

North Coast Area Committee  
5 March 2015

**LARGS, 5 March 2015** - At a Meeting of the North Coast Area Committee of North Ayrshire Council at 2.00 p.m.

**Present**

Alex Gallagher, Alan Hill, Tom Marshall and Grace McLean.

**In Attendance**

L. Taylor, Senior Manager (Resources and Infrastructure) and G. Donaldson, Administrative Officer (Education and Youth Employment); D. Hammond, Senior Manager (Strategic Planning and Infrastructure), J. McKnight, Senior Manager (Community Development), J. McHarg, Community Engagement Manager (Community Engagement Team) and J. Cumming, Project Officer (Economy and Communities); H. Miller, Streetscene Officer (Place); and M. Anderson, Acting Committee and Member Services Manager (Chief Executive's Service)

**Also In Attendance**

Inspector M. Oates (Police Scotland); and D. Blair (Largs Community Council).

**Chair**

Councillor Gallagher in the Chair

**1. Chair's Remarks**

The Chair, in terms of Standing Order 9.3, agreed to vary the order of business to allow later consideration Agenda Item 4.2 (Improvements to Largs Town Centre/Promenade).

**2. Declarations of Interest**

In terms of Standing Order 16 and Section 5 of the Councillors Code of Conduct, Councillor Gallagher, as a member of Largs Viking Festival, declared an indirect pecuniary interest Agenda Item 4.3 (Largs Sea Front Car Park: Update on Projects and Car Park Usage) as it related to the cost of erecting and dismantling the Viking Village.

**3. Minutes**

The accuracy of the Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 22 January 2015 was confirmed and the Minute signed in accordance with Paragraph 7 (1) of Schedule 7 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973.

## **4. CPP Partners**

### **4.1 Police Scotland**

Submitted report by Police Scotland of local interest of the period on 8 January 2015 to 19 February 2015.

The report included information on the following:-

- crime statistics for the North Coast area;
- a number of local action plans to address speeding, housebreaking, mobile phones/disqualified drivers, drug supply and disorder/antisocial behaviour; and
- crimes of note, including offences in terms of the possession of methadone, an attempt to pervert the course of justice, a serious assault, and possession of herbal cannabis.

Further details were provided at the meeting of the following:-

- the background to the 60% detection rate for serious assaults, compared with the high rate of detection for common assaults;
- a recent spate of housebreakings in the North Coast area; and
- the work of the Largs Town Centre officers in relation to parking enforcement.

Members discussed the following:-

- offenders travelling from outwith the area to commit housebreakings; and
- issues around town centre parking enforcement relating to parking in loading/disabled bays and obstructive/dangerous parking.

The Chair, on behalf of the Committee, extended his thanks to Inspector Oates for his contribution to the work of the Area Committee and wished him well in his retirement.

Noted.

## **4.2 Scottish Fire and Rescue Service**

Submitted report by the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service on incidents within the North Coast area during the period 11 January 2015 to 18 February 2015.

The report included information on a small number of incidents, mainly relating to good intent and equipment fault false alarms within Largs and Cumbrae, as well as special services activities.

Members asked questions about the circumstances surrounding a recent fire at Routenburn Golf Club and, in the absence of a representative of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, further information and clarification was provided by Inspector Oates.

Noted.

## **5. Largs Reports**

### **5.1 Largs Campus**

The Committee received a presentation by the Senior Manager (Resources and Infrastructure) (Education and Youth Employment) on the proposed creation of a new education campus on the site of **sportsscotland's** Inverclyde National Centre in Largs, comprising the relocation of Largs Academy, a new primary school (arising from the proposed amalgamation of Brisbane Primary School and Kelburn Primary School), the relocation of St Mary's Primary School and a new early years' centre with provision for children aged 2 to 5 years.

Members discussed the potential for innovation in terms of the design of the new facility, as well as the opportunity to learn from best practice and other recent new schools projects.

Noted.

### **5.2 Largs Sea Front Car Park: Update on Projects and Car Park Usage**

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Place) on the implementation of agreed projects and the usage of the Largs Sea Front Car Park between May and December 2014.

