

Garnock Valley Area Committee
8 October 1996

Dalry, 8 October 1996 - At a meeting of the Garnock Valley Area Committee of North Ayrshire Council at 10.30 a.m.

Present

Robert Reilly, Thomas Dickie, James Jennings and Thomas Morris.

In Attendance

C Hamilton, Area Services Manager; K McGregor, Senior Community Worker (Social Work); D Anderson, Head of Cultural and Community Services; D Potter, Area Community Development Officer (Community and Recreational Services); J Hair, Principal Officer, Accounting and Budgeting (Financial Services); E Maclean, Early Years Adviser (Education Service); A Scullion, Supervising Engineer, Lighting (Planning, Roads and Environment Services); J Bannatyne, Administration Officer and C Graham, Assistant Administration Officer (Chief Executive).

Also In Attendance

Inspector R Pollock, Strathclyde Police.

Chair

Mr Reilly in the Chair.

Apologies for Absence

George Steven.

1. Minutes Confirmed

The minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 27 August 1996, copies of which had previously been circulated, were confirmed.

2. Development of Leisure/Sporting Facilities in the Garnock Valley

The Committee on 27 August 1996 agreed that the Director of Community and Recreational Services be invited to attend the next meeting to provide details on proposals for the future provision of sporting/leisure facilities in the Garnock Valley area.

The Community and Recreational Services Directorate is currently preparing a Service Strategy for North Ayrshire as a whole with a view to establishing priorities for the provision of leisure/sporting facilities. Suggested components of the strategy could include youth provision (training/employment/social/recreational), an adult learning/training centre, the development of Lochshore and links with Clyde Muirshiel Country Park (e.g. Interpretation Centre), a heritage trail/local (industrial) history developments, indoor sports provision linked to other facilities, additional arts provision, improvements to the public parks, tennis development (indoor/outdoor) and adequate sports pitch provision. The Strategy will have significant resource implications and funding sources from both within the Council and externally will be investigated. Community involvement will be ensured through the consultative process, and an assurance was given that any suggestions received from members will be considered within the context of the overall strategy. Economic development in the Garnock Valley is considered a priority and recreational facilities for example, require to be provided to encourage additional spending in the area.

After discussion the Committee agreed (a) to welcome the proposed Strategy; and (b) that the Director of Community and Recreational Services (i) provide the members of the Committee with updated information clarifying the current position in respect of the future development of the

Lochshore area, and (ii) keep the Committee advised on the progress of the Strategy bearing in mind the need for urgent action in the Garnock Valley.

3. Kilbirnie: Naming of New Private Housing Development by Loch Homes Limited at Cochrane Street

Submitted report by the Director of Planning, Roads and the Environment on the provision of a street name for the above development.

The Committee agreed that the street be named "Rosebery Court" as recommended by Councillor Steven, the local member.

4. Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1992: Byelaws for the Prohibition of Consumption of Alcohol in Public Places

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on a decision by the Protective Services Committee to establish a Member/Officer Working Group to include representatives of relevant outside bodies to consider the issue of drinking in public being linked with public disorder as well as the specific aspect of under-age drinking.

The Group will comprise the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Protective Services Committee the Depute Leader and the Convener, representatives from the Licensing Board, Strathclyde Police, North Ayrshire Council's Education and Social Work Directorates, representatives of Community Councils within North Ayrshire and representatives from the Justices of the Peace Committee. The Area Committee was requested to nominate one member to serve on this Working Group.

The Committee agreed to appoint Councillor Jennings to serve on the Working Group.

5. Kilbirnie: General Enquiries

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on a number of general enquiries received from organisations/individuals within the Kilbirnie/Glengarnock area.

The Clerk reported on the undernoted matters:-

(a) Kilbirnie/Glengarnock: The Kirkland Bridge

The Roads Section have indicated that they are aware of the build up of gravel beneath the Kirkland Bridge and have confirmed that arrangements are in hand to have the waterway beneath the bridge cleared in the near future. Sight lines in the vicinity of the bridge have been checked and it is considered that there is no need to have the vegetation cut back at the present time.

Noted.

(b) Kilbirnie Ladeside Playing Fields

Concern has been expressed over a gap of approximately 20-25 yards in a wall situated next to the metal bridge crossing the River Garnock at Ladeside Playing Fields which was built with a view to flood prevention.

The Roads Section have now confirmed that a bund was constructed in the vicinity approximately 10 years ago. The bund serves a useful purpose and the Roads Section have no knowledge of any change to the bund in recent times.

The local member stated that after heavy rain, flooding occurs which results in water breaching the gap. He expressed the view that preventative action requires to be taken.

The Committee agreed that the Director of Planning, Roads and the Environment investigate the possibility of action being taken to close the gap to prevent further flooding and report.

(c) Kilbirnie: Holmhead Road: Newton Health Centre

The Clerk confirmed that the Director of Planning, Roads and the Environment has been requested to investigate the possibility of an additional pedestrian crossing between Craigton Road and a roundabout at Holmhead, Kilbirnie. The matter was originally raised by Mr Dickie, the local member for the area. This matter is currently being dealt with by the Traffic Section of the Roads Department.

Noted.

(d) Kilbirnie: Street Signs

The Director of Planning, Roads and the Environment has been requested to consider amending the street sign at Grahamston Avenue, Kilbirnie and providing an individual street sign at both ends of Craighends Road, Kilbirnie. A response is still awaited.

Noted.

(e) Kilbirnie: Milton Road: Off-street Parking

Kilbirnie and Glengarnock Community Council have been approached by several residents in Milton Road, Kilbirnie seeking off-street parking facilities from 16 Milton Road to the junction at Milton Quadrant making use of the wide pavement where available. The Director of Planning, Roads and the Environment has been requested to investigate the matter and his response is currently awaited.

