

Three Towns Area Committee  
14 May 1998

**Stevenston, 14 May 1998** - At a Meeting of the Three Towns Area Committee of North Ayrshire Council at 10.30 a.m.

**Present**

David Gallagher, David Munn, Margaret Munn, Alan Munro and Samuel Taylor.

**In Attendance**

P. Bryers, Head of Planning and Development and S. Burns, Area Services Manager (Social Work); K. Thomas, Principal Officer (Planning, Roads and Environment); S. McLaughlin, Area Community Development Officer, Community and Recreational Services; A. Smith, Area Housing Manager (Housing Services); T. Baulk, Accountant (Financial Services); H. Greenwood, Area Officer Cleansing and Grounds Maintenance (Commercial Services); S. Bale, Administration Officer and N. Miller, Assistant Administration Officer (Chief Executive).

**Also In Attendance**

Chief Inspector J. Beck, (Strathclyde Police); Community Fire Safety Officer T. Kane (Strathclyde Fire Brigade); and J. Ledgerwood, Three Towns Initiative.

**Chair**

Mr. Gallagher in the Chair.

**Apologies for Absence**

Samuel Gooding.

**1. Minutes Confirmed**

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 2 April 1998, copies of which had previously been circulated, were confirmed.

**2. North Ayrshire Community Care Plan 1998-2001 Consultation Draft**

Submitted report and received presentation by the Director of Social Work on the North Ayrshire Community Care Plan 1998-2001 Consultation Draft.

The consultation draft outlines the strategic priorities which are as follows:-

- Continued development of community based mental health services;
- Improving service provision for older people and those suffering from dementia, together with their carers;
- Delivering comprehensive and innovative services for people with learning disabilities and their carers; and
- Achieving best value in community care.

A full public consultation process will be undertaken including public meetings and phone-ins. Responses to the document are requested by 5 June 1998. A Locality Plan has also been provided for each area to co-incide with Local Plan areas, reflecting where Community Care Services are provided, albeit that many of the resources cover the whole of North Ayrshire.

The Social Work and Housing Services Directorates and Ayrshire and Arran Health Board are joint partners and are responsible for submitting the Plan to the Scottish Office.

Following the presentation, the Committee sought further information on a number of matters

relating to the consultation document and received clarification on the points raised.

Noted.

### **3. Stevenston: Glencairn Street/Mayville Street: Parking Problems**

Chief Inspector Beck of Strathclyde Police reported on parking problems at Glencairn Street and Mayville Street, Stevenston.

The Committee were advised that there are no parking restrictions in Glencairn Street and Mayville Street, Stevenston. This year to date only one complaint has been received regarding a vehicle blocking the footpath, which was subsequently dealt with. Strathclyde Police however, have confirmed that any further vehicles blocking the footpath will be dealt with if reported to them.

Members raised the matter of the recent incident at the level crossing in Princes Street, Ardrossan where a vehicle had collided with a train. Chief Inspector Beck advised the Committee of the circumstances of this particular incident. He further advised that British Transport Police have received no complaints about this level crossing in the last 3 years and 5 motorists have been reported for driving over the crossing when the red warning lights were on.

After discussion, the Committee agreed (a) to request Strathclyde Police to monitor the situation regarding parking at Glencairn Street/Mayville Street, Stevenston; (b) to write to Railtrack and Strathclyde Passenger Transport expressing concern about the situation at the level crossing in Ardrossan and requesting that barriers be erected; and (c) to request the Director of Planning, Roads and Environment, in conjunction with Strathclyde Police, to report to the next meeting on the possibility of improving the sight lines and whether the introduction of parking restrictions is required to alleviate the congestion in Princes Street, Ardrossan.

### **4. Strathclyde Fire Brigade: Fire Statistics for the Period 1 January 1998 to 31 March 1998**

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on fire statistics for the Three Towns area for the period 1 January 1998 to 31 March 1998.

The report detailed incidents within the Three Towns area by station area and using specific Fire Brigade codes. It was reported that, in future, these reports would be provided in a slightly different format.

The Committee was advised that the increase in non-mobilising calls was of concern. These are calls generally from telephone boxes where no address is given and the Brigade is not required to mobilise. Future trends will be monitored.

Noted.

### **5. Monitoring Reports**

#### **(a) Housing Services as at 31 March 1998**

Submitted report by the Director of Housing Services detailing performance information on voids, allocations and housing benefits.

