible groups set out in Appendix 1 to the report, rather than from the Community Development Grants Scheme.

The Learning Manager, Capacity Building further advised that the outstanding financial monitoring reports referred to within the Appendix to the report, had now been submitted by relevant groups.

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

Community Development Grants Scheme

Organisation	Award
Saltcoats Gala Committee	£1500.00
International, Historical, Cultural and Geographical Agency	£500.00
Ardrossan Whitlees Community Association	£1,390.00 for the annual summer gala, on the basis that the club may apply separately at a later date for funding for its Christmas events
Brodict Improvements Committee	£1000.00
Whiting Bay Public Hall	£300.00
Retirement Yoga Group	£1500.00
Caledonian Piping Club	£1500.00
Creative Hands for Mission	£778.00
Feis Arainn	£1400.00

Local Youth Action Fund

Organisation	Award
Laighdykes Community Sports and Leisure	£2000.00
Ardrossan Academicals RFC	£2000.00

and (b) continue consideration of (i) the application from Gateside Pony Club, pending receipt of further information on the club, confirmation that it holds a separate bank account, and amendments to its constitution in relation to arrangements for the disbursement of its assets in the event of the club's dissolution; and (ii) the application from Whiting Bay Bowling Club, pending further information on its plans to encourage new members, in particular younger members and the unemployed.

6. Corporate 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 2010/11.

At its meeting on 16 February 2010, the Executive of North Ayrshire Council agreed the disbursement of the Corporate Policy Grants budget for 2010/11, awarding an allocation of £71,683 for disbursement to elderly groups. Of this, the sum of £19,720 has been allocated for disbursement by the Ardrossan and Arran, Saltcoats and Stevenston Area Committee.

Traditionally, the budgets allocated to each Area Committee are distributed in two instalments to a number of identified groups within each area to meet costs including those relating to summer outings and Christmas lunches. Appendix 1 to the report set out the allocations by Area Committee, and provided a breakdown of how funding might be allocated to groups in the Ardrossan and Arran, Saltcoats and Stevenston Area based of previous practice.

The Committee Services Officer indicated that, in the absence of Age Concern Arran Branch, the following 7 smaller elderly groups on Arran might instead be invited to apply individually for funding:- Lochranza Wednesday Club, Whiting Bay Thursday Club, Shiskine/Machrie Senior Citizens, Corrie and Sannox Wednesday Club, Lamash Friday Club, Kilmory and Kildonan Senior Citizens and Pirnmill Senior Citizens.

The Committee agreed (a) to make the following allocations from the 2010/11 budget:-

Elderly Grants

Organisation	Award
Elderly groups on Arran	£3510.43
Age Concern Stevenston	£4600.72
Ardrossan Old People's Welfare Committee	£4806.73
Saltcoats Old People's Welfare Committee	£6802.11

and (b) in the absence of Age Concern Arran Branch, that the Council for Voluntary Service on Arran be instead invited to co-ordinate applications by the elderly groups on the island.

7. Stevenston Common Good Fund

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

The Committee agreed to make an award of £600 to Ardeer Rec Bowls Club (Ladies Section), on the basis that the proposed display of memorabilia and photographs would be available for the wider public to view and the club itself can be used by the community in Stevenston, irrespective of ethnicity, nationality, sex, age or religion.

8. Isle of Arran: Corrie: Site at Corrie Quay: Street Naming for Housing Development by Trust Housing Association / Isle of Arran Homes

Submitted report by the Solicitor to the Council on a proposed name for the new street within the development of a site at Corrie Quay, Corrie, Isle of Arran.

Members considered the alternative name “Red Quarry” suggested by the local community.

The Committee agreed (a) in principle, that the development be named “Red Quarry”; and (b) that if a suffix, such as “Road”, is required for the name in question, it be remitted to the Senior Planning Technician, in consultation with the local Members for Ardrossan and Arran, to determine an appropriate suffix for the street name.

9. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Area Committee is due to be held on Thursday 13 May 2010 at 2.00 p.m. in the Ardeer Neighbourhood Centre, subject to any necessary change following confirmation of the date of the forthcoming UK Parliamentary Election.

Noted.

10. 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.

The Meeting ended at 3.05 p.m.