

North Coast and Arran Area Committee
6 January 1997

Largs, 6 January 1997 - At a Meeting of the North Coast and Arran Area Committee of North Ayrshire Council at 10.30 a.m.

Present

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

In Attendance

The Head of Cultural and Community Services; M Smyth, Area Community Development Officer (Community and Recreational Services); C Hamilton, Area Services Manager (Social Work); R Lee, Assistant Principal Officer (Accountancy) (Financial Services); T Jones, Operations Manager (Commercial Services); J Bannatyne, Administration Officer and C Graham, Assistant Administration Officer (Chief Executive).

Also In Attendance

Assistant Divisional Officer J Milligan; Community Firefighter T Barr, Strathclyde Fire Brigade.

Chair

Mr Sillars in the Chair.

1. Minutes Confirmed

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 18 November 1996, copies of which had previously been circulated, were confirmed.

2. Dogs in Public Places

(a) Control of Dogs

Submitted report by the Chief Executive giving details on the current statutory provision in relation to the control of dogs in terms of the undernoted Acts:-

- (i) the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991;
- (ii) the Control of Dogs Order 1992;
- (iii) the Environmental Protection Act 1990 and the Environment Protection (Stray Dogs) Regulations 1992; and
- (iv) the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982.

In addition to the statutory provision, there are numerous other powers available to local authorities in terms of dog breeding, animal boarding, quarantine etc.

Noted.

(b) Dog Fouling

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on the findings of the Officers Working Group on practical measures to address the problems of dog fouling.

On 27 November 1996 the Corporate Strategy Committee instructed the Working Group to develop a strategy based on (i) bin provision; (ii) the installation of better signage; (iii) the provision of poop scoops; and (iv) raising awareness of the problem through education and publicity. Due to the limited resources available (£1,600 in each of the five areas), efforts should be concentrated in a clearly defined area (e.g. a particular housing estate, a large grassy area with streets leading to it, a leisure area etc.).

After discussion the Committee agreed (A) that a central recording system be established to effectively record complaints, to ensure where possible that the area is cleaned, that the Police are notified and that where appropriate individual action is encouraged through the District Court under Section 49 of the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982; (B) to identify Main Street, West Kilbride as the priority area to concentrate efforts to reduce dog fouling; and (C) that in order to minimise delay, Officers be authorised to prepare a package of measures for the priority area identified and arrange for its implementation as soon as possible following consultation with the Chair.

3. Viking Festival: Revised Management Arrangements

Submitted report by the Head of Cultural and Community Services outlining a detailed proposal to establish a Viking Festival Advisory Group as part of the new management arrangements for the event.

The North Coast and Arran Area Committee is now responsible for the overall management and operation of the Viking Festival and the activities within it. The Committee's role will include establishing the Council's financial contribution to the overall budget, monitoring, marketing and income generation, agreeing the final programme, agreeing arrangements for civic receptions and other elements of the programme to be attended by guests of the Council and fostering links with partners from Norway, Shetland, Erie or other countries as these develop. Reports on the Viking Festival will be submitted to future meetings of the Area Committee on a regular basis.

The Viking Festival Advisory Forum will meet on a regular basis to enable it to offer advice to the Area Committee on aspects of the Festival's operation and programme and will be encouraged to develop and establish additional components which will complement and expand the Festival and its attractiveness to visitors and local residents. The Chair (or nominee) of the North Coast and Arran Area Committee will Chair the Forum and the Minutes of Meetings of the Forum will be submitted to the Area Committee for information. The staff of the Community and Recreational Services Directorate will undertake much of the day to day planning, preparation and operation of the Festival but will also work in partnership with members of the Advisory Forum.

If the new Forum is to succeed, it will require to encompass the necessary elements of community and business life and will be comprised of individuals who, in addition to representing the interests of a specific group or combination of groups, have the ability to contribute in a positive sense to the actual planning and organisation required to develop and run additional events.

The recommended representation on the Forum is as follows:-

Co-opted Representative of the Community Council;

Co-opted Representative of the music/performance element of the local community e.g. Largs Players/Operatic;

Co-opted Representative of the Accommodation Sector in the town;

Co-opted School Sector representative - Primary of Secondary;

Co-opted representatives of the Youth Sector;

Co-opted Wider Voluntary Sector involvement;

Co-opted Representative of retail/main street business (e.g. to generate themed displays/sponsorship etc.).

It is further recommended that the Forum does not exceed ten persons given that each individual will be at liberty to involve others when organising specific events.

It will not be possible to give an assurance that those volunteers who had previously been involved in the running of the Festival will be given the opportunity to participate in the new Forum. Organisations will be able to nominate a representative(s), as the case may be, to represent them on the Forum, including those previously involved in the running of the Festival. The position will require to be reviewed next year.

