

Community and Recreational Services Committee
9 June 1998

Irvine, 9 June 1998 - At a Meeting of the Community and Recreational Services Committee of North Ayrshire Council at 2.00 p.m.

Present

Stewart Dewar, Patrick Browne, James Clements, John Donn, James Jennings, Elizabeth McLardy, Margaret Munn and Robert Reilly.

In Attendance

The Head of Educational Resources (Education); The Head of Sports and Horticultural Services; The Head of Cultural and Community Services; The Community Services Development Manager (Community and Recreational Services); T Baulk, Accountant, Accountancy (Financial Services); S King, Corporate Policy Officer and S Paxton, Administration Officer (Chief Executive).

Chair

Mr Dewar in the Chair.

Apologies for Absence

Jane Gorman, John Sillars and George Steven.

1. Minutes Confirmed

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 28 April 1998, copies of which had previously been circulated, were confirmed.

2. Provision of Bar Services in Community Facilities

Submitted report by the Director of Community and Recreational Services on the outcome of consultations with lessees, licensees and the Legal Services Manager on the proposal to provide bar services within Community Facilities on a Pilot Scheme basis.

Whilst licensees and lessees had expressed reservations about, and in some cases opposition to the proposal, it was nonetheless emphasised that it had been cost driven and that licensed traders were currently accruing a reasonable income at little expense, with no immediate benefit to the Council. It was also recognised that the proposals would not impact on bar services for occasional permissions which most community groups use for fund-raising purposes. Additionally, the Committee acknowledged the considerations raised by the Legal Services Manager and on that basis proceeded to discuss the four options for contracts within the Pilot Scheme which are scheduled to run until March 1999, viz.

(a) that the Director of Community and Recreational Services seek

tenders from appropriate licensees for two contracts, one for the Ardrossan Civic Centre and Saltcoats Town Hall and the other for the Volunteer Rooms and the Woodlands Centre, Irvine;

(b) that the Director of Community and Recreational Services seek individual tenders from appropriate licensees for the Ardrossan Civic Centre, Saltcoats Town Hall, the Volunteer Rooms and Woodlands Centre, Irvine and Dunlop Memorial Hall, Dreghorn;

(c) that the Director of Community and Recreational Services be authorised to charge all lessees £25.00 as a premium to the cost of let when a Community Hall is booked for a licensed function; and

(d) that the Director of Community and Recreational Services seek tenders only from national licensed providers and the Council's own in-house provider.

The Committee agreed (i) that the Director of Community and Recreational Services be authorised to seek tenders for two contracts in relation to (A) the Ardrossan Civic Centre and Saltcoats Town Hall; and (B) the Volunteer Rooms and Woodlands Centre, Irvine for the provision of bar services on a pilot basis; and (ii) to receive a further report on the monitoring of the Pilot Scheme.

3. Irvine: Glasgow Vennel Art Gallery and Burns' Lodgings House

Submitted report by the Director of Community and Recreational Services on a proposal to amend Summer opening hours for the Glasgow Vennel Art Gallery and Burns' Lodgings House, Irvine.

Both venues are currently open from October to May, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday, 10.00 a.m. until 1.00 p.m. and 2.00 p.m. to 5.00 p.m. and from June to September, 2.00 until 5.00 p.m. daily, excluding Wednesdays. The increased opening hours during the Summer months depends on the Directorate's Museums Service employing a Seasonal Attendant for 18 hours per week. As visits to the Gallery and Lodgings House are, in general, much lower on Sunday afternoons than on other days, it is proposed to redeploy the Seasonal Assistant at other times during the week especially on a Saturday. This would improve Museum security at busy times and provide a better service to visitors. Sunday afternoon openings would however cease, except for special events such as Marymass, exhibition openings or the Doors Open Day on 6 September 1998.

The Committee agreed to approve the cessation of Sunday afternoon openings of the Glasgow Vennel Art Gallery and Burns' Lodgings House, Irvine except for special events such as Marymass, exhibition openings and the Doors Open Day.

4. Community Facilities: Use of School Accommodation Outwith the School Day or Session for School Activities or Associated Groups

Submitted report by the Director of Community and Recreational Services presenting a Policy document in respect of the use of school accommodation at evenings and weekends for school activities or associated groups which clarifies letting procedures.

The Policy, details of which were provided in the Director's report, makes provision for a number of charge bands and recognises the core elements of school operation - heating, cleaning and janitorial services - which require to be subsidised by the Council. School premises for activities such as School Board Meetings, Parent Teacher Associations, and pupil sports facilities will continue to be let free of charge. The remaining charge bands allow access for school activities at no cost where the school is already in use. Where charges are incurred, the Head Teacher has the option to use devolved budgets held within each establishment.

The Committee agreed to approve the Policy.

5. Museums Services: Acquisition and Disposal Policy

Submitted report by the Director of Community and Recreational Services presenting (a) a Statement of Purpose and Key Aims for the Glasgow Vennel and North Ayrshire Museums; and (b) a North Ayrshire Museums Services Acquisition and Disposal Policy which require to be adopted to fulfil the requisite criteria for applications to the Museums and Galleries Commission Museum Registration Phase II.

The Museums Service in North Ayrshire, comprises the North Ayrshire Museum, Saltcoats, the Glasgow Vennel Art Gallery and associated attractions, Irvine, the Museum of the Cumbraes, Millport and the Kilwinning Abbey Tower Heritage Centre. All the museums with the exception of the Kilwinning Abbey Tower Heritage Centre have achieved Museum Recognition Status under Phase I of the Museums and Galleries Commission Registration Scheme in 1990 and are now required to renew registration under Phase II.

