

Ardrossan and Arran, Saltcoats and Stevenston Area Committee
22 October 2009

SALTCOATS, 22 October 2009 - At a Meeting of the Ardrossan and Arran, Saltcoats and Stevenston Area Committee at 2.00 p.m.

Present

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

In Attendance

I.T. Mackay, Assistant Chief Executive (Legal and Protective); J. Leckie, Head of Service, R. Knox, Contract Compliance Officer, J. McHarg, Learning Manager, Capacity Building, and B. Anderson, Performance/Grants Information Officer (Community Learning and Development) (Educational Services); J. McConnachie, 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

Inspector I. Ness and Sergeant A. Keating (Strathclyde Police); Station Commander M. Gallagher (Strathclyde Fire and Rescue); and J. Ledgerwood, Project Manager (Irvine Bay Regeneration Company).

Chair

Councillor Gurney in the Chair.

Apologies for Absence

John Hunter.

1. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest by Members in terms of Standing Order 16.

2. Strathclyde Police

Inspector Ness and Sergeant Keating provided information on the following issues:-

- ongoing Community Policing Action Plans;
- the use of the Falcon speed gun in tackling speeding on Montgomerie Crescent and Argyle Road, Saltcoats;
- the assistance provided by 19 fully trained Special Constables working out of Saltcoats Police Station;
- the ongoing action to tackle disorder and related issues in the Hayocks area of Stevenston together with Stevenston Cross;

- Operation Apache, which involved simultaneous dawn raids on 14 houses to target drug operations;
- Operation Anul, which used DNA packages to apprehend offenders and recover a number of items of stolen property;
- Sub Division action planning, which is resourced by overtime and meets additional policing needs at peak times;
- the Family Connections Initiative which targets children under 8 and, through partnership working with Health and Social Services, provides family intervention work and support mechanisms for parents; and
- partnership work with the Council's Trading Standards (in relation to the sale of fireworks), the Council's Cleansing Service (to ensure the removal of any potential bonfires) and Strathclyde Fire and Rescue (to provide Police support on call-outs on 4 and 5 November) in the lead up to bonfire night.

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

- progress in connection with the allocation of funding for the Warden Service, specifically within the Hayocks area of Stevenston;
- any support which the Licensing Board might be able to provide in relation to alcohol-related disorder in, or near, particular licensed premises;
- utilising the temporary traffic warden on the Isle of Arran in connection with road traffic management at busy ferry arrival times;
- the possible extension of the use of the Falcon speed gun to include the shorefront, North Crescent and Sorbie Road in Ardrossan; and
- the 30 mph limit in force on the road between the Cemetery and Morrisons at Hawkhill, Stevenston and the possibility of adding repeater signs along this stretch of road.

The Committee agreed that (a) the Chief Executive report back to Members on plans to extend the Warden Service to include the Hayocks area of Stevenston; and (b) the Head of Infrastructure and Design (Property Services) investigate the possibility of providing repeater 30 mph speed limit signs on the stretch of road between the Cemetery and Morrisons at Hawkhill in Stevenston.

3. Strathclyde Fire and Rescue

Submitted report by Strathclyde Fire and Rescue on activity from 3 August to 12 October 2009, which included information on community initiatives, property fires, secondary fires, road traffic collisions and other special services.

Station Commander Gallagher highlighted the following:-

- the continuation and promotion of free home fire safety visits within the Committee area;
- firereach and work experience courses involving pupils from Irvine Royal, Greenwood, Kilwinning and Largs Academies; and
- partnership working with Strathclyde Police, the Council's Cleaning Service and the Community Wardens in the lead up to Bonfire Night.

Members received further information on the high number of rubbish fires, particularly involving wheelie bins, in the Hayocks area of Stevenston.

Noted.

4. Community Benefit from Renewable Energy

4.1 Funding from Ardrossan Wind Farm (Scotland) Limited

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on a proposed amendment to the Agreement between Ardrossan Wind Farm (Scotland) Limited and North Ayrshire Council relative to funding given by the Company for community benefit arising out of their windfarm development.

North Ayrshire Council, at its meeting on 9 September 2009, agreed that consideration of an amended Minute of Agreement, as proposed by Ardrossan Windfarm (Scotland) Limited, be remitted to the Ardrossan and Arran, Saltcoats and Stevenston Area Committee for consideration and determination.

