

North Coast and Arran Area Committee
25 August 1997

Arran, 25 August 1997 - At a meeting of the North Coast and Arran Area Committee of North Ayrshire Council at 11.00 a.m.

Present

John Sillars, Margaret Highet, Elizabeth McLardy and Richard Wilkinson.

In Attendance

The Head of Cultural and Community Services; I Frame and M Smyth, Area Community Development Officers (Community and Recreational Services); C Hamilton, Area Manager (Social Work); G Clark, Operations Manager Grounds Maintenance (Commercial Services); R Lee, Assistant Principal Accountant (Financial Services); J Bannatyne, Administration Officer; C Graham, Assistant Administration Officer; and A McLeod, Assistant Local Officer, Arran (Chief Executive).

Also In Attendance

Inspector M Scally, Strathclyde Police.

Chair

Mr Sillars in the Chair.

Apologies for Absence

Robert Rae.

1. Minutes Confirmed

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 23 June 1997, copies of which had previously been circulated, were confirmed.

2. Largs: Viking Festival 1997

Submitted report by the Director of Community and Recreational Services on the Viking Festival Advisory Forum Meeting held on 28 July 1997.

In view of practical difficulties, no charge will be levied on members of the public attending the Battle/Fireworks event. The future position in this regard will require to be reviewed and a report will be submitted to the Committee following the Festival.

Noted.

3. Largs: Community Consultation Meeting

The Chair indicated that a suitable date for the Largs Community Consultation Meeting with representatives of local groups/organisations now requires to be determined.

After discussion, the Committee agreed that the Community Consultation Meeting in Largs be held on Thursday 18 September 1997 in the Lecture Theatre, Largs Academy at 7.30 p.m.

4. Dog Fouling: Pilot Project Areas

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on the initiative to combat dog fouling in the five pilot areas identified and to determine future action.

The Committee was informed that the measures taken to date have been positively received by the general public and the high usage of dog bins has necessitated an increase in the frequency of emptying. Demand has also been high for dog tidy bags.

In order to streamline and simplify the system for reporting and responding to complaints of dog fouling, the Officers Team has proposed the following options for future provision:

- (a) identifying further pilot projects;
- (b) with the co-operation of Strathclyde Police, providing a more general application of existing measures; and
- (c) deferring further spending in this financial year pending an investigation into the possibility of appointing a new post of Dog Warden to cover tasks currently undertaken by several Directorates of the Council.

After discussion, the Committee agreed (i) to defer any further spending in the current financial year pending an investigation into the possibility of appointing a Dog Warden whose work would cover most of the tasks currently undertaken by several Directorates; and (ii) to recommend submission of a report to the next meeting of the Corporate Strategy Committee with a view to establishing a consensus on such future provision.

5. Largs: Jet Ski-ing/Water Ski-ing

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on problems associated with large numbers of Jet and Water Skiers in the area of Largs slipway.

A request has been received from Mr J Wilson of Jet Ski Ecosse, a local Jet Ski Company based in Irvine, to meet with representatives from the Council to discuss problems relating to (a) parking and congestion in the area of the Largs slipway; and (b) the numbers of uncontrolled water craft using the area off the slipway, with a view to ascertaining what action, if any, can be taken.

The Director of Community and Recreational Services is aware of the position regarding congestion at the Largs slipway and is currently making arrangements to display a notice in an attempt to control this. There is however an issue regarding the ability to enforce any control mechanism given the absence of Bye-Laws or Management Rules.

The Committee agreed (i) that the Chief Executive consult with officers from the appropriate Directorates of the Council and Strathclyde Police on the nature of the problems associated with Jet Ski-ing and Water Ski-ing in the area of Largs slipway; and (ii) that a meeting be arranged between representatives of the Council and any other relevant groups/organisations to discuss these issues, and a report be submitted to the next meeting.

6. Community Safety Initiative

Submitted report by the Director of Community and Recreational Services on the final report of the Community Safety Initiative Steering Committee.

The Area Committee on 18 November 1996 agreed to recommend to the Corporate Strategy Committee that funding be made available from the Community Safety Challenge Budget in respect of (a) a Community Safety Seminar to be held on 25 March 1997 at Vikingar, Largs; and (b) Community Safety Needs Assessments to be conducted on Arran and Cumbrae. A Community Safety Seminar Steering Committee was subsequently set up, chaired by Councillor Sillars, and

details of its composition were given in the report.

