

North Coast and Arran Area Committee
1 February 1999

Largs, 1 February 1999 - At a Meeting of the North Coast and Arran Area Committee of North Ayrshire Council at 10.30 a.m.

Present

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

In Attendance

C. Hamilton, Area Services Manager (Social Services), J. Rankin, Arts and Cultural Services Manager, F. McKinnon, Amenity Services Officer and M. Smyth, Area Community Development Officer (Educational Services), L. Scott, Supervising 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) and T. Barr, Community Fire Officer (Strathclyde Fire Brigade).

Chair

In the absence of the Chair the Committee unanimously agreed that Miss Highet take the Chair.

Apologies for Absence

John Sillars.

1. Minutes Confirmed

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 7 December 1998, copies of which had previously been circulated, were confirmed.

2. Monitoring Reports

(a) Social Work

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Social Services) on issues relating to the quality of Social Work Services in the North Coast and Arran area.

The report gave specific details including statistical information on (i) child care and child protection services, and (ii) community care services in respect of residential admissions, home care services and other community care services in the North Coast and Arran area.

The Committee agreed (a) that the Area Social Work Manager respond directly to the members of the Committee on those specific issues where additional information was requested; and (b) otherwise to note the position.

(b) Development and Promotion: North Ayrshire Council Industrial Estate Factories

Submitted quarterly report by the Assistant Chief Executive (Development and Promotion) on the letting/availability of factories on Council Industrial Estates within the North Coast and Arran area.

Noted.

(c) Litter Awareness

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

No new instances of illegal dumping have been reported. No calls were made to the litter hotline during December 1998. Steps are currently being taken by the Council to further publicise the hotline number throughout North Ayrshire to encourage its use.

Noted.

(d) Community Development Grants Scheme: Analysis of Grants Paid to 14th December 1998

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on the Community Development grants paid to 14th December 1998 in respect of the North Coast and Arran area including details of the balance of funding remaining.

Noted.

3. Community Development Grants Scheme: Requests for Financial Assistance

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

(a) Arran Sub-Aqua Club

The Committee agreed to award the Arran Sub-Aqua Club £200.

4. Largs Harbour: Old Fish Quay

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on the current position regarding the Old Fish Quay at Largs Harbour.

The Principal Estates Officer has confirmed that investigations into the ownership of the Old Fish Quay at Largs Harbour are continuing. The Head of Roads has indicated that some works on the existing wall including finishing off with a tidy end section have been provisionally programmed for the next financial year and in the meantime all fallen stone and debris should be cleared from the beach. The wall has recently been inspected and remains in a safe condition.

After discussion the Committee agreed to (a) note the proposals for carrying out work on repairing the wall; (b) recommend that the stones removed in the interim be retained for future restoration; and (c) request that the Corporate Director (Educational Services) (i) seek information from the Largs Historical Society on the historical significance of the Old Fish Quay and (ii) pursue the possibility of obtaining funding from external sources towards the provision of a plaque commemorating the Quay, and report.

5. Tennis Facilities

(a) Arran: Brodick Tennis Courts: Site Visit

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Educational Services) on the outcome of a site visit to Brodick Tennis Courts by the Chair and officers of the Council to consider the future maintenance requirements of the courts.

The Committee agreed that the Corporate Director (Educational Services) arrange to (a) carry out reinstatement and maintenance to allow operation of 3 courts for the forthcoming season, which is

provided for within existing budgets; (b) pursue discussions with the Grounds Maintenance section of Property Services to ascertain what works can be carried out, within existing budgets, on the other three courts; and (c) pursue the possibility of establishing a partnership, in the long term, with the Arran Sports Association for future provision of tennis on the island, and report.

(b) Tennis Provision in North Ayrshire

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Educational Services) providing comprehensive details on the level of provision and current condition of existing tennis facilities throughout North Ayrshire as previously requested by the Committee.

Noted.

6. Arran: Roads Issues

Submitted progress report by the Corporate Director (Property Services) on roads issues on Arran in relation to the present condition of the roads, the costing of remedial works, the upkeep of ditches, the use of alternative patching materials, traffic management and lorry routing and coastal protection.

Reference was made to road subsidence which had occurred on the A841 route between Kilpatrick and Corriecavie resulting in the closure of the road for road works. Confirmation was given that the road works should be completed by 3rd February 1999 allowing the road to be re-opened.

After discussion, the Committee agreed that a further progress report be submitted to the next meeting including information on the position regarding the weight limits on specific roads.

7. Largs Viking Festival

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Educational Services) on the progress on the organisation of the 1999 Viking Festival.

The Largs Viking Festival Advisory Forum has agreed that this years festival will be held between 28th August and 5th September. Since these dates coincide with the Millport Country and Western Festival and the Largs Regatta Week some problems in relation to festival security and traffic management arrangements will require to be addressed. Details of the draft festival programme of activities were given in the report. Efforts are currently underway to attract grants and sponsorship for the festival and it is proposed that additional advertising be included in the festival brochure to cover the cost of printing and distribution.

After discussion the Committee agreed (a) that a progress report be submitted to the next meeting including details of the current membership of the Largs Viking Festival Advisory Forum; and (b) to note progress to date.

8. Street Naming: West Kilbride: Seamill: Fullerton Drive: New Private Housing Development by Laurel Homes

Submitted report by the Assistant Chief Executive (Development & Promotion) on the provision of a street name for a new private housing development at Fullerton Drive, Seamill, West Kilbride.

The Committee agreed that the street within the development be named "Faulds Wynd" in accordance with the recommendation of the local member.

9. Litter Initiatives:

Clarification was sought on whether Strathclyde Police intended to extend the current Litter Initiative in Kilwinning to cover areas in the North Coast and on the possibility of the introduction of a 'Fixed Penalty System' to deal with litter/dog fouling offences.

Strathclyde Police reported that ongoing discussions are taking place between Police and the Scottish Office regarding the possible introduction of a 'Fixed Penalty System' for litter offences including dog fouling and progress would be reported to the next meeting. No decision has been taken on extending the current Litter Initiative in Kilwinning to other areas.

The Committee agreed that the Officers Working Group on Litter Awareness and Prevention be advised of the Committee's recommendation that the litter initiative currently being undertaken in the Kilwinning area be extended by Strathclyde Police to cover the whole of North Ayrshire including areas within the North Coast.

10. Community Safety: Fire Statistics

Submitted report by Strathclyde Fire Brigade detailing fire statistics within the North Coast and Arran area for the periods 1st - 30th November 1998 and 1st - 31st December 1998.

Noted.

11. Urgent Items

The Chair agreed to take the following items as a matter of urgency.

12. Fairlie: Public Toilets

Ongoing problems in relation to anti-social behaviour in public toilets in Fairlie have resulted in the toilets at the south picnic area being closed during the hours of darkness. The public toilets situated in Main Street, Fairlie will also close during the hours of darkness as soon as replacement gates have been installed.

Noted.

13. Non-Domestic Rates: Discretionary Relief

Reference was made to the decision of the Support Services Committee on 26th January 1999 to approve the scheme for the discretionary relief of rates to properties in rural settlements as from 1st April 1999. Discussion took place on why this did not apply to certain other types of property.

The Committee agreed that the Assistant Chief Executive (Finance) be advised of its concerns in this regard.

The meeting ended at 11.40 a.m.