The proposed amended Agreement would provide funding on an annual basis of £24,000 divided as follows:-

- £12,000 to Ardrossan;
- £10,000 to the communities of Saltcoats and Stevenston; and
- £2,000 to the Arran community.

Any unspent funds would be advertised and offered to communities within the wider North Ayrshire area.

Councillor McNamara, seconded by Councillor Currie, moved acceptance of the proposed amended Agreement put forward by Ardrossan Windfarm (Scotland) Limited which would allocate annual funding for disbursement to community groups, of £12,000 to the Ardrossan community, £10,000 to the communities of Saltcoats and Stevenston and £2,000 to the Arran community.

As an amendment, Councillor McNicol, seconded by Councillor Gibson, moved that Ardrossan Windfarm (Scotland) Limited be invited to offer an amended proposal, to allocate annual funding for disbursement to community groups, of £12,000 to the Ardrossan community and £12,000 to the communities of Saltcoats and Stevenston only.

There voted for the amendment 2, and for the motion 5, and the motion was declared carried.

Accordingly, the Committee agreed to accept the terms of the amended Minute of Agreement proposed by Ardrossan Windfarm (Scotland) Limited to allocate annual funding for disbursement to community groups, of £12,000 to the Ardrossan community, £10,000 to the communities of Saltcoats and Stevenston and £2,000 to the Arran community, as detailed in Section 3 of Appendix 1 to the report.

4.2. 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 to (a) award £6,000 to the Ardrossan Christmas Decorations Committee; and (b) not to make an award to Ardrossan Eglinton Angling Club at the present time, but to advise the Club that an application can be re-submitted once more detailed plans are in place regarding the purchase of the Busbie Muir Reservoir.

5. Roads Issues: Update

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Property Services) on an update on progress in respect of a number of roads issues which were previously reported to the Area Committee at its meetings held on 23 October and 18 December 2008.

The report summarised the current position on the following:-

- **Speeding Traffic on Eglinton Road and South Beach Road**

No enforcement issues were highlighted as a result of monitoring by Strathclyde Police at both locations over separate 24-hour periods.

- **Implementation of Alterations at Signalised Junction at Glasgow Street/Princes Street**

Recent funding bids by North Ayrshire Council and Irvine Bay Urban Regeneration Company for a larger scheme have been unsuccessful, but alterations to the filter lane are in the capital programme for delivery in this financial year.

- **Traffic Regulation Order: Harbourside, Ardrossan**

Three options have been identified in respect of the proposed Traffic Regulation Order for the Harbourside area in Ardrossan, namely (1) to carry on with the Order process and proceed with objector negotiations to remove the objections; (2) to reduce the extent of the Order to cover Harbour Road/Harbour Street only; and (3) to abandon the proposed Order but continue with additional lane installation, re-locating the taxi rank, and installing the bus pull-in area and loading bay on Harbour Street/Harbour Road.

The Irvine Bay URC representative advised Members of the company's future proposals for the Harbourside area in Ardrossan. The wider area around Glasgow Street will be considered by the Company as part of their 5 year business plan projections. The Company will meet with the Council on this within the next 12 months. Any proposals would, however, require to support the wider needs of the Town Centre regeneration.

During discussion, the Committee also considered the impact on local businesses and local residents on parking restrictions.

- **Proposed Revision of Bus Lane Order: Stevenston**

The bus lanes have been reduced in length as a trial at (i) the Hayocks roundabout approach to help the access into Hillcrest Drive, Dubbs Road, etc, (ii) the Pennyburn roundabout to encourage more stacking length for all vehicles approaching the Pennyburn roundabout from the retail park roundabout and (iii) the exit from the retail park approaching Pennyburn roundabout to help the flow of traffic through the retail park roundabout.

- **Traffic Signals at Sorbie Road and High Road, Ardrossan**

The timings have now been adjusted at this junction to maximise the green time given to the right hand turn manoeuvres into Sorbie Road from High Road. A new set of traffic signals to bring this junction up to the latest specification would require a sum of £20,000 and this will require to be assessed on priority terms with other requests for replacement of other signalised junctions throughout North Ayrshire.

The Committee agreed that (a) in relation to the proposed Traffic Regulation Order at Harbourside in Ardrossan, the Head of Infrastructure and Design Services (i) proceed with option 2 and drop the limited waiting part of the Order for Princes Street; (ii) seek to achieve the agreement of objectors in relation to the revised Order; and (iii) submit the revised Order to a future meeting of the Area Committee for approval; and (b) the Head of Infrastructure and Design Service be asked to consider, as a priority, works to upgrade the traffic lights at the junction of Sorbie Road and the High Road, Ardrossan.

