

Irvine Area Committee
30 September 2009

IRVINE, 30 September 2009 - At a Meeting of the Irvine Area Committee of North Ayrshire Council at 2.00 p.m.

Present

Pat McPhee, Tom Barr, Matthew Brown, Ian Clarkson, John Moffat, David O'Neill and Joan Sturgeon.

In Attendance

J. McKnight, Principal Officer and B. Anderson, Performance/Grants Information Officer (Community Learning and Development) (Educational Services); J. McConnachie, Transportation Manager and J. McCubbin, Technical Officer (Roads) (Property Services); and A. Little, Committee Services Officer (Chief Executive's Service).

Also In Attendance

Sergeant G. Jones (Strathclyde Police); K. Alcroft (Strathclyde Fire and Rescue); and B. Sturgeon, Fullarton Community Health House.

Chair

Councillor McPhee in the Chair.

Apologies for Absence

Ruby Kirkwood.

1. Declarations of Interest

In terms of Standing Order 16, Councillor Brown declared an non-pecuniary interest in Agenda Item 6 (Irvine Town Centre Partnership) and Councillor Clarkson, as a local resident, declared an interest in Agenda Item 7 (Residents Parking) and neither took part in the discussion thereon.

2. Presentation

The Committee received a presentation by Bobby Sturgeon, Project Co-ordinator on the role of Fullarton Community Health House, which was established in 1989 to preserve and protect the good health, both physical and mental, of those within the Fullarton area. A wide range of services are provided including:-

- Doctors surgery, Podiatry service, Health visitor and Baby Doctor
- Counselling and lifestyle coaching
- Health Checks
- CRAFT (Community Reinforcement and Family Therapy) - programme for recovery from substance abuse problems.

- CallCare 365
- Brief Interventions on alcohol
- Sexual health
- Information support and advice
- Complimentary therapies

Members asked questions and received information on the undernoted:-

- The requirement for larger premises and progress in the identification of suitable accommodation
- Review of GP provision in the Irvine area
- The impact of Irvine Bay Regeneration developments in the local area
- Service Level Agreements and funding streams

Noted.

3. Strathclyde Police

Submitted report by Strathclyde Police on incidents and crime figures in the Committee's area during August 2009.

Sergeant Jones provided details in relation to an attempted murder, crimes of serious assault, a case of public indecency, four incidents of wilful fire raising and incidents in relation to the supply of controlled drugs. Information was also provided on a change to the shift pattern for all North Ayrshire Community Policing Inspectors.

A suspected gang related serious assault took place in the Bourtreehill area recently. In order to prevent further occurrences of violence, an Anti Disorder Action Plan has been initiated which will involve increased levels of uniformed and plain clothed patrol activity in the area.

Discussion took place on the diversionary activities available for young people within the Committee's area and Members considered that further information was required on investment in youth diversionary activities and the existing facilities available for young people.

Members asked questions in relation to the statistical report in terms of vandalism within the Committee's area, the number of public houses and off-licences within the public nuisance category of the report and the bottle identification scheme.

The Committee agreed that (a) the Corporate Director (Educational Services) be requested to report to the next meeting on the level of investment in youth diversionary activities in 2008/09 and the range of existing facilities available for young people in the Committee's area; and (b) Strathclyde Police provide further information on the questions raised in respect of the statistical report and the bottle identification scheme directly to Members.

4. Strathclyde Fire and Rescue

Submitted report by Strathclyde Fire and Rescue on activity from 5 August to 23 September 2009, which provided information on property fires, secondary fires and community initiatives in the Irvine area.

Information was provided in relation to:-

- Fires involving property
- Special Service emergency calls
- Secondary fires
- Malicious calls
- Fire alarm apparatus false alarms
- Home fire safety visits
- Fire reach and work experience courses; and
- School community firefighters

Noted.

5. Community Development Grants Scheme and Local Youth Action Fund 2009/10: Applications for Financial Assistance

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Educational Services) on applications for funding from the Community Development Grants Scheme and the Local Youth Action Fund.