The final report produced by the Steering Committee made the following recommendations:-

(i) that the report be published and circulated to all those who attended the Seminar Day and all those who participated in the Community Needs Assessments on the Islands of Cumbrae and Arran;

(ii) that a North Coast and Arran Community Safety Group be formed to take forward Community Safety issues for the area and that this group be inter-agency with representation from the community and voluntary sector;

(iii) that the Lead Officer for the proposed North Coast and Arran Community Safety Group be a member of the Community and Recreational Services Community Development Services staff; and

(iv) that the proposed North Coast and Arran Community Safety Group take up membership of organisations which can assist Community Safety work.

The Committee agreed to approve the recommendations of the Steering Committee.

7. Monitoring Reports

(a) Garden Tidy Scheme

Submitted report by the Director of Commercial Services on service delivery in connection with the Garden Tidy Scheme.

Within the North Coast there are 354 gardens on the Scheme and 11 on the waiting list and on Arran, 95 gardens with no waiting list.

Problems are being encountered in carrying out the six cuts per garden originally anticipated due to the introduction of the European Working Time Directive. This requires employees to take annual leave during the Scheme's operation and has reduced the number of hours available for grass cutting. There is also the possibility of further reductions in the next financial year

Noted.

(b) Industrial Estate Factories

Submitted report by the Legal Services Manager on the letting/availability of factories on Council Industrial Estates within the Committee's area. Future reports will be submitted quarterly.

Noted.

(c) Surplus Properties

Submitted report by the Legal Services Manager regarding properties which have been approved as surplus to requirements by Service Committees of the Council. Future reports will be submitted quarterly, alternating with reports at (b) above.

Noted.

(d) Community Development Grants Scheme: Analysis of Grants Paid to 12 August 1997

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on analysis of Community Development Grants paid to 12 August 1997 in respect of the North Coast and Arran areas.

Noted.

8. Community Development Grants Scheme: Requests for Financial Assistance

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

(a) Isle of Arran Stepdancers

The Committee agreed to award the Isle of Arran Stepdancers £200;

(b) Isle of Arran Music Society

The Committee agreed to award the Isle of Arran Music Society £350;

(c) Arran Dramafest

The Committee agreed to award Arran Dramafest £300;

(d) Lamlash Gala Committee

The Committee agreed to award the Lamlash Gala Committee £300;

(e) Largs Players Youth Theatre

The Committee (i) agreed to award the Largs Players Youth Theatre £300; and (ii) that the organisation will require (A) to submit the first year's accounts in October 1997; (B) to become a properly constituted group with an equal opportunities policy; and (C) to affiliate to the North Ayrshire Arts Council.

(f) "Variations": Largs Choral Group

The Committee agreed to award the Largs Choral Group £300;

(g) West Kilbride Music Club

The Committee agreed to award the West Kilbride Music Club £300;

(h) Largs Amateur Operatic Society

The Committee agreed to award the Largs Amateur Operatic Society £400;

(i) Largs Chess Club

The Committee agreed to award Largs Chess Club £900;

(j) Cumbrae Community and Leisure Group

The Committee agreed to award the Cumbrae Community and Leisure Group £800; and

(k) Arran Heritage Community Group

The Committee agreed to award the Arran Heritage Community Group £300.

The Committee further agreed, that with regard to future grant applications, the Director of Community and Recreational Services take account of the following issues which were raised during discussion of the above applications:-

- (i) the need to ensure that Community Development Grants Scheme Application Forms clearly

indicate the purposes to which the grant funding is to be applied; and (ii) the need for closer scrutiny of applications for grants towards the hire of premises in the Council's ownership to ascertain whether any other concessions or reductions in hire charges have already been agreed by the Council with the applicant, in respect of the same premises.

9. Urgent Items

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

10. Largs Academy

The Chair reported that problems have arisen in relation to traffic congestion at Largs Academy following the provision of additional buses for schoolchildren from West Kilbride and Skelmorlie.

Strathclyde Police have confirmed that they are aware of the position and that arrangements have been made to investigate this matter which will be monitored in the meantime.

Noted.

The meeting ended at 12.30 p.m.