

Garnock Valley Area Committee
18 February 1997

Dalry, 18 February 1997 - At a Meeting of the Garnock Valley Area Committee of North Ayrshire Council at 10.30 a.m.

Present

Thomas Dickie, James Jennings and Thomas Morris.

In Attendance

A Pringle, Director; A Weir, Parks and Horticultural Services Manager; A Pettigrew, Young People's Services Development Officer; J McKinlay, Area Community Development Officer (Community and Recreational Services); C Hamilton, Area Services Manager (Social Work); W Telford, Senior Accountant (Financial Services); A Moynihan, Principal Trading Standards Officer (Legal Services); A Osborne, Corporate Policy Officer; J Bannatyne, Administration Officer; and C Graham, Assistant Administration Officer (Chief Executive).

Also In Attendance

Sergeant D Bell (Strathclyde Police).

Chair

In the absence of the Chair the Committee agreed that Councillor Jennings take the Chair.

Apologies for Absence

Robert Reilly and George Steven.

1. Minutes Confirmed

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 7 January 1997, copies of which had previously been circulated, were confirmed.

2. Dalry/Kilbirnie/Beith: Youth Drop-In Facilities

Submitted report by the Young People's Services Development Officer on the progress of the Youth Drop-In Scheme in the Garnock Valley area, copies of which were circulated at the meeting.

Drop-in facilities have now been established in the James Street Centre in Dalry (Tuesdays and Thursdays), Beith Community Centre (Mondays and Wednesdays) and the Walker Hall, Kilbirnie (Thursdays and Sundays). Fifteen Youth Workers, ten of whom are resident within the Garnock Valley have been recruited. A management structure and support from relevant Directorates is now in place. A varied programme of activities is in the process of being arranged. It is anticipated that each drop-in Youth Committee will in future seek additional financial support for equipment and programme costs through the Community Grants Scheme. The Community and Recreational Services Directorate meets the costs of sessional youth work and accommodation from within its budget. Strathclyde Police and the Social Work Directorate are also providing staff and support to the drop-in facilities through their budgets.

The Committee welcomed and noted the report.

3. Kilbirnie: Holmhead: Pelican Crossing Proposals

The Committee on 7 January 1997 agreed that the Director of Planning, Roads and Environment report to the next meeting on the provision of an additional Pelican Crossing adjacent to the new Health Centre at Holmhead, Kilbirnie.

The Director of Planning, Roads and Environment has now confirmed that he has included an item for an additional Pelican Crossing in Kilbirnie in the Directorate's Capital Bid for 1997/98. A report will therefore be submitted to the Area Committee when the Council's Capital Plan has been finalised.

Noted.

4. North Ayrshire Council Litter Awareness and Prevention Campaign

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on the progress of the Council's Litter Awareness and Prevention Campaign.

The Litter Awareness and Prevention Campaign was launched in late January 1997 and will be supported by promotional publicity.

The Litter Hotline to the Commercial Services Directorate is now operating and the public response to the hotline in its initial weeks of operation will be reported to the Committee in due course.

The progress of the Campaign will be reviewed and progress reports will be submitted to a future meeting of the Committee.

Noted.

5. Dog Fouling

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on the progress in establishing the five pilot areas initially selected to combat dog fouling, the area in the Garnock Valley being Dalry Public Park.

Five bins per pilot project will be installed and sites for poop scoops, posters and signs will be determined. Strathclyde Police will also provide assistance.

It is also intended that a leaflet be produced for general distribution throughout North Ayrshire providing advice on responsible dog ownership covering areas such as dog fouling, penalties for retrieving dogs from kennels, the statutory requirements to provide a tag with a name and address of the owner, and to keep dogs on leads in specific areas.

The pilot project should heighten awareness of the issue generally as well as tackling the specific problems of the five areas concerned and the Officers' Group, with representatives from various Directorates, will again meet to review these efforts and report further to the Committee in due course.

Noted.

6. Kilbirnie Loch: Blue Green Algae/Walkway

Kilbirnie Angling Club have requested clarification on the Council's future proposals in relation to:-

- (a) the control of the spread of blue/green algae in Kilbirnie Loch; and
- (b) the future of the walkway at the car park side of the Loch which is in a poor state of

repair.

The Loch is owned by Scottish Enterprise and the algae problem is caused through pollution in the Loch. Scottish Enterprise have in the past provided funding towards a project involving the provision of straw bales being anchored in the Loch in a grid pattern which, while not eradicating the problem completely, has controlled the spread of the algae. There is no funding, however, to continue with this.

The Committee agreed the Director of Community and Recreational Services (a) consult with Scottish Enterprise to ascertain what steps can be taken in the future to address the problem of blue/green algae in Kilbirnie Loch; and (b) investigate the position regarding the future of the walkway at the car park side of the Loch and report to the next meeting.

7. Monitoring Reports

(a) Legal Services: Trading Standards

Submitted report by the Legal Services Manager on Trading Standards and various aspects of their service delivery.

The Trading Standards section has a wide ranging remit with certain services being governed by national performance indicators. Steps are currently being taken by the section to enable performance reports for each individual Area Committee to be provided in future.

Noted.

(b) Analysis of Grants Paid to 5 February 1997

Submitted report by the Chief Executive detailing the various categories of grants paid to 5 February 1997.

The balance of funding remaining for the payment of grants during the current financial year is £3,089.54.

Noted.

8. Requests for Financial Assistance

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on the undernoted applications for grants to voluntary organisations.

(a) Community Grants

(i) Scottish Congregational Mums and Tots

The Committee agreed to award the Scottish Congregational Mums and Tots £250.

(ii) Dalry Community Association

The Committee agreed to award Dalry Community Association £350.

(iii) 55th Ayrshire Scout Group

The Committee agreed to award the 55th Ayrshire Scout Group £1,389.54.

(iv) Kilbirnie Fun Week Committee

The Committee agreed (a) to award the Kilbirnie Fun Week Committee £1,000 in this instance; and (b) that neither the awarding of this grant nor the level of the grant itself will set a precedent for future similar applications, which will require to be determined on their individual merits.

(v) Beith and District Young Farmers

The Committee agreed to award Beith and District Young Farmers £100.

(vi) Dalry Primary School Board/Dalry Primary Parents Association

The Committee agreed (a) that the Director of Community and Recreational Services consult with the applicants for further clarification on their proposals; and (b) to continue the application for further consideration in the next financial year.

9. Community Safety: Strathclyde Police: Crime Statistics

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on crime statistics within the Garnock Valley provided by Strathclyde Police.

Overall year to date crime is down by 15% with 1,080 crimes having been reported. The report gave details relating to crime in the area.

Noted.

10. Three Towns Unemployed Workers Centre

The Committee agreed that the Director of Social Work arrange for an appropriate progress report to be forwarded directly to each Member of the Garnock Valley Area Committee for their information on this matter.

The Meeting ended at 11.15 a.m.