

Three Towns Area Committee  
12 April 2006

**SALTCOATS, 12 April 2006** - At a Meeting of the Three Towns Area Committee of North Ayrshire Council at 10.00 am.

**Present**

David Munn, Gordon Allison, Margaret Munn, Alan Munro, Sam Taylor and Nan Wallace

**In Attendance**

I Mackay, Assistant Chief Executive (Legal and Protective); J Tulips, Project Team Leader, S Storrie, Project Officer, PPP Project, A Milson, Learning Manager, Quality Development and B Anderson, Performance/Grants Information Officer (Educational Services); C Crawford, Engineer (Roads) (Property Services); J Bannatyne and E Fisher, Corporate and Democratic Support Officers (Chief Executive's).

**Also In Attendance**

G Connell and M Duncan, Stagecoach Western; Sergeant S Leary (Strathclyde Police); and Station Manager M Henderson and Fire Officer G Mongiardini (Strathclyde Fire and Rescue).

**Chair**

Councillor D Munn in the Chair.

**Apologies for Absence**

Peter McNamara.

**1. Minutes**

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 1 March 2006, copies of which had previously been circulated, were confirmed.

**2. Declaration of Interest**

Councillor Wallace declared an interest in grant applications submitted by Stevenston Celebrations Committee, under items 7 and 11.

**3. Saltcoats: St Matthew's Secondary School: Update**

The Committee was given an update on progress at the new St Matthew's Secondary School, Saltcoats from the PPP Project Team. Construction of the new school commenced in March 2006 with the building scheduled for completion in October 2007. The demolition of the old school will be completed by October 2008, which will allow final completion of the parent drop off car park, outdoor classroom, environmental garden and general informal grass areas.

Noted.

#### **4. Stagecoach Western Bus Services**

Malcolm Duncan, Operations Manager and George Connell, Traffic Manager, Stagecoach Western Bus Company gave details to the Committee on their operations within the three Towns Area as follows:-

- The measures taken to ensure high standards for bus drivers through training and monitoring;
- Problems relating to vandalism in respect of buses throughout the Three Towns Area;
- The use of CCTV cameras on buses;
- Measures taken and proposals to upgrade buses in an effort to introduce low step buses on all routes;
- Customer service;
- Current provision of bus services throughout the Three Towns and proposed improvements; and
- The no-smoking policy on buses.

The Engineer, Roads Services provided an update on the works currently being undertaken at the Pennyburn Roundabout, Stevenston and the bridge at Parkhouse Road, Ardrossan.

The representatives from the bus company responded to questions from members and agreed to investigate a number of the issues raised.

Noted.

#### **5. Strathclyde Police: Trends in Crime Figures**

Submitted report by Strathclyde Police detailing the number and types of incidents of crime in the Three Towns during March 2006.

Sergeant Leary reported on an increase in violent crime compared with the previous period and confirmed that serious assaults in the Three Towns area have doubled. There has been a reduction in domestic housebreaking but vandalism continues to be an issue and Strathclyde Police are seeking the community's assistance in tackling this particular form of anti-social behaviour.

Local action plans continue to be developed to make an impact on disorder related offences many of which are related to alcohol abuse. Local officers are working with licensed premises to ensure that the availability of alcohol to under age drinkers is minimised. A recent action plan to target youth related disorder which featured in the local press entitled "Do you know where your child is?" is proving to be successful.

The Committee was advised that 2 dates had now been identified to show the DVD on road safety as discussed at a previous meeting.

The Committee agreed to view the DVD on Wednesday 3 May 2006 at 10.00 am in the Ardrossan Youth Hut, Stanley Road, Ardrossan.

## **6. Strathclyde Fire and Rescue**

Submitted report by Strathclyde Fire and Rescue detailing response figures and activities in the Committee's area between 23 February and 29 March 2006. There were 171 emergency calls in the Three Towns area for that period and the report gave details of these.

Station Officer Henderson reported that fire related injuries are down, but the cause of residential dwelling fires continues to have chip pans as a common theme. Although Partnership work is ongoing, a 50% increase in secondary fires from the last report continues to be a challenge for the emergency services. Areas of particular concern are North Stevenston, North Saltcoats and North Ardrossan.

