

Infrastructure and Environment Services Committee
2 September 1998

Irvine, 2 September 1998 - At a Meeting of the Infrastructure and Environment Services Committee of North Ayrshire Council at 2.00 p.m.

Present

Samuel Gooding, David Munn, Jack Carson, James Clements, John Donn, Elizabeth McLardy, Robert Reilly and George Steven

In Attendance

The Director of Planning, Roads and Environment, J. McCorkell, Head of Planning and Environment; N. Buchan, Head of Roads (Planning, Roads and Environment); R. Lee, Assistant Principal Officer (Financial Services); G. Lawson, Principal Policy/Administration Officer and M. McKeown, Administration Officer (Chief Executive).

Chair

Mr Gooding in the Chair.

Apologies for Absence

Patrick Browne, Ian Clarkson, Margaret Highet, Thomas Morris and John Sillars.

1. Minutes Confirmed

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 10 June 1998, copies of which have previously been circulated, were confirmed.

2. Glasgow and Clyde Valley Structure Plan: Strategic Issues Report

Submitted report by the Director of Planning, Roads and Environment on comments submitted to the Glasgow and Clyde Valley Structure Plan Joint Committee in respect of its Strategic Issues Report.

A letter was received from the Glasgow and Clyde Valley Structure Plan Joint Committee seeking a response to questions raised in their Strategic Issues Report by 26th June 1998.

Comments on behalf of the Ayrshire Joint Structure Plan Committee were prepared by the Structure Plan Manager and submitted in June 1998. Among the issues addressed were tourism; mineral extraction; housing; retailing; the environment; transport; and waste management. It was noted that the Director of Planning, Roads and Environment has also submitted comments supporting the issues raised in the Structure Plan Committee's response and amplifying a number of issues which directly affect North Ayrshire.

After a full discussion the Committee agreed to (a) homologate the action taken by the Director of Planning, Roads and Environment in responding to the issues set out in the Glasgow and Clyde Valley Structure Plan Strategic Issues Report; and (b) remit to the Chairman and the Director of Planning, Roads and Environment to (i) discuss with Officers in East and South Ayrshire Councils on the appropriateness of maintaining the objections submitted on behalf of the three Councils to The Scottish Office and to the Glasgow and Clyde Valley Joint Structure Plan Committee, on the latter's proposals to alter the Strathclyde Structure Plan provisions relating to Single User High Amenity Sites and (ii) report back in due course.

3. Travel Choices for Scotland: White Paper on Integrated Transport Policy

Submitted report by the Director of Planning, Roads and Environment on the publication of the Government's White Paper on the future of transport entitled "A New Deal for Transport: Better for Everyone".

The guiding principles of this White Paper on transport policy apply throughout the United Kingdom and the Secretary of State for Scotland's proposals which are contained in "Travel Choices for Scotland" address the differing transport needs and policies consistent with these principles. The document develops the themes put forward in the Government's 1997 consultation document on sustainable and integrated transport, considers the challenges and needs of transport provision across the whole of Scotland, and sets the aim of each part of the country having a package of transport measures to suit local needs.

The production of a 'Local Transport Strategy' will be central to a comprehensive policy approach to transport, road management, traffic reduction, air quality etc., and will be a requirement for bidding for new funding. It was noted that a number of issues are identified by the Government for consultation and these will inform the development of North Ayrshire Councils Local Transport Strategy.

After a full discussion the Committee (a) welcomed the publication of the Government's proposals for an Integrated Transport Strategy in Scotland; (b) noted that formal consultation will be carried out on several matters outlined in the White Paper; (c) approved the preparation of a Local Transport Strategy document for North Ayrshire and agreed to convene an Officer/Member Working Group at an appropriate stage in the Strategy preparation; and (d) agreed that further reports should be submitted on future consultations as appropriate.

4. "Count me In" Road Safety Initiative

Submitted report by the Director of Planning, Roads and Environment on the proposed "Count Me In" Road Safety Initiative submitted Roads Division by Mr Mike Fenwick, a resident of Seamill. This proposal aims to influence driver behaviour by securing their commitment to road safety through the display of special 'Count Me In' stickers on their vehicles as a means of influencing their own behaviour and that of other road users.

