

North Coast and Arran Area Committee
15 March 1999

Largs, 15 March 1999 - At a meeting of the North Coast and Arran Area Committee at 10.30 a.m.

Present

John Sillars, Margaret Highet, Elizabeth McLardy and Robert Rae.

In Attendance

J Leckie, Head of Education Services, J Rankin, Arts and Cultural Services Manager, A Haxton, Adviser, M Smyth and I Frame, Area Community Development Officers (Educational Services), David Kelly, Principal Engineer and J Lockhart, Area Cleansing/Grounds Maintenance Officer (Property Services) and J Bannatyne, Administration Officer (Chief Executive's).

Also In Attendance

Inspector W Ross (Strathclyde Police), R Andrew, Sub-Divisional Officer and T Barr, Community Fire Officer (Strathclyde Fire Brigade).

Chair

Mr Sillars in the Chair.

Apologies for Absence

Richard Wilkinson.

1. Minutes Confirmed

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 1 February 1999, copies of which had previously been circulated, were confirmed.

2. Monitoring Reports

(a) Litter Awareness

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Property Services) on litter awareness.

There have been no recent incidents of fly tipping and one call was made to the Litter Hotline since the last meeting. Arrangements are currently in hand to publicise the Litter Hotline throughout North Ayrshire.

Noted.

(b) Educational Services

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Educational Services) providing statistical information on attendance, running costs and leaver destinations in relation to schools serving pupils from within the North Coast and Arran Area.

The Committee agreed that similar reports be submitted on an annual basis.

(c) Community Development Grants Scheme: Expenditure Analysis 1996/99

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on the disbursement of grant funding through the Community Developments Grants budget from 1996/99.

Noted.

3. Community Development Grants Scheme: Request for Financial Assistance

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Educational Services) on requests for financial assistance.

(a) Shiskine Junior Sports Club

The Committee agreed to award £200 to Shiskine Junior Sports Club.

(b) Arran Fiddle and Step Dance Club

The Committee agreed to award £100 to the Arran Fiddle and Step Dance Club.

4. Arran: Roads Issues

Submitted progress report by the Corporate Director (Property Services) on roads issues on Arran, including the condition of the roads, the cost of remedial works, the upkeep of ditches, the use of alternative patching materials, coastal protection and bridge restrictions. Special arrangements are in place for the emergency services to ensure access to property and land whenever required.

The Committee welcomed the report and noted the progress to date.

5. Largs Viking Festival Advisory Forum

Submitted progress report by the Corporate Director (Educational Services) on the Largs Viking Festival Programme for 1999 including details of the current membership of the Largs Viking Festival Advisory Forum.

Noted.

6. Strathclyde Police: Litter/Dog Fouling

Inspector Ross reported on the progress of initiatives currently being undertaken by Strathclyde Police in conjunction with the Council to address problems relating to litter and dog fouling. While educational initiatives have been successful, the Police are now pursuing enforcement measures. A number of adults have recently been reported to the Procurator Fiscal for litter offences and a number of offences have been reported to parents involving juveniles. To enable offences relating to dog fouling to be dealt with more appropriately, consideration is currently being given by the Scottish Office to the introduction of Fixed Penalty Fines and it is hoped that such a system will be introduced later this year.

Noted.

7. Cumbrae Community Council

Following the formal dissolution of the former Cumbrae Community Council on 5 January 1999, a petition containing 23 signatories of local electors was received requesting that a new Community Council be formed for Cumbrae. Following the receipt of seven nominations for seven prescribed places a new Cumbrae Community Council was established on 3 March 1999 in accordance with the terms of the Council's "Scheme for the Establishment of Community Councils".

Noted.

8. Community Safety: Fire Statistics

Submitted report by Strathclyde Fire Brigade detailing fire statistics within the North Coast and Arran area for the period 1 January to 28 February 1999.

Noted.

9. Common Good/Trust Funds: Standard Application Forms

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on the proposed introduction of a standard application form for requests for financial assistance from Common Good/Trust Funds with effect from 1 April 1999.

Noted.

10. Urgent Items

The Chair agreed that the following items be considered as a matter of urgency.

11. Largs: Cairnies Quay

Submitted letter from Councillor Richard Wilkinson to the Chair of the Committee expressing concern over the potential future use of Cairnies Quay, Largs by jet skiers, following the proposed move by Largs Sailing Club to a new clubhouse at the Marina.

After discussion the Committee agreed that appropriate officers and Strathclyde Police, investigate this matter and advise Councillor Wilkinson accordingly.

12. Skelmorlie: Disused Sports Field

Councillor Hight requested that enquiries be made into the possibility of obtaining funding from the National Playing Fields Association towards the maintenance of playing fields which are no longer in a usable condition (e.g. Skelmorlie Football Park).

The Committee agreed that the Corporate Director (Educational Services) investigate this matter and advise Councillor Hight accordingly.

The meeting ended at 11.30 a.m.