6. Educational Services Compliance Team

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Educational Services) on an update on new schools within the Area Committee boundary and on the role of the Educational Services Compliance Team.

The Compliance Team monitors both the compliance of the 4 new schools against the output specification of the contract and the financial arrangements and payments related to the contract.

The new schools are, at this stage, the property and responsibility of the contractors. The Council, as the user of the property, has no role in deciding how the buildings are maintained, only in ensuring that the required service is being provided. The contractor is entitled to carry out repairs or other works as necessary without informing the Council as long as there is no impact on the delivery of Council services within the properties. Should any works be likely to impact on term time, however, then the Council will be notified. The contractor is also required to provide a maintenance schedule (PPM) which highlights any planned maintenance tasks.

Members asked questions and were advised as follows:-

- the four grassed pitches at St. Matthew's Academy are Grade C pitches, while the four 7-aside pitches and the pitch on the infield of the athletic track are Grade A;
- a complaint of flooding off the field into Mitchell Place was investigated by the PPP Company, in consultation with Scottish Water;
- following completion of the pitches, the nearby footpath will be reinstated by the company; and
- the Compliance Team will undertake, where possible, to advise local Members of any planned works.

Noted.

7. 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 (a) agreed to make the following awards:-

Community Development Grants Scheme

Organisation	Award
Ardeer IT Support Group	£ 100
St. Mary's Mini Bus Committee	£1,000
The Women's Interest Collective	£1,500
Kilmory Public Hall	£1,500
Ardrossan Learning Forum	£1,000
CLASPS	£2,000
Ardrossan Winton Sports Club	£1,593

Local Youth Action Fund

Organisation	Award
1st Stevenston Boys Brigade	£ 906
North Ayrshire Athletics Club	£1,410
North Ayrshire Amateur Swimming Club	£2,000

(b) agreed not to make an award to Recycling Enterprise North Ayrshire Ltd (RENA) and to advise them to contact the Voluntary Action Fund; and (c) noted (i) that grant funding for the Community Development Grants Scheme had now been fully expended until April 2010; and (ii) that a report would be submitted to a future meeting on recurring funding requests from the Community Development Grant Scheme.

8. Common Good Funds

8.1 Ardrossan/Saltcoats/Stevenston Common Good Funds: Combined Applications

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on applications received from Auchendarvie Ice Dance Figure Skating Club in respect of funding from the Ardrossan, Saltcoats and Stevenston Common Good Funds.

The Committee agreed (a) not to make awards to Auchendarvie Ice Dance Figure Skating Club at this time due to the limited budgets within the Common Good Funds; and (b) to advise the Group that it may wish to re-apply when the new budgets are established on 1 April 2010.

8.2. Ardrossan Common Good Fund

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

The Committee agreed (a) not to make an award to Stewart Murdoch due to the limited budget available within the Common Good Fund; and (b) to advise the applicant to contact Hunterston A and Cunninghame Housing Association for possible funding.

8.3. Stevenston Common Good Fund

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on an application received from the International Historical, Cultural and Geographical Agency Stevenston in respect of funding from the Stevenston Common Good Fund.

The Committee agreed to grant an underwrite, to a maximum of £9,050, to the International Historical, Cultural and Geographical Agency Stevenston in connection with costs associated with the publication of a book on the influence of and relationship between Stevenston and Nobel Explosives.

9. Saltcoats: Site off Moffat Wynd: Street Naming for Housing Development by Miller Homes Ltd.

Submitted report by the assistant Chief Executive (Legal and Protective) on proposed names for 2 new streets within a development off Moffat Wynd, Saltcoats.

The Committee agreed (a) not to approve the proposed names for the 2 new streets; and (b) to remit to the Assistant Chief Executive (Legal and Protective), in consultation with the 4 Local Members, to determine alternative appropriate names for the development.

10. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Area Committee will be held on Thursday 17 December 2009 at 2.00 p.m. in the Ardeer Neighbourhood Centre.

11. 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.

12. Urgent Items

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

13. Bus Route from Stevenston

Members of the public highlighted that the bus service currently serving the Stevenston area does not provide for any stops in the vicinity of local retail premises at Hawkhill or the new Lidl store at Boglemart Street.

The Committee agreed that it be remitted to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Chair, to contact SPT to request 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 4.20 p.m.