

Garnock Valley Area Committee
26 August 1997

Dalry, 26 August 1997 - At a Meeting of the Garnock Valley Area Committee of North Ayrshire Council at 10.30 a.m.

Present

Robert Reilly, James Jennings and George Steven.

In Attendance

J Ferguson, Assistant Principal Estates Officer (Legal Services); G Clark, Operations Manager Grounds Maintenance (Commercial Services); W Telford, Senior Accountant (Financial Services); A Pettigrew, Young People's Services Development Officer; J McKinlay Area Community Development Officer (Community and Recreational Services); R Jess Senior Social Worker (Social Work); J Bannatyne, Administration Officer and C Graham, Assistant Administration Officer (Chief Executive).

Also In Attendance

Inspectors R Pollock and J Thomson, Strathclyde Police.

Chair

Mr Reilly in the Chair.

Apologies for Absence

Thomas Dickie and Thomas Morris.

1. Minutes Confirmed

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 24 June 1997, copies of which had previously been circulated, were confirmed.

2. Dalry/Kilbirnie/Beith: Drop-in Facilities

(Previous Minute Reference: Garnock Valley Area Committee 13 May 1997.)

Submitted report by the Director of Community and Recreational Services on the progress of the Youth Drop-in Facilities in the Garnock Valley.

The Scottish Youth Issues Unit of the Scottish Community Education Council has identified this initiative as one of three pilot projects and local staff and young people have participated in a training course at Pitlochry and visited the Youth Café in Edinburgh and the Citadel Youth Project in Leith. Budget restrictions have resulted in a slight reduction in Council staff time allocated to the projects and in the need for a three week summer break.

Essential additional funding avenues to develop facilities, programmes and training continue to be explored and the young people themselves have approached various groups and agencies for financial support.

The Kilbirnie Drop-in Centre requires more suitable accommodation and investigations have been carried out into the possibility of leasing and upgrading the Mission Hall at Kilbirnie Cross, owned by the Knox Estate. Consideration has also been given to Garnock Academy which, while providing improved facilities to those currently available at the Walker Hall, is not central to the town and could result in diminishing numbers. Further consultation with all relevant parties is

required.

Two of the Drop-ins have been successful in being awarded a supply of paint from the Dulux Community Scheme and will soon commence the murals for the Grizzly Challenge Competition. The Committee was advised that some repair work to the boundary wall of Beith Community Centre would be required prior to commencement of that mural.

After discussion the Committee agreed (a) that the Director of Financial Services, in consultation with appropriate Chief Officers, investigate the provision of £5,000 towards the lease and upgrading of the premises known as the Mission Hall, Kilbirnie for use as a Drop-in facility and report to the next meeting; and (b) that the Director of Community and Recreational Services investigate the condition of the wall at Beith Community Centre and arrange for repairs to be carried out as necessary.

3. Kilbirnie Loch Management Group

(Previous Minute Reference: Garnock Valley Area Committee 24 June 1997.)

Submitted report by the Director of Community and Recreational Services on progress to date on the application of barley straw to control the blue-green algae in Kilbirnie Loch.

All concrete anchors and floats have now been installed and work to locate the straw will be completed during August. The costs of the work are within the original estimate of £600 and will be met from the Kilbirnie Loch Management account, as previously agreed.

Repairs to the boardwalk will be carried out towards the end of this year and a further report submitted in due course.

Noted.

4. Dog Fouling: Pilot Project Areas

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on the initiative to combat dog fouling in the five pilot areas identified and to determine future action.

The Committee was informed that the measures taken to date have been positively received by the general public and the high usage of dog bins has necessitated an increase in the frequency of emptying. Demand has also been high for dog tidy bags.

In order to streamline and simplify the system for reporting and responding to complaints of dog fouling, the Officers Team has proposed the following options for future provision:

- (a) identifying further pilot projects;
- (b) with the co-operation of Strathclyde Police, providing a more general application of existing measures; and
- (c) deferring further spending in this financial year pending an investigation into the possibility of appointing a new post of Dog Warden to cover tasks currently undertaken by several Directorates of the Council.

After discussion, the Committee agreed (i) to defer any further spending in the current financial year pending an investigation into the possibility of appointing a Dog Warden whose work would cover most of the tasks currently undertaken by several Directorates; and (ii) to recommend submission of a report to the next meeting of the Corporate Strategy Committee with a view to establishing a consensus on such future provision.

5. Kilbirnie: Naming of New Housing Development by Margaret Blackwood Housing Association, off Mill Road

Submitted report by the Director of Planning, Roads and Environment on the provision of a street name in respect of a new housing development by Margaret Blackwood Housing Association, off Mill Road, Kilbirnie.

The Committee agreed that the street be named Mill Court as recommended by Councillor Thomas Dickie, the local member.

6. Glengarnock: Naming of New Housing Development by Laurel Homes, off Main Street Glengarnock

Submitted report by the Director of Planning, Roads and Environment on the provision of a street name in respect of a new housing development by Laurel Homes, off Main Street, Glengarnock.

The Committee agreed that the street be named Station Court as recommended by Councillor Thomas Dickie, the local member.

7. Monitoring Reports

Submit Monitoring Reports on the undernoted matters:-

(a) Garden Tidy Scheme

(Previous Minute Reference: Garnock Valley Area Committee 27 August 1996.)

Submitted report by the Director of Commercial Services on service delivery in connection with the Garden Tidy Scheme.

Within the Garnock Valley there are 630 gardens within the Scheme and a further 19 on the waiting list.

Problems are being encountered in carrying out the six cuts per garden originally anticipated, due to the introduction of the European Working Time Directive. This requires employees to take annual leave during the Scheme's operation and has reduced the number of hours available for grass cutting. There is also the possibility of further reductions in the next financial year

Noted.

(b) Industrial Estate Factories

(Previous Minute Reference: Garnock Valley Area Committee 1 April 1997.)

Submitted report by the Legal Services Manager on the letting/availability of factories on Council Industrial Estates with the Committee's area. Future reports will be submitted quarterly.

Noted.

(c) Surplus Properties

Submitted report by the Legal Services Manager regarding properties which have been approved as surplus to requirements by Service Committees of the Council. Future reports will be submitted quarterly, alternating with reports at (b) above.

Noted.

(d) Community Development Grants Scheme: Analysis of Grants Paid to 12 August 1997

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on analysis of Community Development Grants paid to 12 August 1997 in respect of the Garnock Valley area.

Noted.

8. Community Development Grants Scheme: Requests for Financial Assistance

Submitted report by the Director of Community and Recreational Services on requests for financial assistance.

(a) Fudstone District Playgroup

The Committee agreed to award Fudstone District Playgroup £250.

9. Community Safety

(a) Strathclyde Police: Crime Statistics

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on crime statistics within the Garnock Valley at 31 July 1997, provided by Strathclyde Police.

Overall crime fell by 36%, down from 23 crimes to 9. Serious crime has fallen by 65% while housebreaking has increased by 25% from 52 to 65.

In view of the results of a recent Crime Prevention Panel Survey involving Strathclyde Police, a series of Public Meetings will be held in Dalry, Kilbirnie and Beith. A copy of the results of the Survey will be forwarded to the Members of the Garnock Valley Area Committee who will also be invited to attend the forthcoming Public Meetings.

Noted.

The meeting ended at 11.20 a.m.