

Kilwinning, Dreghorn and Springside Area Committee
25 June 1997

Dreghorn, 25 June 1997 - At a Meeting of the Kilwinning, Dreghorn and Springside Area Committee of North Ayrshire Council at 10.30 a.m.

Present

Ian Clarkson and James Clements.

In Attendance

B. Gardner, Head of Educational Resources (Education); W. Simpson, Area Community Development Officer, D. Gilliland, Community Education Worker (Community and Recreational Services); D. Nibloe, Principal Officer (Financial Services); G. Clark, Grounds Maintenance Manager (Commercial Services); D. MacRitchie, Area Services Manager (Social Work); S. Paxton, Administration Officer and D. McCaw, Assistant Administration Officer (Chief Executive).

Inspector G. McLanaghan, Strathclyde Police and S. O'Grady, Ayrshire Careers Partnership.

Chair

Mr. Clarkson in the Chair.

Apologies for Absence

Patrick Browne, Jane Gorman, Irene Oldfather and Gena Seales.

1. Minutes Confirmed

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 14 May 1997, copies of which had previously been circulated, were confirmed.

2. Monitoring Reports

(a) Area Committee Statistics

Submitted report by the Director of Education detailing statistical information in relation to schools in the Kilwinning, Dreghorn and Springside area.

The Scottish Office Education and Industry Department collate statistical returns from education authorities and schools on an annual basis for publication. While there is concern at the possible misuse of league tables within the education service, this information can assist in the management of establishments and with service delivery generally. The key information detailed in the report included (a) attendance and absence surveys; (b) budgeted school running costs; and (c) school leaver destinations.

The Head of Educational Resources advised (i) that truancy would continue to be addressed by the Police and the Education Directorate; (ii) that absence monitoring and recording systems would be reviewed; and (iii) that the operational costs of schools were affected by a number of factors including the age and efficiency of heating systems and the capacity of the school.

After a full discussion, the Committee agreed (a) to receive annual reports on attendance, running costs and leaver destinations in relation to schools serving pupils from within the Committee's area; and (b) that the Director of Education report to a future meeting on school capacity and usage

figures for Abbey and Whitehirst Primary Schools and on vandalism to school property.

(b) Community Development Grants Scheme: Analysis of Grants Paid to 14 May 1997

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on the community development grants paid to 14 May 1997 regarding applications in respect of the Kilwinning, Dreghorn and Springside area, including details of the balance of funding remaining.

Noted.

3. Kilwinning: CCTV

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on the current position with regard to Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) developments in North Ayrshire.

The possible introduction of a CCTV system in North Ayrshire was first considered by the Irvine Area Committee on 20 August 1996 for Irvine Town Centre. The Corporate Strategy Committee approved a pilot scheme for Irvine Town Centre subject to the required capital and revenue funding of £50,000 and £60,000 respectively being made available. Funding was also sought from Enterprise Ayrshire and the Scottish Office.

The Corporate Strategy Committee on 4 March 1997 were advised that (a) the Council had secured £27,000 from the Scottish Office CCTV Challenge Competition; (b) that the Irvine Town Traders had agreed to contribute £1,000 as a capital sum and £530 per annum for the first few years of the scheme's operation; and (c) that Enterprise Ayrshire had intimated that they were unable to consider any major new town centre initiatives and were unable to contribute to the capital costs of CCTV in Irvine. The Committee also agreed to make a formal bid of £60,000 for capital and revenue funding from Strathclyde Police Joint Board. The Board have awarded a grant of £18,500 from the Challenge Fund which leaves a considerable funding shortfall. A full report on the Irvine CCTV Pilot Project will be submitted to the Meeting of the Special Corporate Strategy Committee on 26 June 1997.

A CCTV system in Kilwinning Town Centre could be linked into the Irvine Town Centre system although there would be technical issues to be resolved. In addition, the introduction of two or three surveillance cameras in Kilwinning at a cost of around £6,000 would substantially increase the capital costs associated with the project. The future of CCTV developments in North Ayrshire will be considered by the Corporate Strategy Committee.

Noted.

4. Community Consultation

(Previous Minute Reference: Kilwinning, Dreghorn and Springside Area Committee: 14 May 1997)

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on proposals for the third round of Community Consultation meetings with representatives of youth organisations and elderly groups.

The Committee agreed (a) that the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Chair, progress arrangements for the third round of Community Consultation meetings to be held in September 1997; and (b) that a report on the organisations for inclusion in the consultation process be submitted to the next Area Committee meeting.

