

Irvine, Kilwinning, Dreghorn and Springside Area Committee
1 June 2006

IRVINE, 1 June 2006 - At a Meeting of the Irvine, Kilwinning, Dreghorn and Springside Area Committee of North Ayrshire Council at 2.00 p.m.

Present

Ian Clarkson, Thomas Barr, Jacqueline Browne, Stewart Dewar, Anna Donn, Jane Gorman, Margaret McDougall, John Moffat and David O'Neill.

In Attendance

J. Mason, Transport Manager (Property Services); A. Milson, Learning Manager, Quality Development and D. Whyte, External Grants Development Officer (Educational Services); A. Grossart, Finance Manager (Finance); J. Murray, Community Planning Co-ordinator and C. Hollas, Community Planning Monitoring and Support Officer, M. McKeown and A. Little, Corporate and Democratic Support Officers (Chief Executive's)

Also In Attendance

Inspector N. Kerr (Strathclyde Police) and Station Master K. Alcroft and C. Hall, Community Safety Co-ordinator (Strathclyde Fire and Rescue).

Chair

Councillor Clarkson in the Chair.

Apologies for Absence

Jack Carson and Donald Reid.

1. Minutes

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 13 April 2006, copies of which had previously been circulated, were confirmed.

2. Declarations of Interest

Councillor Browne declared a non-pecuniary interest in Item 5 (Community Development Grant Application No. 2 and 4) and Item 7 (Ref No.11) and withdrew from the meeting for these items of business.

Councillor Barr declared a non-pecuniary interest in Item 5 (Community Development Grant Application No. 4) and Item 7 (Ref No. 11) and withdrew from the meeting for these item of business.

Councillor O'Neill declared a non-pecuniary interest in Item 7 (Ref No. 11) and withdrew from the meeting for this item of business.

Councillor McDougall declared a non-pecuniary interest in Item 7 (Ref No. 14) and took no part in the discussion thereon.

3. Strathclyde Fire and Rescue

Submitted report by Strathclyde Fire and Rescue, which provided information on fire related incidents within the Irvine, Kilwinning, Dreghorn and Springside area during the period 4 April to 22 May 2006, and updated the Committee on other areas of current activity.

The statistical information related to incidents involving property fires, special services/emergencies, secondary fires, malicious calls, open hydrants and fire alarm apparatus false alarms.

Home fire safety visits continue to be made available to the public, and to date over 300 homes in the Irvine area have been visited and ten year smoke detection systems installed.

The school based community firefighter has been in post at Irvine Royal Academy for three months and has given talks to pupils on a range of subjects such as personal safety, risk taking and careers. Arrangements are also currently being made to provide primary pupils with fire safety information and to invite Primary 1 pupils from Irvine Royal Academy feeder primaries to Dreghorn Fire Station to learn basic fire safety.

A number of issues were raised by the Committee including the increase of secondary fires in the Kilwinning areas, and the number of false alarms at Greenwood Academy.

The Committee (a) noted current activity; and (b) agreed to receive a further report at a future meeting.

4. Strathclyde Police

Submitted reports by Strathclyde Police which provided information in relation to current trends in crimes figures, the operation of the Mobile Police Office, and the Community Well-being Fund. The following issues were highlighted:-

Crime figures

The statistical information presented, showed that there has been a downward trend in crimes of violence, dishonesty and vandalism within the Committee's area during April 2006. An increase has however been reported in crimes of indecency and dishonesty.

Mobile Police Office

The Mobile Police Office was officially launched on 9 January 2006 and has been fully utilised in both rural and urban communities throughout North Ayrshire. The unit has received a number of visitors and calls, dealing with a range of issues including complaints, enquiries regarding crime prevention and neighbourhood watch matters, as well as requests for information.

Community Well-Being Fund

In 2004/05 Strathclyde Police secured funding to launch a pilot Community Well-Being Fund in Paisley. Community Police Officers liaised with community groups and identified potential projects or initiatives that would benefit from funding of up to £500. A formalised application process was established which allowed the relevant Superintendent to consider and approve or otherwise, recommendations from Community Police Officers on applications for funding.

The Joint Police Board acknowledged the success of this pilot and approved the roll-out of the Fund to all Divisions in 2005/06. Within North Ayrshire a number of local clubs and projects have been provided with financial assistance towards the purchase of kit and equipment. The Fund has been continued into 2006/07 and Community Police Officers will continue to engage with community groups to ensure the fund is fully utilised.

The Committee agreed that Strathclyde Police be requested to (a) investigate whether future statistical information could be provided on a ward by ward basis; (b) consider taking the Mobile Unit to other areas of North Ayrshire; and (c) report to future meetings on the groups in receipt of funding from the Community Well-Being Fund.

5. Community Development Grants Scheme and Local Youth Action Fund 2006/07: Applications for Financial Assistance

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Educational Services) on (a) awards made under the Community Development Grants Scheme and the Local Youth Action Fund to date in 2006/07, and on the balances remaining for disbursement; and (b) applications for financial assistance received since the last meeting of the Committee.

