

Kilwinning, Dreghorn and Springside Area Committee  
13 May 1998

**Dreghorn, 13 May 1998** - At a Meeting of the Kilwinning, Dreghorn and Springside Area Committee of North Ayrshire Council at 10.30 a.m.

**Present**

Ian Clarkson, Patrick Browne, James Clements, Jane Gorman and Gena Seales.

**In Attendance**

I Mackay, Legal Services Manager; G Clark, Operations Manager (Grounds Maintenance); J Wright, Area Officer (Cleansing and Grounds Maintenance) (Commercial Services); S Driscoll, Area Manager (Housing Services); A Weir, Parks and Horticultural Services Manager; W Simpson, Community Development Services Officer (Community and Recreational Services); S Martin, Principal Officer (Development Services); S Bates, Assistant Manager (Area Services) (Social Work); J Fulton, Senior Environmental Health Officer (Environment Section); L Scott, Supervising Engineer (Roads Division) (Planning, Roads and Environment); K Nichols, Accountant (Financial Services); S Paxton, Administration Officer and C Graham, Assistant Administration Officer (Chief Executive).

Superintendent S Keenan, Chief Inspector P Collier and Sergeant J Richmond (Strathclyde Police); and Community Firefighter T Kane (Strathclyde Fire Brigade).

**Chair**

Mr Clarkson in the Chair.

**Apologies for Absence**

Irene Oldfather.

**1. Minutes Confirmed**

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 1 April 1998, copies of which had previously been circulated, were confirmed.

**2. North Ayrshire Community Care Plan 1998-2001: Consultation Draft**

Submitted report and received presentation by the Director of Social Work on the Consultation Draft of the Council's Community Care Plan 1998-2001.

The Community Care Plan is a statement of intent which sets out developments to improve and expand Community Care Services including purchasing intentions in relation to services which will not be directly provided by the statutory agencies.

Local consultation meetings in the Kilwinning, Dreghorn and Springside areas will be held on 27 May in Blacklands Community Centre, Kilwinning and on 1 June in the Volunteer Rooms, Irvine.

Following the consultation throughout North Ayrshire, the Plan will be revised and amended in the light of comments received, and further work undertaken before being submitted to Ayrshire and Arran Health Board and the Council's Corporate Strategy Committee for formal approval and submission to the Scottish Office by 30 June 1998.

The Committee, in noting the Draft Plan and the arrangements for public consultation throughout North Ayrshire, agreed that a report be submitted to a future meeting on the outcome of consultations in the Kilwinning, Dreghorn and Springside area.

### **3. Monitoring Reports**

#### **(a) Empty Houses in the Kilwinning, Dreghorn and Springside Area**

Submitted report by the Director of Housing Services on empty council houses within the Area Committee's boundaries.

As at 28 April 1998 there were 15 empty properties in the Kilwinning area representing 0.81% of the total stock and 5 empty properties within Dreghorn and Springside, representing approximately 0.58% of stock. The Area Housing Services Manager advised that in Kilwinning 8 properties had now been let, however a further 5 had become vacant.

After discussion on the length of time some houses are empty and the reasons behind this, the Committee agreed to instruct the Director of Housing Services to investigate the matter in order to identify any factors for the delay in letting the properties and report to the next meeting.

#### **(b) Housing Services as at 31 March 1998**

Submitted report by the Director of Housing Services on service delivery for the functions of allocations, voids and housing benefits.

The Committee was advised that the report was a bench-mark for the performance of the Housing Services Directorate and that the new Housing Benefit Finance System would allow for monitoring of improvements in progressing Housing Benefit applications and associated rent arrears.

Noted.

#### **(c) Food Safety and Health and Safety**

Submitted report by the Director of Planning, Roads and Environment on service delivery on matters concerning food safety and health and safety within the Environment section.

There has been an increase in the workload in relation to food and health and safety enforcement over the past year. The Directorate's Food and Commercial Team have successfully discharged their statutory duties to the people of North Ayrshire.

Noted.

#### **(d) Investigation of Noise Complaints and Public Health Complaints**

Submitted report by the Director of Planning, Roads and Environment on the Environment Section's investigation of noise complaints and other public health complaints in terms of the Environmental Protection Act 1990.

The Council has a statutory duty to inspect its area to detect complaints of statutory nuisance which include noise. Of the 365 complaints received over the year to March 1998, 351 were the Council's responsibility for either advice or investigation.

In addition, a considerable number of public health complaints ranging from choked drains to smoke incidents were received. There was a significant rise over the last year in the number of public health complaints in North Ayrshire from 1083 compared to 871 in the previous year, an increase of 24%.

Noted.

**(e) Pest Control Service April 1997-March 1998**

Submitted report by the Director of Planning, Roads and Environment on the Environment Section's delivery of the pest control service.

The Council has a statutory duty in terms of the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act 1949 to survey and treat any infestation of rats or mice. The Council, however, has expanded its service beyond the basic statutory requirements and includes a service dealing with insects - wasps, bees, ants and fleas.

In addition to surveying for rats and mice, 2104 pest control treatments were carried out between April 1997 and March 1998.

