

North Coast Area Committee
21 May 2015

LARGS, 21 May 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.

In Attendance

A. Laurenson, Senior Manager (Regeneration); B. Anderson, Performance/Grants Information Officer (Community Engagement Team) (Economy and Communities); D. Tate, Senior Manager (Property Management and Investment) and T. Fitzsimmons, Principal Officer (Strategy) (Place); and M. Anderson, Acting Committee Services Manager (Chief Executive's Service)

Also In Attendance

Inspector J. Conway (Police Scotland); and M. Gallacher (Scottish Fire and Rescue Service).

Chair

Councillor Gallagher in the Chair

Apologies for Absence

Grace McLean.

1. Declarations of Interest

In terms of Standing Order 16 and Section 5 of the Code of Conduct for Councillors, Councillor Gallagher, as Chair of the Viking Festival, declared an indirect pecuniary interest in the group's funding application which formed part of Agenda Item 10 (Largs Common Good Fund - Applications for Financial Assistance). Councillor Gallagher remained in the chair for this item of business but took no part in the discussion or determination.

2. Minutes

The accuracy of the Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 5 March 2015 was confirmed and the Minute signed in accordance with Paragraph 7 (1) of Schedule 7 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973.

2.1 Matter Arising

The Acting Committee Services Manager referred to the award of £2,000 to Largs 1st Responders in terms of Item 5.4 (Largs Common Good: Applications for Financial Assistance) and advised of a request by the Group to utilise an underspend of £500 for the purchase of training defibrillators.

The Committee agreed that Largs 1st Responders be authorised to utilise the £500 underspend in Largs Common Good funding for the purchase of training defibrillators.

3. CPP Partners

3.1 North Ayrshire Community Planning Partnership (CPP) Board: Minutes of Meeting held on 19 March 2015

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on the Minutes of the meeting of the North Ayrshire Community Planning Partnership (CPP) held on 19 March 2015.

Noted.

3.2 Police Scotland

Submitted report by Police Scotland on issues of local interest for the period from 1 April 2015.

The report included information on the following:-

- crime statistics for the North Coast area;
- the Local Community Policing Plan priorities of drunk or disorderly behaviour (including vandalism and graffiti), drug dealing and drug abuse, assault and violent crime, speeding motorists and housebreakings or other thefts;
- crimes of note in respect of drug supply and possession; and
- a sponsored walk in Largs on 6 June 2015, involving more than 1,000 people.

Members discussed the following:-

- factors which may have contributed to the overall reduction in crime;
- arrangements for contacting the Police locally; and
- a parking issue at Blackdales Avenue, Largs.

Noted.

3.3 Scottish Fire and Rescue Service

Submitted report by the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service on incidents within the North Coast area during the period 20 February to 10 May 2015.

The report included information on the following:-

- 5 accidental dwelling fires;
- a number of good intent and equipment fault false alarms; and
- special services activities, including assisting the Scottish Ambulance Service access properties.

Members discussed the following:-

- the circumstances surrounding the road traffic collision at Seton Terrace, Skelmorlie; and
- joint working arrangements with the Scottish Ambulance Service.

Noted.

4. Largs Reports

4.1 Economy and Communities Update

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Economy and Communities) on actions taken in relation to the following:-

- Largs forestry and hydro-electric proposals;
- a number of events including the development of the first children's opera in Scots, work by Archaeology Scotland at the Haylie Chambered Cairn, and Largs Fun Weekend at Broomfields; and
- Business Support and Development, and Employability.

Members discussed the following:-

- proposed measures to mitigate the visual impact of the forestry proposals;
- the feasibility of allowing scope in the forestry proposals for future community benefit, such as a visitor centre or relevant business; and
- arrangements for reporting on the Largs Masterplan.

The Committee agreed (a) to note the updates provided; and (b) that the Senior Manager (Regeneration) circulate the Largs Masterplan consultant's report to local Members for information.

4.2 Major Projects Update

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Place) on major construction projects being undertaken by the Council, namely Largs Campus and Stevenson Court and Stevenson Day Care and Resource Centre.

Members discussed the following:-

- whether Scottish Ministers are likely to issue a notice to the Council to call in the Largs Campus proposals; and
- the allocation of the 11 amenity flats at Stevenson Court.

Noted.

5. Fairlie Reports

5.1 Update Report: Economy and Communities

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Economy and Communities) on the actions taken in relation to the following projects and issues:-

- road safety on the A78;
- Hunterston;
- the application for a variation of EDF's authorisation licence at Hunterston B; and
- the Shore Path.

Members discussed the following:-

- arrangements for monitoring the effectiveness of the new traffic signals in Fairlie;
- plans for the completion of the Shore Path; and
- planned discussions between the Executive Director (Economies and Communities) and Clydeport regarding the Hunterston site.

Noted.

6. Cumbrae Reports

6.1 Update Report: Economy and Communities

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Economy and Communities) on the actions taken in relation to the following projects and issues:-

- the outcome of funding bids in respect of the Millport Conservation Area;
- the future of the Garrison Stables;
- Cumbrae Economic Development; and
- fuel provision on the island.

Members discussed the following:-

- the interest expressed by three separate parties in developing the Garrison Stables;
- the current position in terms of the availability of funding for the development of fuel provision; and
- a consultation exercise being undertaken in respect of a proposed pharmacy at the Garrison.

Noted.

6.2 Housing Needs and Demand Assessment

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Place) on the 2013 Housing Needs and Demand Assessment undertaken in respect of the Isle of Cumbrae and carried out on behalf of the Council by Craigforth Consultancy.

Members discussed the following:-

- the need for a second homes strategy as part of the overall housing strategy on the island; and
- issues in respect of seeking to buy back housing stock.

Noted.

6.3 Major Projects Update

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Place) on the delivery of the new accommodation block and teaching facility at the Marine Biological Station, Millport. Members were also advised of a proposed press event on 1 July 2015 to mark the official opening of the new facility.

Members discussed the anticipated completion date of the new facility.

Noted.

7. Skelmorlie Reports

7.1 Update Report: Economy and Communities

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Economy and Communities) on the options to alleviate the traffic concerns at Skelmorlie Cross at Skelmorlie Cross.

Members discussed the following:-

- consultation with the community council on traffic concerns; and
- progress in terms of the development of the new MUGA (Multi-Use Games Area).

The Committee agreed (a) to note the information provided in the report; and (b) to the proposal that officers liaise directly with Skelmorlie Community Council on options to address the traffic concerns at Skelmorlie Cross.

8. 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 Community Development Grants Scheme and the Local Youth Action Fund.

The Committee agreed to make the following awards:-

Community Development Grants Scheme

Organisation	Award
Pupils Out of School Care Club	£1,527.65
The Butterfly Club	£111.28

Local Youth Action Fund

Organisation	Award
Largs Events	£2,000.00

9. Elderly Grants

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Economy and Communities) on the level of funding available for disbursement in the Committee's area in 2015/16.

Appendix 1 to the report provided details of the allocation of elderly grant funding across the Committee's area as follows:-

Cumbrae	£1,030.00
Largs	£7,427.00
Fairlie	£1,528.00
Skelmorlie	£1,717.00

Noted.

10. Largs Common Good: Applications for Financial Assistance

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

The Committee agreed to make the following awards:-

Organisation	Award
Largs Viking Festival	£5,000.00
Largs Events	£950.00

11. Date and Venue of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the North Coast Area Committee will be held on 13 August 2015 (Skelmorlie Community Centre), and thereafter on 24 September 2015 (Fairlie Village Hall) and 19 November 2015 (Largs Library).

Noted.

12. 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 3.30 p.m.