As part of youth education, crews from Ardrossan Fire Station attended events at various schools in the Three Towns area to inform pupils about the Fire and Rescue Service and gave demonstrations on how to deal with incidents caused by chip pan fires. Fire crews intend to work in partnership with the North Ayrshire Council 'Activator Team' which promotes healthy living and eating, to demonstrate the links accidental fire injuries have with issues such as poor diet and smoking. Crews from Kilwinning Fire Station attended the launch of a major fire safety campaign in conjunction with West Sound FM. Launched by Justice Minister Cathy Jamieson, the high profile campaign is based on the successful 'grim reaper' theme first used in the A77 Road Safety Campaign.

Noted.

## **7. Community Development Grants Scheme/Local Youth Action Fund: Applications for Financial Assistance**

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Educational Services) on applications for financial assistance under the Council's Community Development Grants Scheme and Local Youth Action Fund.

The Community Development Grants Scheme has a balance of £26,900 and the Local Youth Action Fund has a balance of £15,000.

The Committee agreed to make the following awards:-

### **Community Development Grants Scheme**

<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Award</b>
Stevenston Elderly Forum	£400
The International, Historical, Cultural & Geographical Agency	£300

<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Award</b>
The Cronies Club of Stevenston & District	£500
Saltcoats Gala Committee	£1,500
St John's PTA	£800
SNAP Craft Group	£550
Saltcoats Town Centre Initiative	£1,000
Stevenston Celebrations Committee	£1,000

### **Local Youth Action Fund**

<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Award</b>
Kilwinning Community Sports Club	£875

## **8. Common Good and Public Trusts: Eligibility**

Submitted report by the Assistant Chief Executive (Legal and Protective) on the criteria to be satisfied in order to make a financial contribution from a Public Trust or Common Good.

The Council is the Trustee of a number of Public Trusts, most of which were established in the early part of the 20th century by local benefactors who wished to assist sections of local communities, most often those in greatest need. As Trustee, the Council has a duty to ensure that the Trust purposes are closely followed and that the finances of each fund are properly managed.

Common Goods derive from former Burghs, many of which established a Common Good fund other than those established by Royal Charter, where assets were held for the Common good or benefit of that Burgh and its inhabitants.

A Trust sets out the purpose for which it is established. With a Common Good the purpose is to provide for the benefit of the inhabitants of that Burgh, and it is the case that in interpreting such a purpose, the benefit to the inhabitants should be seen as a general benefit rather than benefitting an individual, eg local festivals and events. Care must be taken to ensure that Trust purposes are followed although it is not always possible to follow the benefactors intentions exactly.

Public Trusts and Common goods derive income from rents, investments etc. Reserves which are seen as capital, have been built up but there is an expectation that these will not be used to fund annual payments and accordingly care must be taken to limit disbursement and manage the funding appropriately.

Noted.

## **9. Ardrossan Common Good Fund: Application for Financial Assistance**

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on an application from the Friends of the Plantation for financial assistance from the Ardrossan Common Good Fund.

The opening balance of funding available for disbursement from Ardrossan Common Good Fund in 2006/07 is £2,475.

The Committee agreed to award Friends of the Plantation £1,000 from the Ardrossan Common Good Fund.

## **10. Saltcoats Common Good Fund: Application for Financial Assistance**

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on an application received from the Friends of the Plantation for financial assistance from the Saltcoats Common Good Fund.

The opening balance of funding available for disbursement from Saltcoats Common Good Fund in 2006/07 is £1,260.

The Committee agreed to award Friends of the Plantation £1,000 from the Saltcoats Common Good Fund.

## **11. Stevenston Common Good Fund: Application for Financial Assistance**

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on applications from Stevenston Celebrations Committee and Stevenston Age Concern for financial assistance from the Stevenston Common Good Fund.

The opening balance of funding available for disbursement from Stevenston Common Good Fund in 2006/07 is £13,500. Approval was given by the Committee at its last meeting for an underwrite to a maximum of £1,000 to the International, Historical, Cultural and Geographical Agency. Details of this are still awaited.

The Committee agreed to continue, to a future meeting, the applications submitted by Stevenston Celebrations Committee and Stevenston Age Concern to enable further consultation to be undertaken with the applicants.

The Meeting ended at 11.55 am.