Members discussed the following:-

- the assessment of quality as well as cost when considering the replacement of the gargoyles on the Pencil Monument;
- the steep grading between the Haylie Brae car park and path;
- whether, in future, works to the Haylie Brae car park could be subject to a tendering process;
- maintenance of the Promenade festoon lighting and the extension of the lighting to the Mackerston Green area;

- the removal of the plaque on the cairn at the Pencil Monument and the replacement of some of its stones;
- a desire to improve the appearance of land adjacent to the Haylie Brae road, whether through the introduction of wildflower meadow, or otherwise through the use of gravel, etc.;
- the average usage period of the Largs Seafront Car Park; and
- significant rises in the cost of erecting and dismantling the Viking Village.

The Committee agreed (a) to note (i) the progress on expenditure and the agreed projects to date, including acceptance of the lowest tender of £1,650 in respect of the replacement of two stones on the Pencil Monument and (ii) the usage of the Largs Sea Front Car Park between May and December 2014; (b) to recommend that future works to the Haylie Brae car park should be the subject of a tendering exercise; (c) that the Streetscene Officer (i) obtain quotes for the extension of the festoon lighting to the Mackerston Green area, (ii) update the Committee on the outcome of an assessment of the feasibility of introducing a wildflower meadow adjacent to the Haylie Brae road or, this failing, the use of gravel to improve the appearance of this area and (iii) seek clarification on the increased costs associated with the erection and dismantling of the Viking Village; and (d) to request an update from the Access Officer on the current position with regard to the plaque and stones forming part of the cairn next to the Pencil Monument.

### **5.3 Halkshill and Blairpark, Largs - Proposed Forestry Plantation**

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Economy and Communities) on the progress in respect of the proposed introduction of a significant area of new woodland on land to the east of Largs at Halkshill and Blairpark, and the intention to develop a hydro-electric scheme on the Gogo and Greeto Waters.

The report provided information on the Forestry Commission's role in determining the developer, UPM Tilhill's planting proposals, including the mechanism for consulting local authorities and others.

The Chair invited Douglas Blair of Largs Community Council to provide an update on a recent meeting in respect of the proposal, including issues around the extent of any community and tourism benefit in respect of the project, the impact on the landscape, proposed density and tree types which might be introduced, and the implications of a hydro-electric scheme.

Members discussed the following:-

- the stage at which the Council would submit a consultation response and the mechanism for officers doing so under delegated powers; and
- the importance of seeking to ensure that community and tourism benefits arise from the project.

Mr Blair undertook to provide a copy of his notes for circulation to Members of the Committee and the Senior Manager (Strategic Planning and Infrastructure).

The Committee agreed (a) to note the information provided; and (b) notwithstanding the delegation to officers, to request that local Elected Members are briefed by Officers on the Environmental Statement consultation response.

#### **5.4 Largs Common Good : Applications for Financial Assistance**

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

The Committee agreed to make an award of £2,000 to Largs 1st Responders.

#### **5.5 Improvements to Largs Town Centre/Promenade**

The Committee received a verbal report from the Regeneration Officer (Place) on progress in respect of the Masterplan for Largs Town Centre, advising that the report is expected to be ready for circulation at the end of March/beginning of April prior to formal submission to the Area Committee at its next meeting in May 2015.

Members discussed the following:-

- the positive nature of the consultation process;
- whether the model boat club and Clyde Coastal Rowing Club had been among the groups consulted;
- whether the report would include costings; and
- the possibility of linking into the project input from 6274 Public Art, the software company which provided a presentation to the Committee on the use of interpretative signage and augmented reality technology.

The Committee agreed (a) that the Regeneration Officer (Place) explore further the possibility of incorporating interpretative signage and augmented reality technology into the proposals identified in the Masterplan; and (b) to note that a copy of the Masterplan report would be circulated to Members of the Area Committee prior to being submitted for formal consideration at the next meeting.

### **6. Fairlie Reports**

#### **6.1 Update Report: Economy and Communities**

The Committee received a verbal update from the Senior Manager (Strategic Planning and Infrastructure) on the following:-

- the A78 and plans for officers to meet with Transport Scotland and Fairlie Safer Roads Group to discuss concerns raised by the group in a petition considered by the Scrutiny and Petitions Committee on the subject of safe roads and pavements in the village;
- ongoing discussions between the Executive Director (Economy and Communities) and Clydeport to try to identify potential ways forward to secure additional employment uses at Hunterston (such as offshore/onshore wind manufacturing, maritime decommissioning or biomass power), given the

- significant levels of capital investment which would be required;
- an application by EDF to vary the authorisation permissions in relation to radioactive waste at Hunterston, currently being considered by SEPA; and
- further consultation in respect of Phase 1 of the Shore Path project (coastal path Bay Street to South Car Park) and the significant progress made on the Phase 2 (South Car Park to Hunterston Roundabout).