The Council has also adopted a Service Delivery Plan and ensures that high priority treatments are dealt within 24 hours and low priority treatments targeted within 72 hours. This standard exceeds the bench-mark response times set by the Accounts Commission in terms of the Local Government Act 1992.

Noted.

**(f) Dog Warden Service April 1997-March 1998**

Submitted report by the Director of Planning, Roads and Environment on the number of stray dogs uplifted and dealt with by the Dog Warden.

North Ayrshire Council operates a Dog Warden Service to deal with stray dogs and to respond to complaints from members of the public regarding stray dogs causing nuisance and disturbance. Liaison also takes place with Strathclyde Police in the control and eradication of dog fouling.

Within the Kilwinning, Dreghorn and Springside area 60 dogs were uplifted between April 1997 and March 1998. Of that number, 2 owners were identified and the dogs returned to them, 36 were destroyed, 8 re-homed and 14 reclaimed.

Noted.

**(g) Community Development Grants Scheme: Analysis of Grants Paid to 3 April 1998**

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on the Community Development grants paid to 3 April 1998 in respect of Kilwinning, Dreghorn and Springside, including details of the balance of funding remaining.

Noted.

**4. Community Development Grants: Expenditure Analysis 1997/98**

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on expenditure of the Community Development Grants Budget 1997/98.

The average grant awarded in 1996/97 by the Committee amounted to £370. The Committee awarded 37 grants in total and was able to meet a wide range of community need.

Noted.

**5. Playscheme Applications: Summer and Autumn 1998 and Easter 1999**

Submitted report by the Director of Community and Recreational Services on Playscheme applications for summer and autumn 1998 and Easter 1999 in Kilwinning, Dreghorn and Springside.

**(a) Muirfield Place Playscheme, Kilwinning**

The Committee agreed to the use of the Freedom Travel Passes by Muirfield Place Playscheme;

**(b) Springside Playscheme**

The Committee agreed to award £521 to Springside Playscheme; and

**(c) Cranberry Moss Playscheme**

The Committee agreed to award £781 to Cranberry Moss Playscheme.

**6. Cleansing and Grounds Maintenance Section: Litter Awareness Reports**

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on the proposed format of Litter Awareness Monitoring Reports to be submitted to future meetings of the Area Committee.

The Area Officer, Cleansing and Grounds Maintenance advised that within the Area Committee's boundaries to date, action had been taken in respect of illicit dumpings at Whitehirst Park and at Seven Acres Mains in Kilwinning.

The Committee agreed (a) that the Principal Officer (Marketing and Publicity) publicise the procedures in place to deal with (i) litter/fly-tipping problems; and (ii) with offenders, including the possible legal consequences involved; (b) to instruct the Director of Commercial Services to include in future reports the number of calls logged by the Litter Hotline in each committee cycle, with effect from the June meeting 1998; and (c) the format for future reports.

**7. Kilwinning: Pedestrian Precinct**

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on the current position regarding Kilwinning Pedestrian Precinct.

On 1 April 1998 the Committee considered a report by the Director of Planning, Roads and Environment in relation to works required to be carried out to the Pedestrian Precinct, Kilwinning. Subsequently, the Corporate Strategy Committee instructed the Chief Executive to co-ordinate the implementation of the works in this instance and report to the Area Committee.

The Committee was advised, following consultation with the relevant Directorates and Departments of the Council, that:-

(a) British Gas Transco have commenced reinstatement works to Kilwinning Main Street;

(b) the Commercial Services Directorate would repaint the bollards to coincide with British Gas Transco works;

(c) work required to be carried out by the Community and Recreational Services Directorate in the removal of dead and vandalised trees, repair/replacement of tree grilles and repairs to seating in the precinct would be carried out following reinstatement of the area by Transco; and

(d) the removal of graffiti from Council owned shops in the Precinct is an ongoing process and would be carried out by the Estates Department within the next two weeks.

All enhancement works are required to be carried out within existing resources.

After a full discussion, the Committee agreed (i) to instruct (A) the Director of Community and Recreational Services, (B) the Director of Commercial Services and (C) the Architectural Services Manager, in conjunction with the Director of Planning, Roads and Environment, to carry out the relevant works which fall within their Directorate's responsibility in conjunction with or on completion

of British Gas Transco's reinstatement works; (ii) that a report on progress be submitted to the next meeting; and (iii) to remit to the Corporate Strategy Committee to consider a Town Centre Management Policy for North Ayrshire.

## **8. Community Consultation**

### **(a) Meeting with Churches and Church Groups**

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on the actions taken by the Council to address the issues raised by Churches and Church Groups arising from the Community Consultation Meeting on 5 February 1998.

Having considered the issues raised and the responses received from the various Directorates of the Council, the Committee agreed (i) the actions taken in pursuance of relevant solutions; and (ii) to advise the Churches and Church Groups accordingly.

### **(b) Meeting with Pupils from St Michael's Academy, Kilwinning**

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on the outcome of the Community Consultation Meeting held with school pupils at St Michael's Academy, Kilwinning on 18 February 1998.

