

Ardrossan and Arran, Saltcoats and Stevenston Area Committee
18 December 2008

SALTCOATS, 18 December 2008 - At a Meeting of the Ardrossan and Arran, Saltcoats and Stevenston Area Committee at 2.00 p.m.

Present

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

In Attendance

J. McConnachie, Transportation Manager and T. Paterson, Assistant Transportation Manager (Infrastructure and Design Services) (Property Services); A. Milson, Learning Manager - Quality Development and B. Anderson, Performance/Grants Information Officer (Educational Services); J. Cumming, Project Officer - Economic Development; J. Murray, Community Planning Co-ordinator and M. Anderson, Committee Services Officer (Chief Executive's).

Also In Attendance

Inspector I. Ness (Strathclyde Police) and L. Elliot (Strathclyde Fire and Rescue).

Chair

Councillor Munn in the Chair.

1. Declarations of Interest

Councillor McNicol declared an interest in Agenda Item 6 (Community Development Grants Scheme and Local Youth Action Fund: Applications for Financial Assistance) with regard to the application from North Ayrshire Sports Council.

2. Strathclyde Police

Inspector Ness provided information to Members on the following:-

- Operation Avalanche, a high-visibility initiative to target issues of public safety and retail crime over the festive period;
- Intensive action to tackle disorder and related issues in the Hayocks area of Stevenston;
- The latest crime statistics, which show a reduction in crimes of violence, an increase in motor vehicle offences and increased instances of fire-raising and related offences.

Discussion took place in respect of the following:-

- The nature of Operation Avalanche;
- The positive reaction from the local community in Stevenston to Strathclyde Police's intensive action to address crime and disorder in the area; and
- The importance of continuing to engage with the local community in Stevenston on a multi-agency basis to reduce crime and disorder and provide recreation opportunities for young people in the area, including pursuing the creation of a community centre facility.

Noted.

3. Strathclyde Fire and Rescue

Lawson Elliot of Strathclyde Fire and Rescue provided information to Members on the following:-

- The provision of 20 liaison officers to work with North Ayrshire schools and support early intervention programmes to educate young people about fire safety issues;
- The ongoing "Fire Reach" courses run at Dreghorn Fire Station; and
- The "Arran Avoids Accidents" experiential learning event planned for March 2009.

Noted.

4. Traffic Regulation Order: Harbourside, Ardrossan - Waiting Restrictions

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Property Services) on waiting restriction proposals for Harbourside, Ardrossan.

Harbour Street and Harbour Road form part of the main distributor route leading from the main A78 trunk road network through Ardrossan to the Ardrossan Ferry Terminal. Princess Street, Ardrossan is classified as a secondary distributor route linking Ardrossan to the centre of Saltcoats. Bute Place and Harbour Place are narrow roads within the Harbourside area and are generally used to gain service access to the new Asda store and local shops. Traffic in the area has increased due to recent developments and is likely to increase further as a result of planned regeneration.

A Traffic Regulation Order is proposed to ensure that key areas are kept clear of parked cars, development proposals for the area are supported, loading facilities are provided for local businesses and the free flow of vehicular traffic is maintained. The proposed Order would introduce various waiting and loading restrictions within Harbour Street, Harbour Road, Harbour Place, Princes Street and Bute Place. In addition, provision is proposed for a loading bay in Harbour Street and for the formation, in conjunction with Asda, the Health Board and Irvine Bay Regeneration Company, of a loading bay and bus lay-by on Harbour Road. The proposals were illustrated in the appendices to the report.

During discussion, the following issues were considered by the Committee:-

- The potential adverse impact on local businesses of the proposed parking restrictions in Princes Street and Bute Place;
- The possibility of relocating the bus stop on Princes Street currently located immediately prior to the Princes Street/Glasgow Street junction;
- The desirability of increasing carriageway capacity by removing/reducing in size the raised flower beds located along the centre of Princes Street;
- The possibility of relocating a large route sign which significantly reduces the daylight entering one of the retail premises on Princes Street;
- The enforcement of any parking restrictions which may be implemented; and
- The importance of ensuring that the proposed loading bay on Harbour Road is of an adequate size to serve nearby business premises.