The remit of the Advisory Forum is as follows:-

- (a) to assist North Ayrshire Council in determining the overall direction and operation of the annual Viking Festival;
- (b) to provide background information and advice on local opinion which can be used to shape or target events or Festival elements in order that they meet community demand or aspiration;
- (c) to assist with the marketing and promotion of local Festival events;
- (d) to arrange where appropriate additional Festival components which are strongly community based and give opportunities which would not normally be present;
- (e) to assist in the securing of additional funding or sponsorship towards Festival costs; and
- (f) to plan, develop and manage specific Forum sponsored events within the programme.

Ongoing monitoring will be in place in the run up to the 1997 Festival and the Head of Cultural and Community Services will provide a comprehensive review and report on the Festival to the Area Committee in late autumn 1997.

The Committee agreed to approve the formation of the Viking Festival Advisory Forum in the terms indicated in the report.

4. Skelmorlie: Naming of New Private Housing Development by Linnic Construction, off Eglinton Terrace

Submitted report by the Director of Planning, Roads and Environment on the provision of a name for a new private housing development by Linnic Construction, off Eglinton Terrace, Skelmorlie.

The Committee agreed that the development be named "Highfield Court" as recommended by Councillor Margaret Highet, the local member.

5. Millport: Community Consultation Meeting

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on the responses received from the various Directorates of the Council to the issues raised at the Millport Community Consultation Meeting held in Millport on 26 September 1996.

The Clerk reported that with regard to the painting of the sea wall at Millport, the Director of Planning, Roads and Environment had advised that this has been the subject of close inspection within the last eight months and was found to be in generally good condition with only a few

non-urgent minor defects. Due to limited resources available for maintenance works the painting of the sea wall has not been considered as a scheme for the foreseeable future.

The Committee agreed (a) that a copy of the report on the Community Consultation Meeting be forwarded to the representatives from the various groups/organisations who attended the meeting, for their interest; and (b) otherwise to note the position meantime.

6. Strathclyde Fire Brigade: Presentation on Community Safety

The Committee received a presentation by Assistant Divisional Officer John Milligan on Community Safety within the North Coast and Arran area as it relates to the Fire Service.

Noted.

7. Health For All: Accident Prevention Seminar

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on an invitation from the Ayrshire and Arran Health For All Partnership for a representative of the Committee to attend an Accident Prevention Seminar to be held in Dower House, Dean Castle Country Park, Kilmarnock on 16 January 1997.

The Committee agreed that the Chair (or his nominee) be authorised to attend the Seminar.

8. Monitoring Reports

(a) Collection of Bulky Household Items

Submitted report by the Director of Commercial Services on service delivery in relation to the uplift of bulky household items.

Noted.

(b) Analysis of Grants Paid to 4 December 1996

Submitted report by the Chief Executive detailing the various categories of grants paid to 4 December 1996.

The Committee was advised that a grant (L/25/96) amounting to £500 had previously been awarded by the Committee to Millport Promotions and Trading Limited in respect of the Country and Western Festival. A condition attached to the grant, requiring the provision of specific financial documents prior to the payment of the grant, has not yet been met. The Area Community Development Officer reported that she had recently been in contact with the applicants and that the documentation required would shortly be provided.

The Committee agreed (a) to remit with powers to the Chair in consultation with appropriate Officers to determine the action to be taken regarding payment of the grant; and (b) otherwise to note the report.

9. Request for Financial Assistance

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on request received for financial assistance in respect of the North Coast and Arran Area Committee:-

(a) Community Grants

(i) The Largs Players

The Committee agreed to award the Largs Players £200 towards the cost of a Christmas

Pantomime.

10. Urgent Item

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

11. Largs: Railway Station: Redevelopment Proposals

Mr Wilkinson advised the Committee that the proposed redevelopment of Largs Railway Station had been discussed at a recent meeting of Largs Community Council who had subsequently written to the Director of Planning, Roads and Environment giving details of a number of suggested redevelopment proposals for the station for consideration. Mr Wilkinson further advised that he had agreed to seek the support of the Area Committee for the efforts of the Community Council in this regard.

The Committee agreed (a) in principle, to support the efforts of the Largs Community Council with regard to the submission of their suggested redevelopment proposals; and (b) to write to the Director of Planning, Roads and Environment (i) seeking his comments on the proposals submitted by the Largs Community Council; and (ii) requesting that the North Coast and Arran Area Committee be kept advised of any further developments in relation to future proposals for the redevelopment of Largs Railway Station.

The meeting ended at 11.50 a.m.