

Garnock Valley Area Committee
17 February 1998

Dalry, 17 February 1998 - At a Meeting of the Garnock Valley Area Committee of North Ayrshire Council at 10.30 a.m.

Present

Robert Reilly, James Jennings, Thomas Morris and George Steven.

In Attendance

J. McHarg, Community Services Development Manager and J. McKinlay , Area Community Development Officer (Community and Recreational Services); T. Jones, Operations Manager, Cleansing (Commercial Services); C. Hamilton, Area Services Manager (Social Work); J. Ferguson, Assistant Principal Estates Officer (Legal Services); W. Telford, Senior Accountant (Financial Services); J. Bannatyne, Administration Officer and D. McCaw, Assistant Administration Officer (Chief Executive).

Also In Attendance

Chief Inspector P. Collier and Inspector C. McCreath (Strathclyde Police); and T. Barr, Community Fire Officer (Strathclyde Fire Brigade).

Chair

Mr. Reilly in the Chair.

Apologies for Absence

Thomas Dickie.

1. Minutes Confirmed

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 6 January 1998, copies of which had previously been circulated, were confirmed.

2. Monitoring Reports

(a) Collection of Bulky Household Items

Submitted report by the Director of Commercial Services on service delivery regarding uplift of bulky household items.

North Ayrshire Council provides a continuing service for the free collection of bulky household items and details of the operation of the service were given in the report. There has been considerable growth in the service to date (i.e. 443 uplifts per week in 1988 and 709 uplifts per week in 1997/8) amounting to a 60% increase since the commencement of the contract. Current performance indicators show that 100% of the uplifts within the scheme are completed within the required timescale in the Garnock Valley area and there has been continued improvement in the PFI figures.

Noted.

(b) Community Development Grants Scheme: Analysis of Grants Paid to 6 January 1998

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on Community Development Grants paid to 6

January 1998 in respect of the Garnock Valley area, including details of the balance of funding remaining.

Noted.

3. Community Development Grants Scheme: Requests for Financial Assistance

Submitted report by the Director of Community and Recreational Services on requests for financial assistance.

(a) Kilbirnie United Burns Club

The Committee agreed to award Kilbirnie United Burns Club £200.

4. Kilbirnie: Drop-In Facilities

(Previous Minute Reference: Garnock Valley Area Committee: 18 November 1997)

The Assistant Principal Estates Officer reported that Solicitors to the Landlords of the Mission Hall, Kilbirnie have been contacted and a draft Lease is now being prepared to allow the establishment of the Mission Hall as a drop-in centre for Kilbirnie. Finance amounting to £5,000 has been approved by the Corporate Strategy Committee for the upgrade of the Hall for this purpose.

The Community Services Development Manager reported progress on the recruitment of additional staff for the drop-in centre in Dalry. A Training Programme for Youth Leaders will commence shortly.

Noted.

5. Public Open Spaces: Playing of Ball Games

(Previous Minute Reference: Community and Recreational Services Committee: 3 February 1998)

Submitted report by the Director of Community and Recreational Services on the playing of ball games in public open spaces.

The Community and Recreational Services Committee on 3 February 1998 remitted to the Area Committee for consideration proposals in relation to the playing of ball games in public open spaces in view of complaints received. These problems are particularly prevalent in housing estates during the summer months.

A number of solutions to control the nuisance were suggested including (a) incorporating features in future open space landscaping to reduce or eliminate the possibility of the playing of ball games; (b) the local community and local members, in association with the Housing Services Directorate, identifying suitable sites where ball games would be acceptable; and (c) the possible introduction of a Bye-Law to control behaviour in public open space.

The Committee agreed (a) to approve the proposals to address the playing of ball games in public open spaces in the terms indicated in the report; and (b) that the Director of Community and Recreational Services, in conjunction with the Legal Services Manager, pursue the introduction of Bye-Laws for the control of behaviour on public open space.

6. Community Safety

(a) Crime Statistics

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on crime statistics within the Garnock Valley for period to December 1997, provided by Strathclyde Police.

The detection rate on crime for the year is currently 38.7%. Instances of car crime and vandalism are down. Serious crime has fallen considerably by 65.5% with a detection rate of 87%.

Total housebreakings remain static at 118 crimes for the year to date as compared to an identical figure last year.

Drug related offences have dropped slightly from 89 to 81, the majority of these offences being for possession of controlled substances. Weapon related offences for the year are down considerably from 61 to 13 in total for the year to date.

Inspector McCreath reported verbally on the up-to-date figures for January 1998 as follows:-

	1997	1998
Kilbirnie	41 crimes	16 crimes
Dalry	25 crimes	15 crimes
Beith	39 crimes	34 crimes

Overall crimes for the Garnock Valley are down by 38% with housebreakings falling by 30%.

Noted.

(b) Fire Statistics

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on Fire Statistics for the period 1 October to 31 December 1997.

The report detailed incidents within the Garnock Valley by station area and using specific Fire Brigade codes. The number of Other Code 3 incidents involving rubbish or skips in Kilbirnie and Dalry for the period was highlighted and it was explained that this particular code included call outs to bonfires in November and in some cases could involve 3 or 4 call outs to the same fire.

Future reports to the Area Committee from Strathclyde Fire Brigade will detail fire statistics as close to the end of the previous month as possible.

Noted.

7. Urgent Items

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

8. Kilbirnie: Closure of Bridgend Community Centre

(Previous Minute Reference: Garnock Valley Area Committee: 6 January 1998)

Representations received from Kilbirnie and Glengarnock Community Association and Kilbirnie and Glengarnock Labour Party against the closure of Bridgend Community Centre, Kilbirnie, were tabled at the Meeting.

The letters of representation expressed concern that proper consultation on the closure had not taken place and that the impact on user groups and the local community in general had not been fully considered. The letter from Kilbirnie and Glengarnock Labour Party also made reference to the inadequacy of play areas in Kilbirnie and the absence of public telephone facilities in the Milton area. The Community Services Development Manager advised the Committee on the circumstances surrounding the closure proposals. He emphasised the difficulties faced by his staff in relation to consultation with and relocation of the various groups/organisations involved as a

result of the very strict timetable which had been set.

The Committee expressed concern that the alternative facilities offered to user groups did not in some cases adequately meet the needs of those groups in relation to their activities and in some cases created car parking problems etc. It took the view that the matter requires to be investigated more fully to ensure that adequate alternative provision is provided to the user groups affected.

After a full discussion, the Committee agreed (a) that the Director of Community and Recreational Services prepare as a matter of urgency a detailed report on the matters raised in the above representations and that this be forwarded direct to the Members of the Garnock Valley Area Committee; and (b) that the Chair make appropriate arrangements to hold a special meeting of the Area Committee for further discussion on this issue.

The meeting ended at 11.35 a.m.