The figures for allocations of 'greater than 42 days' are partly influenced by the low demand for certain areas within the Three Towns and partly by the current allocation process. The Committee was advised that the introduction of the new allocation policy system should result in an improvement in timescales of letting houses.

Noted.

**(b) Planning, Roads and Environment Directorate**

Submitted reports by the Director of Planning, Roads and Environment on the following services for the period April 1997 to March 1998:-

**(i) Food Safety and Health and Safety**

The Council is the enforcing authority in relation to Food Safety and Health and Safety legislation in certain categories of premises, including manufacturers, producers, retailers, offices, restaurants and other caterers.

A total of 1141 food hygiene and 1503 general inspections were carried out during the period. The number of inspections has increased considerably due to the recommendations of the Pennington report. In general there has been a high level of performance in terms of programmed inspections with 89% of 6 monthly programmed food hygiene inspections, 100% of 12 monthly inspections and 88% of more than 12 monthly inspections being achieved.

Noted.

**(ii) Investigation of Noise Complaints and Public Health Complaints**

The Council has a statutory duty in terms of the Environmental Protection Act, 1990 to undertake inspections to detect noise nuisance.

The Environment Section has received 351 noise complaints, which were the Council's responsibility for advice or investigation, 65 from within the Three Towns area, during the period. The percentage of complaints responded to within 1 calendar day was 95%, and within 3 calendar days 98%.

A total of 1083 public health complaints were received for the period, 329 from within the Three Towns area. The percentage of complaints responded to within 5 working days was 88%.

The Committee was further advised that a number of public health complaints could be attributed to children visiting working farms and that literature was being prepared by the Health and Safety Executive which would be forwarded to the Education Directorate for distribution to schools.

Noted.

**(iii) Pest Control Service**

The Council has a statutory duty in terms of the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949 to survey the area and to require any infestation of rats or mice to be treated.

During the year, in addition to this statutory requirement, a total of 2,104 pest control treatments were carried out. The service provided by the Council exceeds the standard required for performance indicators by a national benchmark standard and suggests a positive performance.

Noted.

**(iv) Dog Warden Service**

Dogs are returned to their owner by the Dog Warden, wherever possible, but if the owner is not known, the dog is taken to the kennels to be held for a statutory period during which the owner may uplift the dog after paying a kennelling charge and the statutory fee of £25. The local Police are notified of when a dog is uplifted and there is close liaison between the Dog Warden and the Police who jointly visit areas where there are stray dogs and dog fouling.

Within the Three Towns area, of the 124 dogs uplifted, 4 were returned to their owners, 15 rehoused, 28 reclaimed and 77 humanely destroyed.

Noted.

**(c) Three Towns Initiative**

Submitted report by the Initiative Manager on progress of the Three Towns Initiative.

In response to Members questions, the Committee was advised that the Three Towns Initiative has obtained European and Regeneration Programme funding for 3 Intermediate Labour Market Projects and the first of these, viz. a Childcare Project being managed by One-Plus has commenced. These projects give trainees employed status, paying the rate for the job and trainers all have appropriate backgrounds with nationally recognised qualifications in the relevant discipline. The Childcare project has a base within Stevenston and it is hoped to expand into Ardrossan and Saltcoats. The Three Towns Initiative monitor the running of the projects and the jobs outcome.

Noted.

**(d) Community Development Grants Scheme: Analysis of Grants Paid to 6 April 1998**

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on the analysis of grants paid to 6 April 1998 in respect of the Three Towns area, including details of the balance of funding remaining.

Noted.

**6. Community Development Grants: Expenditure Analysis 1997/98**

Submitted report by the Chief Executive detailing the various categories of grants paid during the financial year 1997/98.

An analysis of the purposes for which grants had been awarded indicated that the most common purpose was the purchase of equipment, closely followed by general running costs and costs of special events. The Committee awarded a total of 40 grants from its budget of £19,045 with the average grant being £476.

Noted.

**7. Community Development Grants Scheme: Requests for Financial Assistance**

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

**(a) Carousel Playgroup**

The Committee agreed to award Carousel Playgroup £650.

**(b) Ardrossan and Saltcoats Scouts**

The Committee agreed to award Ardrossan and Saltcoats Scouts (Cunninghame North) £100.

**(c) Whitlees Community Association**

The Committee agreed to award Whitlees Community Association £800.

**(d) Ardeer Gala Group**

The Committee agreed to award Ardeer Gala Group £510.

