

Three Towns Area Committee  
21 November 1996

**Stevenston, 21 November 1996** - At a Meeting of the Three Towns Area Committee at 10.30 a.m.

**Present**

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

**In Attendance**

J. McHarg, Community Services Development Manager, L. Griffin, Principal Leisure Contracts Manager (Community and Recreational Services), W. Nicol, Accountant (Financial Services), J. Mason, Principal Engineer (Planning, Roads and the Environment), A. Smith, Area Housing Manager (Stevenston), M. Cooper, Area Housing Manager (Ardrossan) (Housing), S. Bale, Administration Officer and A. Little, Assistant Administration Officer (Chief Executive and Corporate Support).

**Chair**

Mr Gallagher in the Chair.

**1. Minutes Confirmed**

The Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 10 October 1996, copies of which had previously been circulated, were confirmed.

**2. Control of Dog Fouling in Public Places**

Submitted report by the Chief Executive confirming proposals for dealing with the problem of dog fouling in public places.

On 22 October 1996 the Corporate Strategy Committee considered a report on the control of dog fouling in public places and decided:-

- " that the £18,000 presently allocated to the Infrastructure and Environment Services Budget be transferred to the Corporate Strategy Committee Budget for disbursement.
- " That a Working Party comprising officers from appropriate directorates be established to assist in the provision of a service to address dog fouling problems.
- " To remit to Area Committees to determine their priorities; and
- " That regular progress reports be submitted to the Area Committees on the measures taken.

After discussion the Committee agreed (a) to refer any outstanding complaints of problem areas to Mrs S King, Corporate Policy Officer; (b) to seek clarification from the Working Party on what action can be taken in respect of playing fields/school play grounds; and (c) to note the terms of the report.

### **3. Monitoring Reports**

#### **a) Housing Services**

Submitted report by the Director of Housing Services advising of the Council's Allocation and Homelessness Services within the Three Towns area.

The report considered transfer and waiting list issues, analysed the various needs groups and provided details of progress in achieving quota targets for allocation for 1996/97. Detailed information regarding the volume and nature of homeless demand within the Three Towns area was provided, as well as performance in allocating vacant properties, rent loss and reasons for refusal.

Noted.

#### **b) Auchenharvie Leisure Centre**

Submitted report by the Director of Community and Recreational Services on the levels of use and activities held within Auchenharvie Leisure Centre.

An up-date was provided in relation to the re-roofing of the swimming pool which has now been completed. Discussion took place on the revised opening times of the Centre including the swimming pool and the effects this will have on attendance figures. Customers' responses to the revised opening times are being monitored.

Noted.

#### **c) Analysis of Grants Paid to 14 October 1996**

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on analysis of grants paid to 14 October 1996

Noted.

### **4. Applications for Financial Assistance**

#### **a) Community Grants**

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

##### **(i) Saltcoats Neighbourhood Access Project**

Saltcoats Neighbourhood Access Project (SNAP) is a Voluntary Urban Project funded by the Scottish Office and North Ayrshire Council. Each of the groups are autonomous with individual constitutions and bank accounts. The use of "SNAP" as a prefix in the name of the groups who use the premises is part of the Saltcoats Neighbourhood Access Project's marketing strategy and is the only link between the groups.

Discussion took place on the funding difficulties facing Urban Aid funded projects in 1997. Having heard further assurances that each group is independent and should be considered individually and on their own merits the Committee agreed the following grants be awarded:-

|                                  |          |
|----------------------------------|----------|
| SNAP 50+ Group                   | £ 266.00 |
| SNAP Health and Weightwise Group | £ 200.00 |

|                    |          |
|--------------------|----------|
| SNAP Women's Group | £ 150.00 |
| SNAP Craft Group   | £ 250.00 |
| SNAP Garden Group  | £ 100.00 |
| SNAP Parents Group | £ 400.00 |
| SNAP Girls Group   | £ 200.00 |
| SNAP Boys Club     | £ 200.00 |

## **(ii) Other Groups**

The Committee agreed the following grants be awarded:-

|                                       |          |  |
|---------------------------------------|----------|--|
| Ardeer Lone Parent Group              | £ 500.00 |  |
| Sesame Street Mother & Toddlers Group | £ 162.70 | (Subject to the group becoming constituted). |
| Mayfield Playgroup                    | £ 443.00 |  |
| Park Church Playgroup                 | £ 300.00 |  |
| Saltcoats Blind Bowling Club          | £ 320.00 |  |

## **5. Ardrossan, Saltcoats and Stevenston Common Good Funds: Requests for Financial Assistance**

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on a request for financial assistance from the Ardrossan, Saltcoats and Stevenston Common Good Fund by Health in Mind.

