

Agenda Item 2(a)

Ardrossan and Arran, Saltcoats and Stevenston Area Committee  
17 March 2011

**IRVINE, 17 March 2011** - At a Meeting of the Ardrossan and Arran, Saltcoats and Stevenston Area Committee of North Ayrshire Council at 4.00 p.m.

**Present**

Anthony Gurney, Margie Currie, William Gibson, John Hunter and Ronnie McNicol.

**In Attendance**

B. McGhee, Active Schools Manager, D. Reid, Acting Principal Officer, B. Anderson, Performance/Grants Information Officer and J. Miller, Administrative Officer (Education and Skills); Garry Hamilton, Festivals and Events Officer and M. Anderson, Committee Services Officer (Chief Executive's Service).sc

**Chair**

Councillor Gurney in the Chair.

**Apologies for Absence**

Peter McNamara, David Munn and Alan Munro.

**1. Declarations of Interest**

In terms of Standing Order 16, Councillor Gibson, as a member of Ardrossan Academicals RFC, declared an interest in Agenda Item 7 (Ardrossan Common Good Fund: Application for Financial Assistance) and left the meeting for that item of business.

**2. Minutes**

The Minutes of the previous meeting of the Committee held on 3 February 2011 were signed in accordance with Paragraph 7 (1) of Schedule 7 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973.

**3. Strathclyde Police**

Inspector Skimming provided information on the following:-

- action taken to address concerns expressed by the Committee in relation to the alleged supply of alcohol to young teenagers in the lane off Glasgow Street, Ardrossan;
- warnings issued to drivers parked in 'keep clear' areas outside Winton Primary School and action to locate 2 bus stops closer to St Peter's Primary School in an effort to encourage the use of buses rather than private cars;
- a bomb scare at Saltcoats Post Office on 4 March 2011;

- a robbery and serious assault at Kilmeny Terrace, Ardrossan, on 14 March 2011; and
- ongoing priorities for the Police, namely tackling drugs (with particular properties in Saltcoats Town Centre and Stevenston North targeted), serious crime (including separate incidents of assault which took place on 8 March 2011 in the Elm Park area of Ardrossan and on 3 March 2011 in the Wheatley Road area of Stevenston) and housebreakings (resulting in 3 arrests).

Members discussed the following issues:-

- the timing and pattern of recent house breakings;
- the nature and circumstances of recent serious assaults;
- a request for temporary CCTV cameras to be sited to the rear of Montgomerie Street, Ardrossan;
- a recent Council-led initiative to tackle dog fouling in the Holm Plantation area;
- an apparent Police incident at the front car park on the shore front between Ardrossan and Saltcoats; and
- the improper use of West Doura Avenue, Saltcoats, as a through-route by school buses from St Matthew's Academy.

The Committee agreed (a) to note that the Acting Principal Officer (Education and Skills) would raise with Strathclyde Passenger Transport the issue of school buses using West Doura Avenue, Saltcoats; and (b) otherwise to note the content of the report.

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

Submitted report by Strathclyde Fire and Rescue on activity from 21 January to 14 March 2011.

Station Commander Davidson provided further information on the following:-

- action taken in conjunction with the Police in response to a deliberate fire in the side entrance to shops at Caledonian Road, Stevenston;
- the apparent circumstances surrounding a malicious false alarm at O'Connor Court, Saltcoats;
- the continued promotion of Home Fire Safety Visits, particularly in relation to vulnerable householders;
- the Firereach courses which are taking place at Troon Community Fire Station pending completion of the refurbishment of Kilwinning Fire Station;
- safety concerns relating to the presence of debris to the rear of flatted accommodation at Sydney Street, Saltcoats; and
- the delivery of safety talks to 3 Towns Resource Centre staff and the Women's Guild at Ardeer Church, Stevenston.

Members discussed the following issues:-

- action which might be taken by the Council to address the issue of debris to the rear of properties at Sydney Street, Saltcoats, and other locations where similar problems exist, including to the rear of Arran Place, Ardrossan; and
- recent fire alarm incidents at the homeless unit on Princes Street, Ardrossan.

The Committee agreed (a) that the Committee Services Officer raise with the Council's Environment and Related Services (Waste Management) the possibility of removing debris at the rear of properties at Sydney Street, Saltcoats, and Arran Place, Ardrossan; and (b) otherwise to note the content of the report.

## **5. Vehicular Traffic at Schools**

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Education and Skills) on the current traffic issues outside school grounds.

At the last meeting of the Area Committee on 3 February 2011, Members expressed concerns relating to car parking and waiting on the zigzag road markings and "keep clear" areas outside school premises, particularly in the vicinity of St. Peter's and Winton Primary Schools.

Parents are not currently encouraged to access school grounds to drop off and pick up children by car and private taxi hire cars are prohibited from entering the school grounds. However, contract taxis do have permission to enter school car parks for pupil drop off and pick up.

Schools have been proactive in promoting their school transport plan, which identifies parking in the surrounding streets, and the Council's School Travel Co-ordinator has been involved in developing "Park and Stride" initiatives at the schools in question. In addition, schools regularly remind pupils and parents of traffic issues and Community Police Officers have been active in dealing with parents who disregard road safety markings. Pupil and Parent Councils have also been producing paperwork to educate parents on parking matters and the situation appears to have improved at Winton Primary Schools, where leaflets have been issued.

