

Garnock Valley Area Committee  
8 December 1998

**Dalry, 8 December 1998** - At a Meeting of the Garnock Valley Area Committee of North Ayrshire Council at 10.30 a.m.

**Present**

Robert Reilly, Thomas Dickie, James Jennings and Thomas Morris.

**In Attendance**

J. Mason, Principal Engineer, Traffic and J. Houston, Housing Divisional Manager (Property Services); J. McKinlay, Area Community Development Officer (Educational Services); T. Guthrie, Accountant, Financial Services; J. Bannatyne, Administration Officer and D. McCaw, Assistant Administration Officer (Chief Executive).

**Also In Attendance**

Sub-Divisional Commander S. Keenan, Inspector C. McCreath, Inspector Neil and Sergeant Marshall (Strathclyde Police); and J. Milligan, Assistant Divisional Officer (Strathclyde Fire Brigade).

**Chair**

Mr. Reilly in the Chair.

**Apologies for Absence**

George Steven.

**1. Minutes Confirmed**

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 27 October 1998, copies of which had previously been circulated, were confirmed.

**2. Monitoring Reports**

**(a) Housing Services as at 31 October 1998**

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Property Services) detailing performance information on voids, allocations, housing benefits, rent arrears and repairs completions.

The overall void figure of 1.8% continues to reflect the long-term letting difficulties in the Longbar Estate, Kilbirnie. Allocation figures are noticeably improved in the 14-42 days and over categories. The percentage of tenants on housing benefit is 61% and the current rent arrears figure for the Garnock Valley area is £371,885.

The Committee (a) requested a breakdown of the rent arrears figures for Kilbirnie, Beith and Dalry; and (b) otherwise noted the report.

**(b) Community Development Grants Scheme: Analysis of Grants Paid to 12 October 1998**

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on Community Development Grants paid to 12 October 1998 in respect of the Garnock Valley area, including details of the balance of funding remaining.

Noted.

**(c) Litter Awareness Hotline**

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Property Services) on calls to the litter awareness hotline, a copy of which was tabled at the meeting.

The Committee (a) requested figures for instances of fly tipping; and (b) otherwise noted the report.

**3. Community Development Grants Scheme: Requests for Financial Assistance**

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Educational Services) on requests for financial assistance.

**(a) Garnock Valley Crime Prevention Panel**

The Committee agreed to award the Garnock Valley Crime Prevention Panel £600.

**(b) Beith Playgroup**

The Committee agreed to award the Beith Playgroup £300.

**(c) Garnock Choral Society**

The Committee agreed to award the Garnock Choral Society £500.

**(d) Beith High Church Playgroup**

The Committee agreed to award the Beith High Church Playgroup £350.

**(e) Beith & District Young Farmers**

The Committee agreed to refuse the application for funding from the Beith & District Young Farmers.

**(f) Garnock Valley Lunch Club**

The Committee agreed to award the Garnock Valley Lunch Club £500.

**(g) Beith Trinity Church Playgroup**

The Committee agreed to award the Beith Trinity Church Playgroup £350.

**4. Community Development Grants Scheme: Civic Weeks**

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Educational Services) clarifying the historic and current grant funding position in respect of local Civic Weeks and Festivals held in the Garnock Valley.

The present Community Development Grants Scheme is open to all community organisations who can make application for grant to the Area Committee within any financial year. Although greater awards of grant funding continue to be made to towns organising a Civic Week any other applications in respect of Festivals, Galas, etc. can also be considered on their individual merits and there is therefore no requirement to review the current position.

Noted.

## **5. Longbar: Road Safety Measures**

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Property Services) on the outcome of a joint investigation by the Roads Division and Strathclyde Police into road safety concerns at Longbar Housing Estate and the B777 Beith Road.

Traffic levels on the B777 are moderate and over the past three years there have been no injury accidents on the B777 at Longbar or within the Longbar Housing area. Speed measurements taken by Strathclyde Police within the Longbar housing area indicate that 85% of vehicles are travelling at 20 mph or less. Similar checks on the B777 within Longbar gave 85% results in the range 34-36 mph.

Any traffic calming scheme for the main road could include the following measures:-

- extending the 30 mph speed limit to the Gurdie Road junction;
- provision of 'gateway' signs and markings at new 30 mph terminal point;
- provision of 'gateway' signs and markings adjacent to Longbar Farm;
- increase and extension of road markings through village to discourage speeding;
- improvement to the definition of the bend and junction of the B777 with the Highfield - Longbar Road;
- provision of central islands and hatched road markings to the west of Longbar Farm to reduce the speed of vehicles from Glengarnock; and
- investigation of possible modification of the Lochshore Road junction to reduce speed of vehicles from Beith.

In conjunction with such a scheme road markings and traffic signs on the side roads would be refurbished. The report stated that investigations undertaken have indicated that a pedestrian crossing in the vicinity of the Community Centre would not be justified by the numbers of persons liable to use it.

After a full discussion, the Committee agreed (a) that the speed limit proposals as outlined in the report be submitted to the Infrastructure and Environment Services Committee; and (b) that the other measures proposed, together with proposals for the inclusion of the installation of a Pelican Crossing, be submitted for inclusion in a future Capital Programme.

## **6. Kilbirnie Loch Management Group**

Submitted reports being the Minutes of the Meetings of the Kilbirnie Loch Management Group held on 31 March and 20 October 1998.

Noted.

## **7. Community Safety**

### **(a) Community Safety Challenge Fund**

Submitted report by the Chief Executive detailing a decision taken by the Area Committee Chairs on 19 November 1998 to provide fluorescent armbands and stickers to every school pupil in Primaries 1, 2, and 3 in North Ayrshire. A total of 5,500 armbands and stickers will be provided at a cost of £5,060 allocated from the Community Safety Challenge Fund.

The Committee agreed to homologate the decision of the Area Committee Chairs to allocate £5,060 from the Community Safety Challenge Fund for the provision of armbands and stickers as outlined in the report.

### **(b) Crime Statistics**

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on crime statistics within the Garnock Valley for

September 1998, provided by Strathclyde Police.

There were 158 crimes reported in the Garnock Valley in September 1998, which is an increase of 75 on those reported in September 1997. The figures from 1 April to 30 September 1998 show a total of 643 crimes reported which is an increase of 68 on the same period last year. The detection rate for crime in the Garnock Valley as a whole for the year to date is 51%.

Noted.

**(c) Fire Statistics**

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on Fire Statistics within the Garnock Valley for the period 1 October to 31 October 1998.

The report detailed incidents within the Garnock Valley by station area and using specific Fire Brigade codes. There were no fatalities or serious injuries during this period.

The totals for Kilbirnie and Dalry include statistics for the Special Service (Other) category and these are slightly higher due to the knock on effects of flooding incidents from the end of the previous period.

Noted.

The meeting ended at 11.35 a.m.