The Health in Mind Project offers support, advice and information to those with experience of mental illness/health problems, their carers, family and friends. Although based in Stevenston the project serves the Three Town area. Financial assistance has been requested to enable external works at their new premises in Station Road, Stevenston to proceed. Repairs and improvements to the external building fabric, boundary walls and front fencing, a side parking area and soft landscaping are proposed.

Consideration was given to alternative sources of funding which may be available to this Project for this type of work.

The Committee agreed (a) to refer this Project to the Social Work Committee for consideration for inclusion in the community care resource transfer negotiation process with the Ayrshire and Arran NHS Trust; and (b) to request Scottish Homes who are undertaking similar external building works in the area for assistance.

## **6. Community Safety**

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on the progress of the Community Safety Working Group along with proposals for the promotion of Community Safety in North Ayrshire and the disbursement of the Community Safety Challenge Budget.

The Committee agreed to recommend to the Corporate Strategy Committee that (a) Police representation at all Area Committees be continued; (b) Community Development grant applications dealing with community safety issues continue to be given a degree of priority; (c)

Community safety becomes a standing item on the agenda of all Area Committees to allow a programme of reports to be submitted from services and organisations addressing safety issues; (d) the Community Safety Centre be invited to submit a report making proposals for the establishment of a Community Safety Task Group at a North Ayrshire Council wide area level to promote community safety issues within North Ayrshire; (e) the recommendation in respect of the Community Safety Challenge Budget applications as listed below be approved; and (f) that Women's Aid be included in the groups to be consulted on the Home Security Initiative.

|  |            |
|--|------------|
| Girls and Young Women's Personal Safety Course                   | £ 950.00   |
| Home Security Initiative for Elderly Disabled and Single Parents | £1, 400.00 |

## **7. Roads Issues**

### **a) Road Safety and Dropped Kerb Crossing Points: Hamilton Street/Chapelwell Street, Saltcoats**

Submitted report by the Director of Planning, Roads and Environment on the investigations into pedestrian problems at Hamilton Street and Chapelwell Street, Saltcoats.

The proposed measures to deal with the problems are (i) the erection of a pedestrian guard-rail on Chapelwell Street at the corner with Hamilton Street which will guide pedestrians to optimum crossing points and additional carriageway markings; and (ii) the construction of footway extensions at the dropped kerbs in Hamilton Street, Saltcoats which will physically keep these areas clear of traffic.

Noted.

### **b) Waiting Restrictions: Eglinton Court, Saltcoats**

Submitted report by the Director of Planning, Roads and Environment on the present and proposed waiting restrictions at Eglinton Street, Saltcoats.

The Committee agreed that a report be made to the Infrastructure and Environment Services Committee for approval to promote a Traffic Regulation Order to: (i) amend the present restrictions to be effective at any time; and (ii) extend the restrictions on Eglinton Street outside Eglinton Court.

### **c) Road Safety Concern: Burns Avenue at Junction with Simpson Drive, Saltcoats**

Submitted report by the Director of Planning, Roads and Environment on a feasibility study on a change of priority at the Burns Avenue, Simpson Drive junction, Saltcoats.

The Committee agreed that (a) the priority should be altered on a trial basis to monitor the resultant traffic patterns and junction performance; and (b) to avoid introducing the trial in shorter day light and possible adverse weather conditions, the "trial" be programmed for March 1997.

### **d) Auchenharvie Leisure Centre: Speed Limit**

Concerns have been raised regarding the 40mph speed limit at Saltcoats Road, Stevenston. Visibility in this area can be poor and people leaving the leisure centre can be at risk in crossing the road.

The Committee agreed that the Director of Planning, Roads and Environment investigate

this matter further and report.

#### **8. Petrol Prices**

Submitted report by the Legal Services Manager on the progress of the petrol price initiative. A further report with more detailed information will be submitted when all responses to the initiative have been received.

Noted.

#### **9. Council Tax Enquiry Service**

Submitted report by the Director of Financial Services on the proposed changes to the Council Tax Enquiry Services in Saltcoats.

The transfer of the Council Tax Enquiry Service to the Vernon Street First Stop Shop, Saltcoats will enable the delivery of a more effective enquiry service. An on-line computer system will be in place and a pilot of a video conferencing link with Cunninghame House Council Tax staff will assist in the initial stages.

Noted.

The meeting ended at 12.25 p.m.