

Three Towns Area Committee  
31 May 2006

**SALTCOATS, 31 May 2006** - At a Meeting of the Three Towns Area Committee of North Ayrshire Council at 10.00 am.

**Present**

Alan Munro, Gordon Allison, Sam Taylor and Nan Wallace

**In Attendance**

A Milson, Learning Manager, Quality Development and D Whyte, External Grants Officer (Educational Services); A Grossart, Finance Manager (Finance); C Hollas, Monitoring and Support Officer and J Bannatyne, Corporate and Democratic Support Officer (Chief Executive's).

**Also In Attendance**

Inspector I Ness (Strathclyde Police).

**Chair**

Councillor Munro in the Chair.

**Apologies for Absence**

Councillors Peter McNamara, David Munn, Margaret Munn and Station Manager Murdo Henderson (Strathclyde Fire and Rescue).

**1. Minutes**

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 12 April 2006, copies of which had previously been circulated, were confirmed.

**2. Declarations of Interest**

Councillor Munro declared an interest in the grant application submitted by the Befriend and Respite Service (BARS) under Item 5.

**3. Strathclyde Police**

Submitted reports by Strathclyde Police on the following matters:-

**Trends in Crime Figures in the Committee's Area**

Inspector Ness reported that crimes of assault and serious assault, which are generally alcohol related, have been increasing. Charges have been brought against individuals acquiring alcohol for under age drinkers and the monitoring of off-sale premises is continuing. In the Three Towns Area 105 stop searches have been undertaken and these have produced positive results. Notwithstanding the current armistice for knives, a special police operation has been undertaken using knife detection equipment. There has been a reduction in reports of vandalism and this has been assisted by the work of police officers located in schools. House breaking

and car crimes have also decreased and extra police officers have been deployed in an effort to combat disorder. A number of individuals have also been arrested for supplying drugs. Police officers were deployed on the Arran ferry route for a day in an effort to raise the profile of Strathclyde Police and this has resulted in good liaison with CalMac Ltd.

Noted.

### **The Mobile Police Office: North Ayrshire Sub Division**

The main purpose of the mobile office is to enhance the quality of service delivery to rural communities in North Ayrshire. The office will operate from Monday to Friday on a weekly basis from 0800 hrs to 1600 hrs, with some flexibility during the summer months. Between 18 April and 19 May 2006 59 visitors visited the mobile office which is proving to be a valuable community asset. A press release has been sent out and details of the proposed weekly timetable and location of the mobile office were provided in appendices to the report.

Councillor Wallace expressed concern over the safety of youths in the vicinity of Dubb's Quarry, Stevenston.

The Committee agreed (a) that Inspector Ness contact the relevant Community Police Officer for the area at Dubb's Quarry, Stevenston to request that the area be checked more thoroughly in the future; (b) that the Clerk liaise with the local members for the area to ascertain what further action requires to be taken to alleviate the safety problems; and (c) to note the report meantime.

### **The Community Well-Being Fund**

During 2004/05 a pilot project was launched by the Chief Constable subject to a rolling programme of monitoring and evaluation. This involved the provision of £500 to each Community Police Officer in the 'K' Division (Paisley) Strathclyde Police Area who was required to liaise with community groups to identify potential community projects or initiatives which would benefit from funding to a maximum of £500.

The Joint Police Board subsequently approved the extension of the funding to the financial year 2005/06 and the report listed a number of projects which benefited from the funding during 2005/06. The provision of funding for further community projects in 2006/07 has now been approved.

Noted.

## **4. Strathclyde Fire and Rescue**

Submitted report by Strathclyde Fire and Rescue detailing response figures and activities in the Committee's area between 30 March and 18 May 2006.

During this period fire crews from Ardrossan and Kilwinning attended 220 incidents and the report gave details of these.

To date 324 home safety visits have been completed and 390 smoke detectors with 10 year batteries, have been fitted, free of charge. Strathclyde Fire and Rescue and North Ayrshire Tenant Participation are now working in partnership. The Tenant Participation Newsletter will feature Strathclyde Fire and Rescue and a presentation on fire safety in the home has already been given to the leaders of Tenant Associations throughout North Ayrshire. Crews from Ardrossan Fire Station and Kilwinning Fire Station visited Dykesmains Primary School and Hayocks Primary School respectively, over a period of 2 consecutive days during which chip pan demonstration units were used. A programme of fire safety is also ongoing at Ardrossan Youth Centre.

Noted.

## **5. Regenerating Our Community Fund 2006/07**

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on applications received for financial assistance from the Regenerating our Community Fund 2006/07.

The Fund is part of North Ayrshire Community Planning Partnership's Regeneration Outcome Agreement (ROA) 2005/06-2007/08, funded by the Scottish Executive's Community Regeneration Fund. The Fund has a budget of £125,000 per year and can be used to provide grants of between £5,000-£15,000 to support community-based activities which benefit people living in the Regeneration areas within Irvine, Kilwinning, the Three Towns and Kilbirnie.

