

Ardrossan and Arran, Saltcoats and Stevenston Area Committee
25 June 2015

Arran, 25 June 2015 - At a Meeting of the Ardrossan and Arran, Saltcoats and Stevenston Area Committee of North Ayrshire Council at 11.15 a.m.

Present

John Bruce, Willie Gibson, John Hunter, Ronnie McNicol and Jim Montgomerie.

In Attendance

J. Smith, Senior Manager (Roads and Transportation) and A. McNair, Planning Officer (Place); D. Whyte, External Funding Officer and B. Anderson, Performance/Grants Officer (Economy and Communities); and A. Little, Committee Services Officer and A. Pearson, Committee Services Support Officer (Chief Executive's).

Also In Attendance

Sergeant Dodds (Police Scotland), B. Calderwood, Arran Community Energy (ACE) and A. Crook, Sustainable Inshore Fisheries Trust (SIFT).

Chair

Councillor Bruce in the Chair.

Apologies for Absence

Tony Gurney, Peter McNamara and Alan Munro.

1. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest by Members in terms of Standing Order 10 and Section 5 of the Code of Conduct for Councillors.

2. Minutes

The accuracy of the Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 23 April 2015 were confirmed and the Minutes signed in accordance with Paragraph 7 (1) of Schedule 7 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973.

2.1 Matters Arising

The Committee was advised that Police Scotland will report at the next meeting on parking issues in Windmill Street and Hamilton Street, Saltcoats.

3. Presentation - Sustainable Inshore Fisheries Trust (SIFT)

The Committee received a presentation from A. Crook from the Sustainable Inshore Fisheries on the fisheries management plan for the Clyde.

The presentation provided information on:-

- the role of SIFT to promote the sustainable management of Scotland's inshore waters;
- the decline in fisheries in the Clyde and the causes of decline;
- a proposed Clyde Regulating Order to support a more diverse, robust and sustainable fishery, what the Regulation Order aims to achieve and the timescale for the Order;
- spatial management scenarios;
- gear restrictions and effort controls
- licensing arrangements;
- governance; and
- a co-management approach to decision making and the proposed structure of the Clyde Shellfish Management Organisation Board.

Members asked questions and were provided with further information in relation to:-

- restrictions on the size of scallops that can be dredged;
- a scallops assessment that is required in order that the EU can set a quota for scallops; and
- work of Marine Scotland at ports and at sea to enforce fishery restrictions.

The Committee noted that SIFT would provide further information to Members.

4. Brodick Beach

The Committee received an update from the Senior Manager (Roads and Transportation) on work undertaken with the local community in respect of coastal erosion at Brodick beach, that included:-

- interlocking revetment formed from geotextile containers filled with sand material and covered with Marram Grass;
- aggressive tidal action that has prevented the Marram Grass from becoming established;
- further erosion along the coastline to the north of Cloy Burn resulting in the loss of part of the original line of the coastal path known as 'Fisherman's Walk';
- responsibility for the management and maintenance that lies with the landowner; and
- specialist support commissioned to design a suitable scheme for consideration for the re-routing of Fisherman's Walk and for additional coastal defences for the beach.

Members asked questions and were provided with further information in relation to:-

- treatment for Japanese Knotweed that will be arranged by the Council; and
- the commissioning by the Council of a design to contain the landfill material exposed by the erosion by the Cloy Burn.

The Committee noted the work being undertaken in conjunction with the local community in respect of the Brodick beach area.

5. Hydro Plan

The Committee received a presentation from B. Calderwood, Arran Community Energy on progress with the renewable energy project.

The update included details of:-

- the current status of the project;
- future plans that include, establishing bank facilities, formalising a legal structure, submitting a joint planning application, formalising a business plan for the project and community benefits, carrying out community engagement exercises and preparing and promoting funding options and procedures;
- future opportunities;
- the aims and objectives of the project to develop a decentralised and flexible energy system which optimises the community benefit and expands public ownership of the various resources;
- the Smilegov project that was built on the idea that co-operation between different levels of governance of islands can have a key role to play towards reaching the EU goals in the areas of energy and climate change;
- an Island Energy Audit project that will be supported by Arran High School; and
- the carbon footprint project 2015 that provides information on the energy consumption by sector and by fuel type.

Members asked questions and were provided with further information in relation to the current island grid capacity which will restrict operation of the site to 50% capacity until 2021.

Noted.

6. Community Planning Partnership Partners

6.1 Police Scotland

Sergeant Dodds provided information on crimes reported and detected in the Committee's area and gave updates in relation to:-

- a 65% increase in vehicle traffic on the island since the introduction of the Road Equivalent Tariff (RET) and traffic related issues; and
- policing arrangements that had to be put in place quickly to accommodate the influx of competitors for the Ironman triathlon in June, as a result of the organisers not advising local agencies prior to the event.

Noted.

6.2 Scottish Fire and Rescue Service

Submitted report by the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service on activity within the Committee's area during the period 13 April and 9 June 2015.

The Committee agreed to (a) note the report; and (b) request further information from Scottish Fire and Rescue Service on the number of equipment faults in the Committee's area.

7. Brodick to Corrie Multi User Path - Progress Update

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Economy & Communities) on (a) the progress made to date on the Brodick to Corrie multi user path; (b) the outcome of a Feasibility Study undertaken to investigate the potential for the creation of an off-road alternative path between Brodick and Corrie; and (c) successful funding applications towards the construction of the next stage of the path between Cladach and Merkland Wood and the section between Cladach and the Shore Lodge entrance.

The Committee agreed to (a) note the report; and (b) seek clarification from the Executive Director (Economy and Communities) on the timescales for the construction of the section of path through the grounds of Brodick Castle and Country Park, now that funds and permissions are in place.

8. Community Development Grants Scheme: Applications for Financial Assistance

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Economy and Communities) on applications received in respect of the Community Development Grants Scheme.

The Committee agreed to make the following awards:-

The Butterfly Club	£188.88
Ardrossan Co-op Women's Guild	£581.00
Ardrossan Whitlees Community Association	£1,385.00
The Scottish Centre for Personal Safety	£1,500.00 and that the group be encouraged to fundraise
Ardeer: Homing Society	£1,800.00
Saltcoats Gala Committee	£1,350.00

9. Community Benefit Fund Applications for Grant Aid

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Economy and Communities) on the applications received in respect of the Community Benefit Fund.

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

North Ayrshire Food Bank	£4,500 to be split pro rata between the three Community Benefit Funds
The International Historical, Cultural and Geographical Agency	£3,000

and (b) defer the application from Stevenston Christmas Lights Group to allow investigations to take place into joint purchasing/leasing with the Ardrossan and Saltcoats Christmas Lights Groups.

10. Stevenston Common Good Fund: Application for Financial Assistance

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on an application received in respect of the Stevenston Common Good Fund for 2014/15.

The Committee agreed to award Mr McLatchie £1,500 towards the costs of the publication of a book on mining and quarrying in Stevenston.

11. Urgent Items

The Chair agreed that the following item be considered as a matter of urgency to allow the Committee to be provided with an update.

11.1 Planter in Brodick

The Committee was advised that the planter that had been located in Brodick will be gifted to Arran Access Trust. The Trust intend to adapt the planter to show the topography of the island, highlighting the start and finish of Arran Coastal Way Walk.

Noted.

The meeting ended at 1.10 p.m.