The Committee agreed (a) that it be remitted to the Corporate Director (Property Services) to proceed to public consultation on the proposed Traffic Regulation Order; and (b) that the outcome of the consultation exercise be reported to a future meeting of the Area Committee for consideration.

5. North Ayrshire Community Benefit Fund

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on applications for grant received in respect of the Community Benefit Fund.

The Fund currently has a balance of £12,087.97 and the Appendix to the report provided an officer assessment of 3 applications received for funding.

The Project Officer (Economic Development) made reference to a minuted decision by the Council on 7 November 2007 that "the funds received from Airtricity in respect of the windfarm behind the town of Ardrossan, not already allocated to West Kilbride, be ring-fenced for use of the benefit of the people of Ardrossan". The Committee was advised that, as the application from Stevenston Christmas Lights had been received after the Council's decision to ring-fence the funding, it was, therefore, ineligible.

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

Organisation	Award
Park Parish Church	£3,500
Winton Rovers Football Club	£2,560

and (b) to refuse the application submitted by Stevenston Christmas Lights on the grounds that it did not meet the eligibility criteria.

6. Community Grants and Local Youth Action Fund 2008/09: 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 agreed to (a) make the following awards:-

Community Development Grants Scheme

Organisation	Award
Arran Torch Players	£659

Local Youth Action Fund

Organisation	Award
Ardrossan Sea Cadets	£2,000
Galloway Youth	£180
North Ayrshire Ice-Hockey Club	£350

(b) continue consideration of the application from North Ayrshire Sports Council to the next meeting; and (c) refuse the application from Ardrossan Bowling Club and suggest that the club make application to the Community Benefit Fund.

7. Future Venue and Meeting Times

The Committee gave consideration to the venue and timing of future meetings.

The Committee agreed (a) that, with the exception of one meeting per year to be held on Arran, future meetings alternate, where possible, between the Civic Centre, Ardeer Neighbourhood Centre and any other suitable venues within the Three Towns; and (b) that, unless otherwise intimated, future meetings commence at 2.00 p.m.

8. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Area Committee will be held on Thursday 19 February 2009 at 2.00 p.m. at a venue to be advised.

9. Future Agenda Items

The Committee noted that any items for consideration at the next meeting of the Area Committee should be submitted to M. Anderson or D. McCaw.

10. Community Planning Presentation

The Committee received a presentation from Justina Murray, Community Planning Co-ordinator. Information was presented on the following:-

- the role of the CPP in bringing together key agencies to plan and deliver better services;
- membership of the CPP, which includes agencies with a statutory duty to participate (the Council (as lead partner), NHS Ayrshire and Arran, Strathclyde Police, Strathclyde Fire and Rescue, Scottish Enterprise Ayrshire, and Strathclyde Partnership for Transport) and other agencies and bodies which contribute to the work of the CPP e.g. local colleges, North Ayrshire Leisure etc;
- the visions and priorities of the Partnership;
- the existing structure of the Partnership and the proposed new structure;
- the development of a CPP Single Outcome Agreement (SOA) by Spring 2009 to replace the existing SOA and the Community Plan and Council Plan;
- the allocation of funding under the Fairer North Ayrshire Fund to tackle poverty and deprivation; and
- the Compact Agreement between the CPP and the community/voluntary sector on how they will work together.

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

- The involvement of elected Members in the community planning process and recent CPP governance review;
- The commitment of the NHS to community planning;
- The allocation of Fairer North Ayrshire funding;
- The reporting mechanism for projects; and
- Access to CPP Board Minutes.

The Committee (a) noted the information presented; and (b) requested that clarification be provided on how elected Members might have early sight of CPP Board Minutes and an explanation of any acronyms or abbreviations contained therein.

The Meeting ended at 3.50 p.m.