41 applications in total were received for 2006/07 amounting to £512,491. The Appraisal Panel recommended 14 applications for funding to a total of £125,000 and details of the recommendations to each Area Committee were appended to the report.

The Committee agreed to defer consideration of all applications, pending consultation between Councillor Munro as Acting Chair and the other Area Committee Chairs and to report on the outcome of this to the Corporate Policy Committee.

## **6. Community Development Grants Scheme and Local 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 Action Fund.

The Community Development Grants Scheme has a balance of £20,850 and the Local Action Fund has a balance of £14,125.

The Committee agreed to make the following awards:-

### **Community Development Grants Scheme**

<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Award</b>
North Ayrshire Sports Council	£1,500.00
North Ayrshire Sports Association for Disabled	£800.00
Ardeer Community Association	£1,000.00
Ardrossan Sewing Bee	£1,000.00
3TFM Radio	£1,500.00
Indian Traders	£948.50
1st Hayocks Rainbows	£350.00
The Buddies Group	£700.00
5th Stevenston Brownies	£300.00
Crafty Cards Arts Group	£1,000.00

### **Local Youth Action Fund**

<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Award</b>
Ardrossan Outdoor Activity Club	£1,000.00
Auchenharvie Hill Walking Club	£2,000.00
North Ayrshire Table Tennis Club	£2,000.00

### **7. Ardrossan Common Good Fund: Draft Accounts 2005/06**

Submitted report by the Assistant Chief Executive (Finance) on the draft accounts in respect of the Ardrossan Common Good Fund for the year to 31 March 2006 and suggesting a level of income which should be made available for grants in 2006/07.

The Committee (a) noted the draft accounts for financial year 2005/06; and (b) agreed to award grants to a maximum of £3,060 in the current financial year.

### **8. Saltcoats Common Good fund: Draft Accounts 2005/06**

Submitted report by the Assistant Chief Executive (Finance) on the draft accounts in respect of the Saltcoats Common Good Fund for the year to 31 March 2006 and suggesting a level of income which should be made available for grants in 2006/07.

The Committee (a) noted the draft accounts for financial year 2005/06; and (b) agreed to award grants to a maximum of £1,440 in the current financial year.

## **9. Stevenston Common Good Fund**

### **(a) Draft Accounts 2005/06**

Submitted report by the Assistant Chief Executive (Finance) on the draft accounts in respect of the Stevenston Common Good Fund for the year to 31 March 2006 and suggesting a level of income which should be made available for grants in 2006/07.

The Committee (a) noted the draft accounts for financial year 2005/06; and (b) agreed to award grants to a maximum of £16,740 in the current financial year.

### **(b) Applications for Financial Assistance: Update**

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on the current position regarding applications for financial assistance from Stevenston Celebrations Committee and Stevenston Age Concern.

At its meeting on 12 April 2006 the Committee continued consideration of applications for funding from Stevenston Common Good from Stevenston Celebrations Committee (£7,000) and Stevenston Age Concern (£10,000) to enable the Learning Manager, Quality Development, Community Learning and Development (Educational Services) to obtain additional information and report.

The Festival and Events Officer from Community Learning and Development has met with the Stevenston Celebrations Committee who have confirmed that the event planned for 17 June 2006 has now been cancelled. It is the group's intention to plan further community events in the future, but the application for £7,000 previously considered by the Committee has now been withdrawn.

The External Grants Officer has contacted Stevenston Age Concern for discussions on their application and the outcome of these is the subject of a report below.

Noted.

### **(c) Stevenston Common Good: Application for Financial Assistance: Stevenston Age Concern**

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Educational Services) on an application from Stevenston Age Concern for financial assistance from Stevenston Common Good Fund amounting to £10,000 in respect of a Drop-In Cafe project in Stevenston, which had been continued from the previous meeting.

The External Grants Officer has now met with a representative of Stevenston Age Concern. Whilst the organisation has provided a business plan, there are still some concerns regarding the Group's application.

The Committee agreed (a) to defer any decision on the application until the outcome of other funding applications by the group is known; (b) that the local members for Stevenston arrange to meet with the group in the meantime to discuss their proposals; (c) that the group be provided with further advice and guidance from appropriate officers of the Council to assist them to further develop their business plan and to submit appropriate applications for funding; and (d) that favourable consideration be given to a revised application if resubmitted in the future.

## **10. Future Agenda Item**

Councillor Taylor referred to a report on Health Service Developments by NHS Ayrshire and Arran which had been circulated to members of the Committee for information in view of the cancellation of the Liaison Meeting with the Community Planning Partners. He expressed concern over the apparent lack of consultation with patients etc on proposals for the replacement surgery for South Beach General Practice and requested that further clarification be sought in this regard from NHS Ayrshire and Arran.

The Committee agreed that the Clerk seek clarification from NHS Ayrshire and Arran on this matter and advise members of the Committee of the response.

The Meeting ended at 11.35 am.