Noted.

The Clerk reported that a letter has recently been received from Kilbirnie and Glengarnock Community Council requesting that consideration be given to the installation of metal litter bins in Kilbirnie public park and seeking clarification on future proposals for the use of the George Bingo Hall in Kilbirnie. These matters are currently being investigated by the relevant Directorates and the Community Council will be advised when responses have been received.

The Kilbirnie and Glengarnock Community Council have also requested the Council's views on the possibility of becoming involved in the promotion of a sponsored "Tidy-up Scheme" in Kilbirnie and Glengarnock in conjunction with local schools, with sponsor monies being donated to the schools participating. The appropriate Directorates of the Council have been asked for their comments and responses are awaited.

The Council's serious concern over litter problems in North Ayrshire has recently been highlighted by the introduction of a Litter Awareness and Prevention Campaign in which all Directorates of the Council will participate. Reference was also made to the Spotlight Initiative currently being undertaken by Strathclyde Police which will also address litter problems.

Noted.

6. Glengarnock: Former BSC Girder Shop Site

The Director of Planning, Roads and the Environment has been requested to investigate the condition of the former BSC Girder Shop site at Glengarnock to ascertain what action can be taken to tidy the site. A response is currently awaited.

The Committee agreed that the Chief Executive advise the members of the Committee when a response has been received.

7. Draft Revised Community Development Grants Scheme

Submitted report by the Director of Community and Recreational Services on draft proposals for a Revised Community Development Grants Scheme.

The Head of Cultural and Community Services indicated that the proposed revised scheme would bring together the inherited schemes previously operated by the former Strathclyde Regional and Cunninghame District Councils. The new scheme will be designed with a view to clarifying to applicants the criteria which requires to be met in respect of the various types of grant applications and will be presented in a simple form. Applicants will receive an application form together with a book of guidelines on the scheme and completed applications will thereafter be determined by the appropriate Area Committee or Service Committee. Emphasis was placed on the role of the Area Community Development Officers which will be crucial to the success of the new scheme in terms of the provision of personalised advice on the submission of grant applications. Members were invited to comment on the draft proposals or alternatively to submit their comments/observations on the proposals by 16 October 1996 as the finalised proposals for the scheme will be submitted to the Community and Recreational Services Committee on 5 November 1996 for approval. The scheme will be monitored in the early stages and revised as considered necessary.

After discussion the Committee agreed to welcome the new draft proposals.

8. Monitoring Reports

(a) Nursery Education Initiative

Submitted report by the Director of Education on the progress being made in the implementation of the Nursery Education Initiative.

Noted.

(b) Road Lighting

Submitted report by the Director of Planning, Roads and the Environment on the nature of the Road Lighting function and the systems in use for lighting maintenance within North Ayrshire. The report included statistical information in relation to the contractual response times under the lighting maintenance contractor and service response times provided by Scottish Power, the programme of Planned Maintenance operations and Dark Lamp Faults. Updated statistical information on Dark Lamp Faults (1996) was circulated at the meeting.

Arising from discussion on the updated statistical information provided on Dark Lamp Faults (1996) clarification was requested on the reasons for the apparent disproportionate number of Night Inspection Fault Reports in the Garnock Valley in relation to the number of lamps in that area, compared with the other areas of North Ayrshire.

The Committee agreed (a) that a further report on the above matter clarifying the position on Night Inspection Faults be submitted to the next meeting of the Area Committee; and (b) otherwise to note the report.

(c) Road Maintenance Contracts

Submitted report by the Director of Planning, Roads and the Environment on the current position regarding the 1996-97 Road Maintenance Programme.

Noted.

(d) Analysis of Grants Paid to 20 September 1996

Submitted report by the Chief Executive detailing the various categories of grants paid to 20

September 1996.

Noted.

9. Requests for Financial Assistance

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on requests received for financial assistance in respect of the Garnock Valley Area Committee.

(a) Community Grants

(i) Three Towns Unemployed Workers Centre

The Three Towns Unemployed Workers Centre have applied for funding in the sum of £1,500 towards costs to enable the Centre to provide information and advice to individuals in the Garnock Valley area and to help identify their service requirements.

After a full discussion, the Committee agreed, on the understanding that the benefits will accrue solely to the Garnock Valley area, (a) to award £1,500; and (b) that a report giving details of progress be submitted to the next meeting

(b) Playschemes

(i) Garnock Valley Lunch Club

The Committee agreed to grant £215 to the Garnock Valley Lunch Club October Playscheme under the terms of the Playscheme formula.

10. Strathclyde Police: Crime Statistics

A report on crime statistics for the Garnock Valley area from April to August 1996 was circulated for information at the meeting by Inspector Pollock, Strathclyde Police.

The undernoted statistics were provided:-

Overall, crime within the Garnock Valley area has fallen by 8% compared with the same period during 1995. The crime detection rate has improved by 2% and the enforcement of offences has increased by some 46%. Kilbirnie has shown the biggest drop with crime reducing by 20%. Beith has shown a drop of 9% but Dalry has an overall increase of 7% despite continued extra police attention.

Housebreakings have fallen by 57% with all three towns showing a downward trend. There is an overall marginal reduction of 1% in car crime although this continues to be a major cause for concern particularly in Beith and Dalry. Drugs related crime shows an overall reduction of 11%.

Public order enforcement remains a high priority with an increase of 65% in arrests for Breaches of the Peace and public concern over street disorder in Dalry has resulted in an 80% increase in detection for public order offences.

The Committee agreed (a) that updated information on crime statistics in relation to the Garnock Valley area be submitted to each future meeting; and (b) otherwise to note the report.

The meeting ended at 12.10 p.m.