The Registration Scheme is designed to demonstrate that establishments meet minimum standards in relation to collection care, scholarship and visitor care and the achievement of Registration Status will allow the Council to secure grant aid from the Scottish Museums Council and other funding bodies.

In relation to the Museum of the Cumbraes, re-registration will be deferred for one year or until a suitable venue for the Museum can be found, while further work is required to bring the Kilwinning Abbey Tower

Heritage Centre up to the standards required for registration. It is anticipated that, in conjunction with the Kilwinning Preservation Society, an application for registration for the Heritage Centre will be submitted towards the end of 1998.

The Committee agreed to approve (i) the Mission Statement for the Glasgow Vennel and North Ayrshire Museums; and (ii) the North Ayrshire Museums Service Acquisition and Disposal Policy.

6. Irvine: Adult Learners Week: Adult Education Voluntary Forum

Submitted report by the Director of Community and Recreational Services on an award made to the Irvine Adult Education Voluntary Forum at the Scottish Community Education Adult Learners Award Ceremony sponsored by Scottish Television and the Scottish Community Education Council in May 1998 as part of Adult Learner's week.

The Irvine Adult Education Voluntary Forum was selected from over 90 nominated groups and individuals to be one of the five finalists at the Award Ceremony. Although the Group did not win the principle National Adult Learners Award they were selected for a 'Special Award' from the Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA). Such recognition is not given on an annual basis and is only presented where groups have made an exceptional contribution in encouraging access to education for disadvantaged groups or individuals. In addition, a number of individuals and an Adult Education group from Kilwinning received Nominee Awards.

The Committee, in noting the success of the Irvine Adult Education Voluntary Forum and the Adult Education group in Kilwinning in gaining the Special Award and Nominee Award, agreed to host a small reception in their honour, to be attended by the Chair and Vice Chair.

7. Cinema Admission Policy and Revised Charges

Submitted report by the Director of Community and Recreational Services on a revised Cinema Admission Policy and proposed increases to charges for admission to cinemas as the current Policy, which has six charging bands, is confusing to customers and difficult to administer.

These proposals, which have been formulated following a review of practice in the West of Scotland, confirm that admission charges should be harmonised with those of live performances in North Ayrshire by having one adult charge and one concession charge, and that these should be increased to bring them into line with other cinema charges in the West of Scotland. The charges, which will nonetheless remain below those elsewhere in the West of Scotland, are as follows:-

Adult £3.30

Concession/Juvenile/Leisure Gold £2.30

The Committee agreed to approve (a) the harmonisation of cinema admission charges to those at live performances; and (b) the revised charges for cinema admission.

8. Largs: Routenburn Golf Course

Submitted report by the Director of Community and Recreational Services on the current position regarding Routenburn Golf Course.

Following concern expressed by the Club in 1997 over the maintenance of the Golf Course and their application to lease the Course from the Council, the Chair, Vice-Chair and Local Member met with the Club in December 1997 to discuss matters. Following that meeting, the Community and Recreational Services Directorate revised its contractual arrangements with the Commercial Services Grounds Maintenance DSO for the maintenance of the Course based on the 'Best Value' regime and the Club has worked closely with the Council to identify measures to improve the Course. A further meeting was held with the Club recently. The Club advised that the revised working arrangements have been successful and the standard of the Course has significantly improved. The working systems pioneered at Routenburn have already been introduced at other Council Golf Courses.

The Club, now wishes to expand its membership base, in particular the junior and women's sections, and the Directorate will provide marketing assistance to the Club and others in North Ayrshire to enable them to do so.

The Committee, in noting the success of the revised working arrangements in addressing the Club's concerns, agreed to authorise the Director of Community and Recreational Services to provide marketing assistance to North Ayrshire Golf Clubs in attracting new members.

9. River Irvine: Dumping of Shopping Trolleys

Submitted report by the Director of Community and Recreational Services on the outcome of a meeting with representatives from Supermarkets in North Ayrshire at which consideration was given to the dumping of shopping trolleys.

Three out of the eleven supermarkets invited attended the meeting. A member of staff from Safeway Stores, which suffers minor losses of trolleys, regularly collects them from car parks and surrounding areas. Staff from Tesco, which suffers regular losses of trolleys, collect them

from areas around the Rivergate Shopping Centre, Irvine and has worked with the Irvine Canoe Club to collect trolleys from the River Irvine. Aldi has only suffered an occasional loss of a trolley since opening in 1996. The supermarkets were reminded of the Council's powers to seize abandoned shopping trolleys in terms of Section 99 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 and, following discussion, a number of measures were proposed to address the problem, viz.

(a) that the Commercial Services Directorate would collect abandoned trolleys and notify the relevant store;

(b) that where trolleys are identified as being dumped in waterways, steps would be taken to recover these. (Tesco confirmed that they will continue to work with the Irvine Canoe Club who assist in the removal of trolleys from the River Irvine.);

(c) that supermarkets would erect notices within their premises to draw to the attention of customers the requirement to return trolleys to trolley bays;

(d) that Tesco would upgrade the trolley collection point at Trinity Church, Irvine, giving it a higher profile for customers leaving the Rivergate Shopping Mall; and

(e) that the Director of Planning, Roads and Environment would raise at the detailed design stages for new supermarkets, or where major adaptations take place, measures for trolley proofing to restrict the removal of trolleys.

The Committee agreed (i) to approve these proposals; and (ii) that the Chief Executive advise all supermarkets in North Ayrshire accordingly.

10. Dreghorn: Request to Declare Land Surplus to Requirements

Submitted report by the Director of Community and Recreational Services on a request to declare an area of land to the rear of number 42 Dunlop Crescent, Dreghorn as surplus to requirements.

The Committee agreed (a) to approve the request; and (b) to remit the matter to the Support Services Committee for consideration.

The meeting ended at 2.35 p.m.