Members discussed the following:-

- any further consultation opportunities for the Council in connection with EDF's radioactive waste application;
- whether the shore plan improvements would be constructed to an adoptable standard; and
- the nature of EDF's radioactive waste storage proposals.

The Committee agreed (a) that the Senior Manager (Strategic Planning and Infrastructure) provide clarification to Members on any further opportunities for the Council to be consulted by SEPA on the EDF's radioactive waste application; and (b) otherwise, to note the content of the report.

## **7. Cumbrae Reports**

### **7.1 Update Report: Economy and Communities**

The Committee received a verbal update from the Senior Manager (Strategic Planning and Infrastructure) on the following:-

- fuel provision on the island and the need for a suitable community group to show a sufficient level of interest and capacity to deliver the project;
- an unsuccessful bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund for investment in the Millport Conservation Area, an outstanding Historic Scotland bid and the Council's commitment to support any successful bid with a contribution of £500,000 over a 5-year period; and
- the production of a Masterplan for the Garrison House grounds alongside the Cumbrae Community Development Company and the potential for a Compulsory Purchase Order of the Garrison Stables building.

Members discussed the following:-

- whether anything might be done to encourage a community group to take forward the community fuel initiative; and
- concerns about the risk associated with members of the public transporting fuel on the Cumbrae ferry.

Noted.

## **8. Skelmorlie Reports**

### **8.1 Update Report: Economy and Communities**

The Committee received a verbal update from the Senior Manager (Strategic Planning and Infrastructure) on the outcome of a site meeting with local Members, the owner of the Spar shop and a Community Council representative to consider options to alleviate concerns about the bus stop at the Cross, Skelmorlie, and the intention to take a decision on remedial action following feedback from the Community Council on the options.

Noted.

### **8.2 Skelmorlie Community Sports Club**

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Economy and Communities) on work to redevelop the Skelmorlie Football Pitch site.

A list of options for the park development was considered and a short-list presented to the community at an open public meeting. It was agreed that the priority was to provide a facility which could operate throughout the year for the community, including supporting curricular activities by the local primary school and for children and young people after school hours. Phase 1 of the project will focus on the construction of a 40m x 20m Multi Use Games Area (MUGA) along the boundary line of the Primary School. Phase 2 would address drainage of the existing 11-a-side pitch and the surrounding parkland, with an element of test drainage being implemented in Phase 1 on the approach to the MUGA. The report provided information of funding applications to meet the cost of the project.

Members discussed the following:-

- the likelihood of the project securing the necessary funding;
- the condition of existing provision; and
- the challenges associated with drainage issues.

The Committee agreed (a) to record its appreciation of the work done by the Officers in supporting the project; and (b) otherwise, to note the content of the report.

## **9. Community Development Grant Scheme and Local Youth Action Fund: Application for Financial Assistance**

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Economy and Communities) on applications received in respect of the Local Youth Action Fund. The Community Engagement Manager (Community Engagement Team) advised of the receipt of a late grant application from Ayrshire Opera Experience.

The Committee agreed to make the following awards from the Local Youth Action Fund:-

<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Award</b>	
Phil/Scot Trust	£425.00	
St. Mary's Primary School	£600.00	
Largs Events	£1,000.00	
Ayrshire Opera Experience		£892.00, subject to
satisfactory assessment		

## **10. Date and Venue of Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the North Coast Area Committee will be held on 21 May 2015 in the DA Hall, Millport, Cumbrae. Thereafter, meetings will take place on 13 August 2015 (Skelmorlie Community Centre), 24 September 2015 (Fairlie Village Hall) and 19 November 2015 (Largs Library).

Noted.

## **11. Future Agenda Items**

The Committee agreed to note that Members should advise Committee Services of any potential items for inclusion on a future Agenda.

The meeting ended at 3.45 p.m.