**(e) 1st Ardrossan Scout Group**

The Committee agreed to award 1st Ardrossan Scout Group £800.

**(f) Focus Network Group**

The Committee agreed to award Focus Network Group £1050.

**(g) All Stitched Up**

The Committee agreed to award All Stitched Up £500.

**(h) Largs Tennis Club**

The Committee agreed to refuse the application by Largs Tennis Club.

**8. Playscheme Applications: Summer and Autumn 1998 and Easter 1999**

Submitted report by the Director of Community and Recreational Services on playscheme applications in respect of Summer and Autumn 1998 and Easter 1999.

**(a) Women's Aid, Ardrossan**

The Committee agreed to award Women's Aid, Ardrossan £816.

**(b) Ardrossan After School Care Summer Playscheme**

The Committee agreed to award Ardrossan After School Care Summer Playscheme £885.

**(c) Women's Centre, Saltcoats**

The Committee agreed to award the Women's Centre, Saltcoats £649.

**(d) Saltcoats After School Care Summer Playscheme**

The Committee agreed to award Saltcoats After School Care Summer Playscheme £885.

**(e) Stevenston After School Care Summer Playscheme**

The Committee agreed to award Stevenston After School Care Summer Playscheme £885.

**(f) Befriend A Child**

The Committee agreed to award Befriend A Child £845.

**(g) Hayocks School Break Club**

The Committee agreed to award Hayocks School Break Club £386.

**9. Seasonal Facilities Operation**

Submitted report by the Director of Community and Recreational Services on the proposed method of operation of seasonal facilities in 1998.

In December 1997 the Community and Recreational Services Committee agreed to externalise the operation of seasonal facilities and subsequent to this proposal, as part of the 1998/99 budget savings package, it was agreed that any facilities which were unsuccessful in being externalised would not operate during 1998/99.

Following consultation with the local member as appropriate, a licence for the operation of the putting and crazy golf facilities at South Beach has been awarded to Mr A Bradshaw. No offers were

received for Glebelands bowling and tennis facilities. The nets will be erected and the facility left available for casual use.

Noted.

#### **10. CCTV in the Three Towns**

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on action taken by the Chair in approving a contribution from the 1998/99 Community Safety Challenge Budget, towards a CCTV feasibility study.

On 3 March 1997, the Corporate Strategy Committee, in response to a request from the Three Towns Initiative agreed to support the introduction of a CCTV scheme in the Three Towns area as a first step towards implementing a scheme covering the whole of North Ayrshire and to make a financial contribution from the Community Safety Challenge Budget towards the feasibility study being undertaken by the Three Towns Initiative.

In order that the feasibility study should not be delayed the Chair approved a contribution of £2,000. As the 1998/99 allocation of the Community Safety Challenge Budget for the Three Towns area is £2,000, the budget is therefore fully expended.

The Chair further advised that the Education Directorate had recently installed a video recording CCTV system at St. Andrew's Academy, Saltcoats. During consultations with Strathclyde Police and a number of companies who supply and install CCTV, an offer was made by one of the companies to provide a digital recording system to be installed for a temporary period in St. Andrew's Academy. This would enable a comparison to be made between the different recording methods.

The Committee agreed (a) to homologate the action taken by the Chair; and (b) that a visit be arranged for members to view the digital CCTV system at St Andrew's Academy once installed.

#### **11. Cleansing and Grounds Maintenance Section: Litter Awareness Reports**

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on the proposed format of Litter Awareness Monitoring Reports.

On 25 March 1998, the Commercial Services Committee agreed that the Director of Commercial Services should submit regular report to future meetings of Area Committees, highlighting litter issues on a area by area basis. The proposed format will categorise litter by type of area, e.g. beach, public open space etc. and will include information on the location, type and volume of litter as well as action taken or to be taken.

The Committee was further advised that there has been a slight reduction in fly tipping due to the involvement of Strathclyde Police and that several people have been reported to the Procurator Fiscal. It was also reported that the Litter Hotline has assisted in this reduction and that leaflets have been distributed in areas where problems are occurring, advising of the heavy fines which may be incurred for fly tipping.

After discussion, the Committee agreed (a) that the Director of Commercial Services publicise the consequences of fly tipping in a future edition of Look North; (b) that a monitoring report be submitted to the next meeting of the Area Committee detailing littering issues in the Three Towns area; and (c) otherwise to note the report.

The meeting ended at 12.10 p.m.