5. Requests for Financial Assistance: Community Development Grants Scheme

Submitted report by the Director of Community and Recreational Services on the undernoted applications for community grants to voluntary organisations.

(a) Greenwood Playgroup

The Committee agreed to grant £150 to the Greenwood Playgroup.

(b) Little Smarties Playgroup

The Committee agreed to grant £450 to the Little Smarties Playgroup.

Arising from the discussion, the Committee further agreed to meet with the Kilwinning Eglinton Angling Club in August 1997.

6. Playscheme Applications 1997

Submitted report by the Director of Community and Recreational Services on the undernoted applications for playscheme grants for summer and autumn.

(a) Springside Playscheme

The Committee agreed to grant £400 to the Springside Playscheme.

(b) Muirfield Place Playscheme, Kilwinning

The Committee agreed to grant £1,062 to the Muirfield Place Special Needs Playscheme, Kilwinning.

7. Street Naming

Submitted report by the Director of Planning, Roads and Environment on street naming of a new very sheltered housing development by Bield Housing Association at St. Winnings Lane, Kilwinning.

The Director of Planning, Roads and Environment consulted the Local Member who has suggested "Chalybeate Court" as an appropriate name for the development.

The Committee agreed to name the development "Chalybeate Court".

8. Dog Fouling

(Previous Minute Reference: Kilwinning, Dreghorn and Springside Area Committee: 14 May 1997)

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on (1) the joint arrangements with Strathclyde Police to combat dog fouling; and (2) the dog owner advice leaflet.

The Corporate Strategy Committee on 27 May 1997 agreed to a request from Strathclyde Police to extend the joint Strathclyde Police/Dog Warden Initiative in which dog tidy bags, responsible dog owner leaflets and advice were given to the public in the five pilot project areas. The Dog Warden will work with Police Officers on 2 half days per week for an initial period of up to six months from 16 June 1997. Advice will continue to be given to dog owners on their obligations and responsibilities. A review will be undertaken after that period or earlier, if necessary.

The supply of dog owner advice leaflets used in the initial campaign has now been exhausted but requests for copies continue to be received and it has been suggested that every household within North Ayrshire should receive a copy of the leaflet. The printing of a dog owner advice leaflet is likely to cost around £2,000, which represents a cost to each Area Committee of £400.

The Committee (a) authorised the costs involved in the printing of a dog owner advice leaflet;

and (b) noted the extension of the joint Strathclyde Police/Dog Warden Initiative.

9. Community Safety

(a) Challenge Budget 1997/98

Submitted report by the Chief Executive regarding the initiatives to promote Community Safety funded from the Community Safety Challenge Budget in 1996/97 and the Challenge Budget for 1997/98.

The Corporate Strategy Committee has agreed a Community Safety Challenge Budget of £12,000 for 1997/98. Area Committees are invited to discuss suitable initiatives with relevant local organisations and submit proposals to the Corporate Strategy Committee for consideration on 21 October 1997.

The Committee (a) noted the success of the Community Safety Challenge Budget in 1996/97; and (b) agreed to invite local organisations and schools to submit proposals for Community Safety Initiatives to be considered for funding from the Challenge Budget for 1997/98.

(b) Crime Statistics

Submitted report by Strathclyde Police "UA" Sub-division detailing levels of recorded crime within the Area Committee's boundaries.

The levels of recorded crime within the Area Committee's boundaries for May 1997 fell by 38% in comparison to the same period last year. An additional Community Police Officer should further contribute to a reduction in the crime statistics in the future.

Noted.

10. Garden Tidy Scheme: Grass Cutting

The Grounds Maintenance Manager provided details on the continuing operation of the Garden Tidy Scheme for this year.

The Scheme runs from May to October each year and comprises 8 squads dealing with 700-800 gardens per week. At present there are 58 applicants on the waiting list.

The Commercial Services Directorate is also responsible for grass cutting of verges of roads with a 30 mile per hour limit. The Roads Section of the Planning, Roads and Environment Directorate are responsible for maintaining verges outwith this limit. Grass cutting in those areas is carried out by a contractor.

The Committee expressed concern that certain grassed areas alongside roads are not being cut.

The Committee agreed to refer to the Corporate strategy Committee consideration of the responsibility for grass cutting held by various Directorates of the Council.

11. Urgent Items

The Chair agreed that the following item be considered as a matter of urgency.

(a) Dreghorn: Station Brae

The Chair advised that a report on the possible re-opening for all road traffic of the Station Brae at Dreghorn will be submitted to the next meeting of the Area Committee.

The Meeting ended at 11.55 a.m.