

North Coast and Arran Area Committee
17 November 1997

Largs, 17 November 1997 - At a Meeting of the North Coast and Arran Area Committee of North Ayrshire Council at 10.30 a.m.

Present

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

In Attendance

The Director of Community and Recreational Services, D. Anderson, Head of Cultural and Community Services, M. Smyth, Area Community Development Officer (Community and Recreational Services); J. Houston, Area Manager, Kilbirnie (Housing Services); R. Lee, Assistant Principal Accountant (Financial Services); M. Hall, Social Worker (Social Work); and J Bannatyne, Administration Officer (Chief Executive).

Also In Attendance

Inspector R. Pollock (Police Liaison Officer) and Inspector M. Scally (Strathclyde Police); J. Milligan, Assistant Divisional Officer and T. Barr, Community Fire Officer (Strathclyde Fire Brigade).

Chair

Mr. Sillars in the Chair.

1. Minutes Confirmed

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 6 October 1997, copies of which had previously been circulated, were confirmed.

2. Monitoring Reports

(a) Housing Response Repairs

Submitted report by the Director of Housing Services on service delivery in relation to Housing Response Repairs.

The Council have established 3 Response Repair priorities, each with a target maximum response time:-

emergency repairs - 24 hours,

category A repairs - 7 calendar days; and

category B repairs - 28 calendar days.

Within the North Coast and Arran, the percentage repairs completed within the target response times are emergencies 96%, category A 99% and category B 99%. Throughout North Ayrshire, the average time taken to complete Response Repairs is emergencies 0.3 days (i.e. 7 out of 10 emergencies are completed on the same day), category A repairs 4.56 days and category B repairs 13.95 days. Most Response Repairs are completed therefore well within the maximum response

times.

Noted.

(b) Social Work Directorate

Submitted report by the Director of Social Work on the provision of Social Work Services.

Child Care services detailed showed that over the period from 6 February to 12 June 1997 the North Coast and Arran area had no children on the Child Protection Register.

There are currently 18 persons in the North Coast and Arran area who have been assessed and approved for residential or nursing care who are unable to proceed to that provision due to lack of funding.

Overcrowding at the Social Work Offices at Boyd Street, Largs has resulted in the meeting room requiring to be utilised for accommodating staff but improvements have been carried out which have increased available accommodation.

After discussion, the Committee agreed (a) that the Director of Social Work be requested to report to the next Meeting on (i) the provision of community alarms including details of the problems being experienced in relation to Millport and (ii) the timescales and procedures involved in small adaptations to properties in the North Coast and Arran area; and (b) otherwise to note the position.

(c) Community Development Grants Scheme: Analysis of Grants Paid to 14 October 1997

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on analysis of Community Development Grants paid to 14 October 1997 in respect of the North Coast and Arran area, including details of the balance of funding remaining.

Concern was expressed that a limited amount of funding was available for the remainder of this financial year. The view was also expressed that closer scrutiny of applications would be required in relation to next years grants to ensure that funding available meets the needs of the North Coast and Arran area.

After discussion, the Committee agreed (a) that appropriate officers be advised of the Committee's concern over the need to ensure that the current levels of funding available for grants are maintained for the next financial year and for the closer scrutiny of applications; and (b) otherwise to note the report.

3. Community Development Grants Scheme: Requests for Financial Assistance

Submitted report by the Director of Community and Recreational Services on the undernoted applications for grants to voluntary organisations.

(a) Sandbraes Playpark Association

The Committee agreed to award the Sandbraes Playpark Association £200; and

(b) Millport Pre-School Playgroup

The Committee agreed to award the Millport Pre-School Playgroup £450.

4. Playschemes

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on an application for financial assistance from the West Kilbride Teen Time Playscheme for proposed outings to 'Harvies', the Magnum Leisure Centre and Vikingar and to enable craft work to be undertaken. The Group has previously received an award of £390 towards the costs of their summer playscheme. The Director of Community and Recreational Services recommended a grant of £150.

Given the anticipated timescale involved in processing the application through the Area Committee the Chair had previously agreed as a matter of urgency to approve an award of £150.

The Committee agreed to homologate the decision.

