

Garnock Valley Area Committee
18 June 1996

Dalry, 18 June 1996 - At a Meeting of the Garnock Valley Area Committee of North Ayrshire Council at 10.30 a.m.

Present

Robert Reilly, James Jennings and Thomas Morris.

In Attendance

C. Hamilton, Area Services Manager, Social Work; J. Hair, Principal Officer, Accounting and Budgeting; W. Simpson, Area Community Development Officer, Community and Recreational Services; C. Graham, an Assistant Administration Officer and J Bannatyne, Administration Officer.

Chair

Mr Reilly in the Chair.

Apologies for Absence

Thomas Dickie and George Steven.

1. Minutes Confirmed

The minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 7 May 1996, copies of which had previously been circulated, were confirmed.

2. Publicity for Area Committees

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on the steps taken by the Principal Officer (Marketing and Publicity) to bring forward a Publicity Strategy for Area Committees.

The Principal Officer (Marketing and Publicity) met with each of the Chairs of the five Area Committees to seek their views on the Proposed Strategy. The Chairman expressed the view that the dates, times and venues for future Area Committee Meetings should be publicised in local newspapers and that arrangements will require to be made to ensure that appropriate publicity is given to specific issues discussed at Area Committee Meetings. A final report on the Publicity Strategy will be submitted to the Corporate Strategy Committee on 30 July 1996 incorporating any views expressed by the five Chairs and the Area Committee and will thereafter be submitted to the Area Committees for further consideration.

The Committee agreed (a) to welcome the proposed Publicity Strategy; (b) to note the progress to date; and (c) to await a final report on the approved Strategy following the meeting of the Corporate Strategy Committee on 30 July 1996.

3. Monitoring Reports

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on the progress made to date in formulating appropriate monitoring reports for consideration at future Area Committee Meetings.

The Committee agreed (a) that a final report on this matter be submitted to the next meeting; and (b) to note the position meantime.

4. Community Consultation

Submitted report by the Chief Executive giving details of a number of issues raised at a meeting between the Chief Executive and the Chairs of the five Area Committees which was held on 21 May 1996.

The Committee agreed to continue the process of Community Consultation taking into account, where appropriate, the issues raised at the meeting of the five Chairs on 21 May 1996.

5. Environmental Improvements

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on a proposal that the Area Committees be invited to examine, in conjunction with the interested parties in their communities, the possibilities for environmental improvements within their area, remitted by the Corporate Strategy Committee on 21 May 1996 for further consideration.

It was suggested that the Area Committees could act as a catalyst to ascertain the contribution which can be made by organisations/groups/individuals towards environmental improvement schemes for their area. Due to the financial implications however, all proposals for new schemes will require to be submitted to the Corporate Strategy Committee for approval.

The Committee agreed (a) in principle, to examine in conjunction with the interested parties in its communities, the possibilities for environmental improvement schemes within its area which could be submitted to the Corporate Strategy Committee for approval; and (b) to instruct the Chief Executive in consultation with the appropriate Chief Officers to investigate and report on the options available for the submission of environmental improvement schemes by Area Committees including the criteria to be adopted, alternative sources of funding etc. to enable the Committee to further consider their remit.

6. Community Safety/Accident Prevention

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on an invitation to the Area Committee to consider the manner in which issues relating to Community Safety and Accident Prevention can be addressed, remitted by the Corporate Strategy Committee on 21 May 1996.

The former Cunninghame District Council established an Accident Prevention Committee to which a number of local Accident Prevention Committees reported. These local Committees were disbanded some years ago and latterly only the main Committee which met on a quarterly basis, remained. The Committee is now requested to consider its future role in the promotion of the concept of Community Safety and the manner in which issues relating to Accident Prevention can best be incorporated within this overall strategy. The Council have recently taken up membership of the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents Home Safety Division for 1996/97 and it is anticipated that the Council will in the near future be invited to take up membership of RoSPA's Road Safety and Water and Leisure Safety Divisions.

After discussion, the Committee agreed (a) to welcome the opportunity to consider the manner in which it would wish to address matters relating to Community Safety and Accident Prevention; and (b) to instruct the Chief Executive, in the meantime, to investigate further the options available to progress these matters and report.

7. Analysis of Grants Paid to 31 May 1996

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on the various categories of grants paid to 31 May 1996 in relation to applications determined in respect of the Garnock Valley area, including details of the balance of funding remaining.

The Committee agreed to note (a) the current position; and (b) that a similar updated report

will be submitted in future to each meeting of the Area Committee for information.

8. *Requests for Financial Assistance*

Submitted reports by the Chief Executive on the undernoted requests for financial assistance:-

(a) Sports, Arts and Leisure

<u>APPLICANT</u>	<u>DECISION</u>
Barmill Community Association	£300

(b) Playscheme Applications

<u>PLAYSCHEME</u>	<u>DECISION</u>
Beith Summer Playscheme	£380
Barmill Playscheme	£460

9. *Urgent Items*

The Chair agreed that the following items be dealt with as a matter of urgency.

10. *Garnock Valley Area: Complaints*

The Committee were advised that a number of complaints had been received in respect of the undernoted matters:-

(a) Dial-a-Bus Service

An individual has alleged that he was advised by the Dial-a-Bus Service that he could arrange to be uplifted from a pick-up point but that it was no longer possible to arrange a return journey.

The Committee agreed that the Clerk investigate this matter and report.

(b) Heavy Lorries: Speeding

A number of complaints have been received from members of the public regarding the dangers caused by heavy lorries travelling at excessive speeds in some areas of the Garnock Valley particularly on the stretch of road between Barmill and Johnstone.

The Committee agreed that the Clerk write to Strathclyde Police drawing their attention to

these complaints.

(c) Beith: Bigholm Area

Local members in the Garnock Valley area have received complaints from members of the public about the lack of public benches available to elderly persons in the Bigholm area between the bypass road and the golf course at Beith.

The Committee agreed that the Director of Community and Recreational Services be requested (i) to investigate this complaint and report; and (ii) to clarify the position regarding the future provision of public benches throughout the Garnock Valley area.

(d) Kilwinning to Dalry Bus Route: Fares

Mr Morris reported that it had been brought to his attention that there appears to be a discrepancy in relation to the bus fares currently charged on the Kilwinning to Dalry bus route. It has been alleged that the current fare for the journey from Kilwinning to Dalry costs £1.30 pence while the return journey costs only 80 pence.

The Committee agreed to instruct the Clerk to write to the bus company seeking clarification on the current fares structure and report.

The Committee further agreed that the Principal Officer (Marketing and Publicity) be requested to advise the local press of the Committee's concerns over these complaints, and of the steps taken to investigate them.

11. *Beith Stained Glass Windows*

The Committee agreed (a) that the Director of Community and Recreational Services be requested to confirm whether the stained glass windows which were formerly sited on the ground floor of the Townhouse, Beith have now been returned to Beith Library on a permanent basis; and (b) that when confirmation has been received the Principal Officer (Marketing and Publicity) be requested to arrange for a suitable article to be placed in the local press.

The meeting ended at 11.00 a.m.