The appropriate Directorates of the Council will be requested to investigate the various issues and a report on the outcomes will be submitted to a future meeting.

The Committee agreed (i) the action to date in progressing the issues raised; (ii) to advise the Head Teacher and St Michael's Academy School Council of the current position; and (iii) to receive a report at a future meeting.

## **9. Kilwinning: Traffic Signs**

Submitted report by the Director of Planning, Roads and Environment on proposals for direction and boundary signs for Kilwinning.

In response to requests from Members for improved signing at Kilwinning, sign upgrading will take place under the Roads Section's and the Trunk Road Authority's maintenance programmes. Main vehicular accesses to Kilwinning from the Eglinton Interchange and the Pennyburn Roundabout will remain signed as at present. Replacement direction signs will be provided through the Trunk Road Programme at a future date. Sign amendments to take account of the by-pass junction closure at Nethermain's have been carried out, the junction being closed with effect from 8 May 1998.

New Kilwinning boundary signs will be erected at the following locations:

- (a) Stevenston Road (A738 Trunk);
- (b) Nethermain's Road;
- (c) Irvine Road;
- (d) Dalry Road (A737 Trunk);
- (e) Bridgend Lane (Old Glasgow Road); and
- (f) Fergushill Road.

After discussion and in response to issues raised by members, the Committee agreed (i) the proposals in relation to improved direction and boundary signs in Kilwinning; and (ii) that the Director of Planning, Roads and Environment investigate (A) the possibility of erecting countdown signs to the 30 mph speed limit on the A737; and (B) the current position in relation to the erection of 30 mph

speed limit signs from the Fire Station to Greenwood Academy, Dreghorn and report.

#### **10. Kilwinning: Stevenston Road: Bus Services**

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on the bus services operating at Stevenston Road, Kilwinning, excluding the Pennyburn route.

Strathclyde Passenger Transport advised of the current services on Stevenston Road and approximate frequencies as detailed in the report and indicated that the services in place remain above the SPT guideline limits for the provision of subsidised services.

After discussion, the Committee agreed to liaise with Strathclyde Passenger Transport in requesting the local bus owners to give consideration to reviewing the frequency of the services on Stevenston Road, Kilwinning and report.

#### **11. Seasonal Facilities Operation**

Submitted report by the Director of Community and Recreational Services on the proposed method of operation of seasonal facilities in 1998.

In December 1997 the Community and Recreational Services Committee agreed to commence a process of externalisation of seasonal facilities and to advise Area Committees of the outcome.

The only seasonal facility within the Kilwinning, Dreghorn and Springside area is McGavin Park Tennis Court, Kilwinning. No interest has been shown and as such the nets will be erected and the court available for casual use. The facility will be monitored on a routine basis and any further expressions of interest will be considered as they are received.

Noted.

#### **12. Community Safety**

##### **(a) Crime Statistics**

Submitted report by Strathclyde Police "UA" Division regarding the level of recorded crime in the Sub-Division.

The report gave the crime statistics, excluding traffic offences, for the month of March 1998. Statistics for the year to date highlighted an 18.5% decrease in crime compared with the same period last year within the Kilwinning, Dreghorn and Springside areas with the detection rate having increased from 30% to 41.6%. Vandalism is one of the main areas of concern to Strathclyde Police and has been reduced by 34.5% across the Division.

Noted.

##### **(b) Strathclyde Fire Brigade: Fire Statistics for the period 1 January 1998 to 31 March 1998**

Submitted report by Strathclyde Fire Brigade on fire statistics within the Kilwinning, Dreghorn and Springside areas.

The report indicated from a total of 84 incidents a higher than normal number of non-mobilising of the Fire Brigade e.g. where no address has been given, and an increased number of good intent calls - genuine calls of suspecting a fire. The 4 malicious calls made from Springside were also of concern, as no such problem had previously existed.

In response to members' questions on the call monitoring system, the Community Firefighter

advised that in conjunction with British Telecom investigations are carried out with action being taken by Strathclyde Police as and when required.

Noted.

### **13. Urgent Items**

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

### **14. Request for Financial Assistance: Community Development Grants Scheme**

Submitted report by the Director of Community and Recreational Services on the undernoted application for community grants to voluntary organisations:-

#### **(a) 3rd Pennyburn Guides**

The Committee agreed to award £150 to the 3rd Pennyburn Guides.

### **15. Woodgreen Mortification Trust**

Applications have been received for assistance from the Woodgreen Mortification Fund in respect of Dirrans, Kilwinning Academy and Nethermain's Lunch Clubs, to assist them with running costs and other activities. Lunch Clubs provide subsidised meals, in general, to socially vulnerable and disadvantaged elderly people.

The Committee, acting as Trustees of the Fund on behalf of the Council and having considered all the circumstances and facts pertaining to the applications, agreed to award (a) £200 to the Dirrans Lunch Club, Kilwinning; (b) £200 to the Kilwinning Academy Lunch Club; and (c) £150 to the Nethermain's Lunch Club, Kilwinning for the purposes of running costs within the Clubs.

The meeting ended at 11.40 a.m.