

Ardrossan and Arran, Saltcoats and Stevenston Area Committee
14 February 2008

SALTCOATS, 14 February 2008 - At a Meeting of the Ardrossan and Arran, Saltcoats and Stevenston Area Committee of North Ayrshire Council at 3.30 p.m.

Present

David Munn, Margie Currie, William Gibson, Tony Gurney, John Hunter and Alan Munro.

In Attendance

R. Small, Head of Roads and Transportation, J. McConnachie, Transportation Manager, R. Hopewell, Supervisory Engineer (Roads) and T. Jones, Operations and Waste Strategy Manager (Property Services); J. McHarg, Learning Manager, Adult Learning and A. Milson, Learning Manager, Quality Development (Educational Services); J. Murray, Community Planning Co-ordinator, M. Anderson and D. McCaw, Corporate Support Officers (Chief Executive's).

Also In Attendance

G. Guthrie, Principal Engineer (Royal Haskoning Consultants); L. Ferguson, I. Everington and D. Pettigrew (3TFM Community Radio for Health).

Chair

Councillor Munn in the Chair.

Apologies for Absence

Ronnie McNicol.

1. Minutes

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 6 December 2007, copies of which had previously been circulated, were confirmed.

2. Presentation: Saltcoats Flood Prevention Scheme

Greg Guthrie, Principal Engineer, Royal Haskoning Consultants provided a presentation on the Saltcoats Flood Prevention Scheme.

The 2 main areas at risk of flooding are South Bay and the Harbour. Problems in the South Bay area include deterioration of defences, weakness in the wall and overtopping. The Harbour area has the highest defence levels in North Ayrshire and still encounters the problem of overtopping, in particular from the headland down towards the town.

Public consultation has taken place on the options available to combat flooding in these areas. The preferred option involves:-

- the construction of rock control structures within the Harbour which will minimise the impact on this geological Site of Special Scientific Interest;
- the raising of defences north of the Harbour headland; and
- the construction of flood walls and/or banks within the Braes car park area.

There will still be the risk of overtopping around the Braes car park area and drainage will be improved to address this. In implementing the Flood Prevention Scheme the opportunity will be taken, subject to finance being identified, to carry out a range of amenity improvements to the harbour and promenade areas.

Noted.

3. Presentation: 3TFM Community Radio for Health

Louis Ferguson and Iain Everington, 3TFM Community Radio for Health provided a presentation on the background to the station and on the recent award of a Community Radio Licence.

The community radio station has been in operation since 2004. A group of volunteers undertook a learning programme and broadcast entertainment programmes with a focus on community health and well-being and serving the local community of Stevenston, Saltcoats and Ardrossan. They initially broadcast for 28 days, providing 672 hours of music and have, to date, trained 150 volunteers and 30 live presenters and studio crew.

The station has now been awarded a community radio licence which will allow them to broadcast for 365 days per year for the next 5 years.

3TFM has also accessed funding from the North Ayrshire Literacies Action Plan to enable them to deliver their Radio Improving Confidence and Literacies "RADICAL" Programme. The programme is a 12 week accredited training course which uses radio as a vehicle to address the literacy and numeracy needs of adults and young learners.

Noted.

4. Public Convenience Provision within Ardrossan and Arran, Saltcoats and Stevenston

Submitted report by the Corporate Director, Property Services on the current public convenience provision within the Committee's area and, in particular, the Kildonan area of Arran.

Of the 45 public toilets provided by North Ayrshire, 20 of these are located within the Ardrossan and Arran, Saltcoats and Stevenston area. 4 of the 20 facilities are attended toilets, one fully attended and 3 attended on a seasonal basis. The public toilet provision within the Three Towns is complemented by a further 4 automatic public conveniences, 3 of which are capable of meeting the needs of a disabled occupant.

Arran has 10 unattended toilets located throughout the Island, complemented by the provision of 3 automatic public conveniences at Lamlash, Whiting Bay and Blackwaterfoot.

Particular concern was raised regarding the lack of public toilet provision at Kildonan, Isle of Arran. Various options were discussed, including the installation of a portable toilet facility and access to Kildonan Hall toilets. Kildonan Hall Committee has been approached regarding the possibility of the toilets at the Hall being available to the public on a seasonal basis. Further discussion will take place with the Hall Committee on this matter, including the possibility of the Council meeting the cleaning costs for the toilets.

The Committee noted that an update would be provided in due course on the position regarding public convenience access at Kildonan.