It was noted that Mr Fenwick's idea had been considered by the West of Scotland Road Safety Forum at its meeting on 12 August. Whilst welcoming any initiative aimed at improving road safety the Forum had taken the view that the Scottish Road Safety Campaign's forthcoming 'Foolspeed' initiative was more likely to succeed in reducing road accidents.

After discussion the Committee, agreed to continue discussion of this item pending receipt of further details on the 'Foolspeed' initiative.

5. Environment Act 1995: Additional Capital Consents To Enable Local Authorities To Purchase Air Quality Monitoring Equipment

Submitted report by the Director of Planning, Roads and Environment on the outcome of the Council's bid to The Scottish Office for additional funding to enable it to purchase air quality monitoring equipment.

In March 1998 the Committee was advised that The Scottish Office had announced the availability of additional capital consents in 1998/99 to enable Local Authorities to undertake air quality reviews and assessments. Bids were invited 30 June 1998.

Although the air quality of North Ayrshire is unlikely to fail air quality standards in general terms, due largely to the proactive approach adopted by the Council and its predecessor in monitoring air quality over the last 20 years and in introducing smoke control areas, routine monitoring of nitrogen dioxide had suggested the possibility of a localised 'hot-spot' in Irvine

(although the levels of nitrogen dioxide involved were unlikely to constitute a public health hazard). However more information was required to permit a full assessment of air pollution levels in the Irvine Area and it was therefore agreed that the Council should make a joint bid with Inverclyde Council for additional consents for the purchase a Groundhog Mobile Continuous Air Pollution Monitor to be shared by the two Authorities.

The Scottish Office has now conveyed its consent in terms of Section 94 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 for the Council to incur capital expense of £25,000 in respect of the purchase of this equipment in partnership with Inverclyde Council.

The Committee authorised the Director of Planning, Roads and Environment to proceed jointly with Inverclyde Council to purchase a Groundhog Mobile Continuous Air Pollution Monitor.

6. Skelmorlie: Proposed Conservation Area

Submitted report by the Director of Planning, Roads and Environment seeking approval to formally designate a Conservation Area in Skelmorlie.

The adopted North Coast and Cumbraes Local Plan contains proposals to designate a Conservation Area in Skelmorlie Village. Its proposed boundary, which has been drawn following extensive consultation, includes the main area of Victorian and earlier development within the village, but excludes areas which have been affected to a greater extent by modern infill development or areas of lesser merit.

As part of the formal procedure the Council will require to place advertisements in the local press and in the Edinburgh Gazette as well as staging a public exhibition in the village and inviting comment. Further consultation with statutory authorities and other interested parties may also be undertaken. Additionally the proposals to restrict permitted development rights through an Article 4 Direction must be advertised in specific newspapers and submitted to the Secretary of State for approval.

The Committee agreed (a) to designate an area in Skelmorlie as a Conservation Area; (b) to apply to the Secretary of State for approval of an Article 4 direction to remove certain permitted development rights within the Conservation Area; and (c) to undertake the necessary advertisements and other procedures to consult the public and others on the proposal.

7. Traffic Accidents and Casualties for period January to June 1998

Submitted report by the Director of Planning, Roads and Environment on road Traffic Accidents and Casualties for the period January to June 1998.

In the first half of 1998 a total of 442 road accidents occurred in North Ayrshire of which 185 were injury accidents that resulted in 281 casualties with severities of 1 fatal, 57 serious and 223 slight. A comparison with the previous year's figures shows a reduction in the total number of accidents and injury accidents of about 20%. The number of fatal and serious casualties remained constant but the slight casualties reduced by 21% .

Noted.

8. Building (Scotland) Act 1959/70: Determination of Applications for Building Warrants

Submitted reports by the Director of Planning, Roads and Environment on applications for Building Warrants under Section 6(8) of the Building (Scotland) Act 1959-70.

The Committee agreed to refuse each of the following applications on the grounds that "the proposed development does not comply with the Building Standards (Scotland) Regulations 1990

as amended”.

- (a) Glengarnock: Davidson Avenue: RFS/5/BW/98/0077
- (b) Dreghorn: Broomlands Road: RFS/5/BW/98/0107
- (c) Kilwinning: Moncur Road: RFS/5/BW/97/0912
- (d) Largs: Main Street: RFS/BW/97/0956

The meeting ended at 3.00 p.m.