The Committee agreed to make the following awards:-

Community Development Grants Scheme

<u>Organisation</u>	<u>Award</u>
1. Stagefright Community Drama	£1,300
2. North Ayrshire Sports Council	£1,500
3. Marymass Chess Congress	£500
4. North Ayrshire Sports Association for the Disabled	£370
5. Noonday (Broomlands& Bourtreehill Baptist Church)	£3,000
6. Indian Traders	£203.25
7. Chinese Information and Resource Centre	£1,838.50

Local Youth Action Fund

Organisation

Award

1.	Youth Under Construction	£640
2.	Broomlands Youth Group	£2,000
3.	Springside Youth Forum	£2,000
4.	Irvine Sea Angling Club	£1,414
5.	School Daze Project	£1,630

6. Irvine Common Good Fund

Submitted report by the Assistant Chief Executive (Finance) on the draft accounts in respect of Irvine Common Good Fund for 2005/06 and on a proposed level of disbursement for 2006/07.

Estimated commitments for properties, electricity and miscellaneous costs, together with the retention of 10% of the total income for maintenance of the fund, result in a starting balance of £78,300 available for disbursement during 2006/07. Taking account of the annual grants to Marymass, and other pending commitments, a balance of £7,700 remains.

The Committee agreed to (a) approve the level of disbursement of £78,300 for Irvine Common Good Fund for 2006/07; and (b) note that £7,700 remains for disbursement.

7. Regenerating Our Community Fund 2006/07

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on the recommendations of the North Ayrshire Community Planning Partnership (CPP) in relation to funding applications for the Regenerating Our Community Fund 2006/07.

The Regenerating Our Community Fund has a budget of £125,000 per year to provide grants of between £5,000 and £15,000 to support community-based activities benefitting people living in North Ayrshire's Regeneration Areas. A total of 41 applications, totalling £512,491, were received in 2006/07 covering projects falling exclusively within each of the three Area Committees areas, as well as projects covering the whole of North Ayrshire. The Appraisal Panel has recommended that 14 of these projects be funded (5 fully funded and 9 partially funded).

The Committee agreed to (a) approve the Appraisal Panel's recommendations to fund the following projects:-

<u>Ref No.</u>	<u>Organisation</u>	<u>Award</u>
14.	Pryde	£14,155
11.	Ancho	£10,723
05.	Cornerstone Church (Kidzone)	£5,000
26.	NAC Gypsy Travellers Project	£8,000
24.	NAC Community Support Programme	£12,000
13.	NA Women's Aid	£10,000
36.	NAC Community Sports Club	£10,000
31.	BARS Youth People Outreach Service	£9,135
37.	Volunteer Centre na - First Steps	£5,000

(b) note the Appraisal Panel's recommendations in respect of the remaining applications.

8. Traffic Management

8.1 Irvine Traffic Management

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Property Services) on the outcome of the Reporter's enquiry into objections in respect of the proposed Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) for Irvine Town Centre.

At its meeting of 18 August 2005, the Committee agreed to refer unresolved objections regarding the proposed TRO to a hearing conducted by a Reporter, and thereafter to consider the proposed Order and objections after receiving the Reporter's findings and recommendations. The hearing was held on 19 April 2006 and was attended by nine of the ten objectors.

The main issues related to access arrangements for loading or deliveries, access arrangements for customers, traffic aspects of the repositioning of the taxi stance, general disturbance and public order issues associated with the proposed taxi stance, and the adverse effects on businesses.

The Reporter recommended that, subject to the separate decision on the taxi stance, the Council should make the TRO incorporating its own proposed amendments and the extension to the loading bay at 28 Bank Street. The loading bay adjustment recommended by the Reporter will reduce the day-time capacity of the proposed taxi stance to 10 vehicles; the maximum late night capacity will be unchanged at 19 vehicles. Legal and Protective Services have been notified of the Reporter's findings and are preparing to carry out the formal consultation on the proposed alterations to the taxi stance in Bank Street.

The Reporter's recommendations support the Council's proposals with only minor modification. Approval of the TRO will allow the taxi stance components of the overall traffic management scheme to be promoted by the Council as Licensing Authority.

The Committee agreed to (a) approve the TRO as presented to the hearing, subject to the Reporter's recommended modifications; (b) request that the Licensing Section proceed to implement the procedure to alter the position of the taxi stance; and (c) implement the traffic management scheme after the taxi stance amendments are approved.

8.2 Kilwinning Traffic Management

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Property Services) on the traffic management consultation process undertaken to date in relation to Kilwinning Town Centre Traffic Management.

An exhibition was mounted in Kilwinning Library between 18 - 29 April 2006, and an exhibition caravan based in Kilwinning Main Street on 25 - 27 April 2006. The options presented in the displays covered access to and the control of vehicles within the present pedestrian area, parking provision and management, and related issues such as taxi stance locations. Both exhibitions were well attended and, to date, the responses provided through discussions and via completion of the questionnaires, indicate that the main issues and concerns are:-

- off-street parking provision;
- vehicle movement in the pedestrian area;
- parking for disabled persons;
- indiscriminate parking; and
- support for controls/time limits on parking
- Kilwinning College students using town centre parking spaces
- objections to the use of charging to control the car parks

The Committee agreed that a report on the results of the responses to questionnaires be submitted to a future meeting of the Committee.

9. Future Agenda Items

The Committee agreed that any items for inclusion on future agendas be submitted to A. Little, Corporate and Democratic Support Officer.

The meeting ended at 3.50 p.m.