5. Support for Voluntary Organisations

(a) Submitted report by Justina Murray, Community Planning Co-ordinator on community needs and concerns in the Hayocks area of Stevenston; and (b) received verbal report from Alan Milson, Learning Manager, Quality Development on support available within Community Learning and Development for voluntary organisations.

The Community Planning Co-ordinator reported on a meeting held at Hayocks Hall on 11 December 2007 to bring together a number of agencies and community representatives working or living in the Hayocks area to collectively discuss and address needs and concerns in the area.

A wide range of problems was identified by the group, with the following 5 issues being explored in more detail:-

- low levels of community participation;
- lack of funding;
- poor inter-agency communication;
- limited community facilities; and
- the need for greater community safety.

The group gave consideration to whether a neighbourhood action planning process could be taken forward in the Hayocks area. This is a localised community planning model which has been developed and applied in other communities in North Ayrshire, led by Community Learning and Development, with the active involvement of communities and other partners. A follow up meeting on 7 February 2008 agreed that a community audit, led by Community Learning and Development, identify whether the Hayocks area could be developed as a Neighbourhood Compact Area through the action planning process.

It is hoped that the initial stages of this work can be taken forward within existing resources. Part of the action planning process would identify any further resources required.

The Learning Manager, Quality Development, reported on the advice and assistance provided to voluntary organisations through the Community Learning and Development section, with particular reference to grants available to voluntary groups.

The Committee (a) agreed to endorse the proposed community audit to identify whether Hayocks would be appropriate for designation as a Neighbourhood Compact Area; and (b) noted the availability of advice and assistance to groups from the Community Learning and Development Section within Educational Services.

6. Local Youth Action Fund/Town Twinning Fund 2007/08

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Educational Services) on the allocation of funding and applications for financial assistance under the Local Youth Action Fund and Town Twinning Fund.

The Local Youth Action Fund has a balance of £2,322.75 and the Town Twinning Fund has a balance of £13,000 available for disbursement

The Committee agreed (a), in respect of the Local Youth Action Fund, as follows:-

(i) to make an award to the 1st Ardrossan 15th Ayrshire Scout Group in the sum of £600;and

(ii) to remit to the Learning Manager, Quality Development, Community Learning and Development to determine and advise the Clerk on whether time-barred match funding is in place regarding the Ardrossan Youth Association application. If match funding is in place or is dependent on the award from the Local Youth Action Fund, then the Committee agreed to make an award in the sum of £1,522.75 to the Ardrossan Youth Association and advise the Saltcoats Youth Action Group to apply for funding from the 2008/09 Community Development Grants Scheme budget. If no match funding is in place regarding Ardrossan Youth Association, the Committee agreed instead to make an award in the sum of £1,238 to the Saltcoats Youth Action Group, with the residue of funding in the sum of £484.75 being awarded to Ardrossan Youth Association;

and (b) to make an award from the Town Twinning Fund to the Chernobyl Children's Lifeline in the sum of £2,000.

7. Ardrossan Common Good Fund

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on applications received in respect of the Ardrossan Common Good Fund.

The Ardrossan Common Good Fund has a balance of £1,740 available for disbursement.

The Committee agreed to make the following awards in respect of the Ardrossan Common Good Fund:-

Organisation	Award
Peter Alexander Currie	Nil
Cecilia Walsh	Nil
Sarah Walsh	Nil

8. Ardrossan: Site to the North of Chapelhill Mount: Naming of New Street for Housing Development by Cunninghame Housing Association Ltd

Submitted report by the Assistant Chief Executive (Legal and Protective) on the naming of a street within a new housing development on a site to the north of Chapelhill Mount, Ardrossan.

The developer proposed that the new street be named "Blackhall Gardens".

The Committee agreed (a) not to approve the proposed name; (b) to remit to the Senior Technician, Development Plans, Legal and Protective, in consultation with the 4 Local Members, to determine an alternative appropriate name for the development; and (c) that future new street/development names be determined in consultation with the Local Members for the Ward in question.

9. Dates of Meetings

The Committee agreed that (a) the next meeting of the Area Committee will be held on Thursday 10 April 2008 at 3.30 p.m. in the Argyle Centre, Campbell Avenue, Saltcoats; (b) the Clerk contact Members regarding a date for the next informal meeting of the Committee to be held mid March; and (c) the June meeting of the Committee will be held on Arran in the morning to allow for travel to and from the island.

10. 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.

The Meeting ended at 5.45 p.m.