The Committee agreed to make the following awards:-

Community Development Grants Scheme

Organisation

Irvine Beat FM

Award

£1,800, subject to commencement of the project in financial year 2008/09, otherwise the group should apply in financial year 2010/11

Irvine Dreghorn Brass Band

£1,500

Irvine Women's Lunch Club

£1,500

Ayrshire Minority Ethnic Communities (AMECA)

£ 500

Local Youth Action Fund

Organisation

1st and 6th Ayrshire Sea Scouts

Award

£2,000

Irvine Golf Club - Junior Section

Nil

and (b) in relation to the application from Fullarton Community Health House, the Corporate Director (Educational Services) be requested to investigate alternative forms of funding and report to the next meeting of the Committee.

6. Irvine Common Good Fund

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on applications for financial assistance from Irvine Common Good Fund.

Discussion took place on the annual commitments set aside, as detailed in Appendix 1, and the amount set aside for Irvine Town Centre Partnership.

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

Irvine Common Good Fund

Organisation

Irvine Joint Wards Old Folks Committee

Award

£8,000

Irvine and Dreghorn Brass Band

£750, in the event there is no duplication in terms of the application considered at Agenda Item 5

Irvine Old Parish Church

£3,743; and

(b) to annually set aside a total of £4,000 for Irvine Town Centre Partnership.

7. Irvine Town Centre Traffic Management

The Transportation Manager provided information on issues previously raised by the Committee in relation to:-

- Congestion at Riverway and the impact of a new retail development at the former Wilson site

Members viewed a Paramics microsimulation traffic flow modelling system for the Irvine town centre area and specifically the Riverway area.

The Paramics model simulates individual components of traffic flow and congestion, and presents output as a real-time visual display for traffic management and road network design. It models the detailed physical road layout, and includes features such as bus operations, traffic signal settings, driver behavioural characteristics and vehicle kinematics. The model can accurately portray the variable circumstances which leads to congestion in all types and sizes of road networks, interactively test "what if" scenarios and immediately see the results in terms of real-time traffic flows and congestion.

It is anticipated that all major developments will require the submission of a Paramics model to simulate the impact of the development in a variety of circumstances on the traffic management of the area.

- Parking difficulties at West Road, Seagate, Parterre, Kirk Vennel and Kirkgate, Irvine

Members asked questions, and received information in relation to the creation of residential zones around town centres, enforcement of traffic and parking regulations and decriminalisation of parking within North Ayrshire.

- Traffic congestion at Greenwood Academy, Dreghorn

Members asked questions and received information in relation to school travel plans and the creation of a further roundabout to alleviate the congestion.

- Traffic restrictions at Irvine Cross and Bridgegate.

The Committee discussed various issues in relation to the enforcement of traffic restrictions at Irvine Cross and Bridgegate.

The Committee agreed that (a) a presentation of the Paramics model submitted by the retailer for the former Wilson site be made to the Committee; (b) the Corporate Director (Property Services) be requested to (i) submit a report on parking and residential zones in Irvine Town Centre to a future meeting; and (ii) investigate the issues surrounding the enforcement of traffic restrictions at Irvine cross and Bridgegate.

8. Street Naming: Irvine: at site off Old Caley Road, Vineburgh Avenue, Wallace Road and Meadow Avenue

Submitted report by the assistant Chief Executive (Legal and Protective) on the proposed name for a street within the development off Old Caley Road, Vineburgh Avenue, Wallace Road and Meadow Avenue, Irvine.

The Committee agreed that the new street within the development be named "New Caley Road".

9. Urgent Item

The Chair agreed that the following item of business be considered as a matter of urgency to update Members on developments.

10. Shopping Trolleys

The Committee was advised that the construction of the new bridge over the River Irvine necessitated the weir to be dropped resulting in a drop in the level of the river. Cleansing staff were able to access the river and have removed 200 shopping trolleys.

Discussion took place on the continuing issue of abandoned shopping trolleys in and around Irvine.

The Committee agreed that the Chief Executive liaise with the local retailers in relation to the issue of abandoned shopping trolleys and the systems in place for collection of these trolleys.

11. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Area Committee will be held on Wednesday 2 December 2009 at 2.00 p.m. in the Committee Room 1, Cunninghame House, Irvine.

Noted.

12. Future Agenda Items

The Committee agreed that any items for inclusion on future agendas be submitted to A. Little, Committee Services Officer.

The Meeting ended at 4.15 p.m.