5. Largs: Community Consultation

(Previous Minute Reference: North Coast and Arran Area Committee: 6 October 1997)

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on the responses from the various Directorates of the Council to the matters raised at the Community Consultation meeting held in Largs on 18 September 1997.

After discussion, the Committee agreed (a) that the Chief Executive, in consultation with the appropriate Chief Officers, review all the issues raised during the community consultation process throughout the North Coast and Arran area and submit an appropriate report for consideration to the Committee in March 1998; (b) that a copy of the report on the outcome of the Largs Community Consultation be forwarded to the representatives of the various groups/organisations who were invited to attend the meeting for their interest; and (c) otherwise to note the position.

6. Largs: School Wynd: Naming of New Housing Development by Cunninghame Housing Association

Submitted report by the Director of Planning, Roads and Environment on the provision of a street name in respect of a new housing development at School Wynd, Largs.

The Committee agreed that the street be named "St. Columba Court" in accordance with the recommendation of the Local Member.

7. Community Safety Strategy

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on the development of a Community Safety Strategy for North Ayrshire.

On 21 October 1997, the Corporate Strategy Committee agreed to approve and adopt the Community Safety Strategy and to have it implemented. The Corporate Strategy Committee also agreed to a formal request from Strathclyde Fire Brigade for one of their officers to attend all future meetings of the 5 Area Committees, to enable general advice and assistance to be given and provide statistical information. The Community Safety Strategy will be used as a framework for improving community safety within North Ayrshire. It proposes a way forward for the Council within the overall Scottish context of community safety and indicates ways in which the Council may drive the issue forward in conjunction with other Agencies and through the Area Committees. The Strategy includes the proposed establishment of a Joint Agency Community Safety Steering Group.

The Chair expressed the view that insufficient consultation with the Area Committees had been undertaken prior to the submission of the report on the proposed Community Safety Strategy to the Corporate Strategy Committee for approval. He confirmed that a local Community Safety Initiative report document has been prepared in respect of community safety matters affecting the North Coast and Arran area and that a number of local initiatives are now underway. The first meeting of a local Steering Committee has been held and a further meeting is due in December 1997. Consequently

there is some concern over the possible overlap of functions and initiatives. The Police Liaison Officer confirmed that the Community Safety Strategy should operate on 2 levels. The basic aim of the North Ayrshire Community Safety Strategy is to address Council wide issues such as domestic violence, road safety etc. However community safety also needs to be progressed at a local level.

After discussion, the Committee agreed (a) that the Head of Corporate Business be advised of the concerns expressed by the Committee; and (b) that the Police Liaison Officer consult with officers from the Community and Recreational Services Directorate on the Community Safety Initiatives already taken within the North Coast and Arran area.

8. Community and Recreational Services Directorate Strategy 1998-2003: Presentation to Area Committees

Submitted report by the Director of Community and Recreational Services on the Community and Recreation Strategy 1998-2003 consultation document. The Director also gave a presentation to the Committee on details of the document.

On 12 August 1997, the Community and Recreational Services Committee approved the consultation document and agreed to support the proposed consultation programme, including consultation with Area Committees. The document sets out the Directorate's strategic aims and objectives in a "Framework for Action" with priorities and action plans. All proposals will be considered and interpreted in specific service plans which will be prepared within the Directorate between October and December 1997. "Partnership" and "Community" are fundamental elements within the Strategy and it is intended to ensure that meaningful and effective consultation takes place which reflects the range of service provision and users. The Consultation Programme will therefore include national organisations, local organisations, North Ayrshire Council Directorates, Community and Recreational Services staff, Trade Unions and members of the public.

Reference was made to the standard of grounds maintenance which the Council is seeking to achieve. The Director advised that the existing contract is too rigid and is therefore inappropriate for current needs.

Any savings effected will be used to address some of the other problems raised during the community consultation process in relation to parks, sports pitches, public benches, etc.

Problems in relation to the dual purpose of facilities such as Barrfields/Vikingar can best be addressed by effective marketing. The Strategy will now be subject to further consultation with local groups and Members including such an exercise on Arran in December 1997.

After a full discussion, the Committee agreed (a) to approve the consultation document; and (b) to support the programme of consultation.

The meeting ended at 12.40 p.m.