

Garnock Valley and West Kilbride Area Committee
3 November 2011

DALRY, 3 November 2011 - At a Meeting of the Garnock Valley and West Kilbride Area Committee of North Ayrshire Council at 2.00 p.m.

Present

Robert Barr, John Bell, Anthea Dickson, Elizabeth McLardy and John Reid.

In Attendance

J. McHarg, Assistant Manager (Community Development) and B. Anderson, Performance/Grants Information Officer (Education and Skills); C. Forsyth, Assistant Transportation Manager (Infrastructure and Design) (Finance and Infrastructure); D. Whyte, External Funding Officer (Economic Development) and P. Shiach, Committee Services Officer (Chief Executive's Service).

Also In Attendance

Inspector A. Clark and Sergeant A. McGrath (Strathclyde Police).

Chair

Councillor Barr in the Chair.

Apologies for Absence

Jean Highgate, North Ayrshire Council; and Strathclyde Fire and Rescue.

1. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest by Members in terms of Standing Order 16.

2. Minutes

The Minutes of the previous meeting of the Garnock Valley and West Kilbride Area Committee held on 22 September 2011 were signed in accordance with paragraph 7(1) of Schedule 7 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973.

3. Strathclyde Police

Submitted report by Strathclyde Police on activity within the Garnock Valley and West Kilbride area for September 2011.

Inspector Clark provided information relating to beats 7,8,9,10,11,12 and 23 which encompass a geographical area including Beith, Dalry and West Kilbride. Information relating to Fairlie was also included with the beat 23 report which referred mainly to West Kilbride.

The Community Policing Team continues to make contact with local community based organisations, including the Community Councils. The report indicated that the main focus of proactivity would continue to be the priorities listed on the local Community Policing Plans which had been published for 2011/2012 i.e.

- Drug dealing and drug use;
- Drunk and disorderly behaviour (including vandalism and graffiti);
- Assault and violent crime, and
- Housebreaking and other theft.

A breakdown of the crime/offence statistics for August/September 2011, together with a comparison with the same period for 2010/2011 was detailed in the report.

Members sought, and received, clarification on various aspects of the report, including thefts of lead and other metals, car thefts, the centralised contact centre and parking offences including obstruction.

Noted.

4. Strathclyde Fire and Rescue

Submitted report by Strathclyde Fire and Rescue on activity within the Garnock Valley and West Kilbride area in the period 1 August to 21 October 2011.

Noted.

5. Availability and Accessibility of Grant Funding

The External Funding Officer advised the Committee of the various funding streams available to local groups, including rural funding through LEADER, Scottish Government and European funding. She intimated that funders sought evidence of capacity building and project development prior to grants being awarded. She advised the Committee that there appeared to be a capacity building issue in North Ayrshire, and that the Garnock Valley area in particular had never drawn down all the funding available to the area.

Members sought, and received, clarification on a number of issues, including: -

- the Ayrshire Renewables Fund;
- the possibility of funding relative to the proposed Dalry museum;
- the requirement for Partnership projects to ensure sustainability;
- Garrison House in Millport as an example of successful partnership working, and
- the availability of LEADER funding being used to fund a development officer post.

The requirement to identify local issues was raised, as was the difficulties inherent in negotiating for LEADER funding.

The Assistant Manager Community Development indicated that in relation to assisting community groups to access funding, the number of staff available to undertake this activity was limited due to current financial constraints and budgetary pressures. The External Funding Officer also offered "poverty of aspiration" as a possible cause of the lack of funding being awarded to community groups and projects in the area.

The Committee (a) noted the information; and (b) agreed that the Economic Development Manager and the Assistant Manager Community Development investigate (i) the options available for attracting LEADER funding, and (ii) problems in relation to stagnation/poverty of aspiration and the reasons for the inability of the Garnock Valley area to maximise revenue opportunities, and report thereon to a future meeting of the Committee.

6. Community Development Grants Scheme and Local Youth Action Fund - Applications for Grant Aid

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Education and Skills) on applications received in respect of the Community Development Grants Scheme and Local Youth Action Fund.

The Committee agreed to make the following awards:-

Community Development Grants Scheme

Organisation	Award
Gathering Threads	£1,000
Playtime Nursery, Dalry	£1,500
Garnock Valley Childminding	£ 820
Glengarnock Toddler Group	£1,300
Dalry Old Folks Welfare Committee	£1,700
West Kilbride Village Nursery	£ 300

Local Youth Action Fund

Recipient	Award
Joshua Fraser	£ 300

7. Margaret Archibald Bequest

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on an application for financial assistance received in respect of the Bequest.

The Committee agreed to award the sum of £400 to the Dalry & District Scottish Women's Rural Institute.

8. Traffic Regulation Order - One-Way Operation, Avils Hill, Kilbirnie

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Finance and Infrastructure) on the proposed introduction of a one-way operation on Avils Hill, Kilbirnie.

Avils Hill is a residential street that links Bathville Road at the West to Avils Place (B780) in the East. The junction of Avils Hill and Avils Place is narrow, with poor sightlines, particularly for vehicles turning into Avils Hill from the main road. Residents already adopt an informal one-way system.

In the interests of road safety it is proposed to implement a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) and formalise the existing situation, details of which were provided in Appendix 1 to the report. The costs of implementing the order will be met from the Infrastructure and Design Service revenue budget. Consultations have been carried out with the local Elected Members and Strathclyde Police.

The Committee agreed to (a) note that the investigation, preparation and statutory process is underway for a one-way TRO at Avils Hill, Kilbirnie; and (b) approve the implementation of the TRO should no objections be received.

9. North Ayrshire Community Planning Partnership (CPP) Board: Minutes of Meeting held on 15 September 2011

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on the Minutes of the Meeting of the North Ayrshire Community Planning Partnership (CPP) Board held on 16 September 2011.

Noted.

10. Future Agenda Items

The Committee agreed that the External Funding Officer investigate the possibility of LEADER funding in relation to the proposed Dalry Museum and report thereon to a future meeting.

11. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Area Committee is scheduled for 26 January 2012, venue to be confirmed.

The meeting ended at 3.30 p.m.