Officers will remind contracted taxis to use the designated drop-off point within school car parks in accordance with the terms of their contract. Headteachers will continue to remind Pupil and Parent Councils of the traffic management issues and post reminders in the newsletters sent to all parents. Community Police will also continue to support schools in implementing their arrangements.

Members discussed a recent improvement in the position at Winton Primary School, where the efforts of Education and Skills and the Police appear to have reduced the incidence of parking in restricted areas.

Noted.

#### **6. Community Development Grants Scheme and Local Youth Action Fund 2010/11: Applications for Financial Assistance**

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Education and Skills) on applications for financial assistance under the Council's Community Development Grants Scheme and Local Youth Action Fund.

Members were advised that the address for St Andrew's Episcopal Church had been cited in error as Glasgow Street, Ardrossan, rather than South Crescent Road, Ardrossan.

The Committee agreed (a) to make the following awards:-

##### **Community Development Grant Awards**

<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Award</b>
St Andrew's Episcopal Church	£1,495.00
Arran Duke of Edinburgh Award Group	£1,629.00
5th Saltcoats Girl's Brigade	£578.49
Arran Yacht Club	£1,187.51

##### **Local Youth Action Fund Awards**

<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Award</b>
Arran Youth Foundations	£1,906.00
Ardrossan Youth Association	£1,906.00

and (b) to refuse the application by Arran Theatre and Arts Trust.

#### **7. Ardrossan Common Good Fund: Applications for Financial Assistance**

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on an application for financial assistance from Ardrossan Common Good Fund.

The Committee Services Officer advised the Committee of feedback received from Corporate Services (Legal), Finance and Infrastructure (Finance) and Education and Skills on the application.

The Committee agreed to grant £180.00 in the form of an underwrite from Ardrossan Common Good Fund, on the basis that the application would benefit the community as a whole by promoting healthy lifestyles.

## **8. Tall Ships Update**

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on further development in relation to the possible visit by the Tall Ships to Lamlash Bay, Isle of Arran, in July 2011.

At its last meeting on 3 February 2011, the Committee received a report and presentation on the possibility of the Tall Ships visiting Lamlash Bay in the summer of 2011. The Tall Ships are due in the Firth of Clyde during the week of 6 July 2011 as part of the 2011 Tall Ships Race. Although the exact position of the fleet will be weather dependent, an interest has been expressed in using Lamlash Bay as a stopping off point on the way to Greenock. The Committee expressed its support for the project and agreed that Arran Yacht Club be contacted regarding possible applications to Community Development Grant Fund and, if applicable, the Local Youth Action Fund and Community Benefit Fund. The Committee also asked that the Communications Manager and Economic Development Manager discuss any advice or support which might be offered in terms of the promotion of the event and securing funding and support from other public bodies and the local business community.

On 1 March 2011, Council officers and representatives of Arran Yacht Club met to discuss the support that might be available from the Council. The Yacht Club advised that an invitation has been issued for the Ships to stop over at Lamlash, albeit that any visit would be weather dependent. Regardless of whether the Ships do visit, the Yacht Club intends to celebrate the event by holding a 3-day festival from 7-9 July 2011. The Club has already committed £5,000 from its own funds to cover the costs of additional toilets and showers for Tall Ship crew members.

The Festivals and Events Officer advised the Yacht Club of the possibility of the Provost hosting a civic reception to coincide with the festival and Tall Ships event, the estimated cost of which would be £1,000. It was suggested, however, that this should only proceed if the Council can receive a guarantee that at least one of the Tall Ships will stop off in Arran. The Assistant Manager (Community Services) advised the Club that assistance could be provided to apply for a grant from the Community Development Grant Scheme and Agenda Item 6 refers. In addition, the Resource Co-ordinator (Arran Outdoor Education Centre) advised that the Centre could offer over-spill changing and showering facilities for Tall Ship crew members and suggested that the Centre could also be used for any civic reception.

Should the Yacht Club prove successful in securing a visit from at least one of the Tall Ships, this would undoubtedly raise the profile of the island and offer PR and marketing opportunities for local businesses and groups. However, the direct economic spin-off from visiting sailors would be quite limited and there is also doubt that the event would attract additional 'one-off' visitors from the mainland. If the Yacht Club does secure a guarantee, it would be invited to submit a costed business plan to the Council's Economic Development Team, who would consider whether the Council could provide further financial support and would assist with preparing promotional packs.

Members discussed the following:-

- their support for the event, notwithstanding concerns regarding the weather dependent nature of the proposals;
- the possible civic reception and the lead-time required to put arrangements in place;
- the value of the Club securing interest and support from the local business community on Arran; and
- the current position in terms of the invitation issued by the Yacht Club to the Ship Ships organisers.

Noted.

## **9. Date and Venue of Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Area Committee will be held on Thursday 9 June 2011 at 2.00 p.m. in the Ardeer Neighbourhood Centre.

## **10. Future Agenda Items**

The Committee agreed that any items for consideration at the next meeting of the Area Committee should be submitted to M. Anderson or D. McCaw.

The Meeting ended at 5.25 p.m.