

Garnock Valley Area Committee  
27 October 1998

**Dalry, 27 October 1998** - At a Meeting of the Garnock Valley Area Committee of North Ayrshire Council at 10.30 a.m.

**Present**

Robert Reilly, James Jennings, Thomas Morris and George Steven.

**In Attendance**

L. Griffiths, Leisure Centre Manager, J. Martin, Libraries and Information Services Manager, J. McKinlay, Area Community Development Officer and J. Barr, Area Officer, Cleansing and Grounds Maintenance (Community Services); T. Guthrie (Financial Services); and J. Bannatyne, Administration Officer (Chief Executive).

**Also In Attendance**

Sub-Divisional Commander S. Keenan and Inspector C. McCreath (Strathclyde Police); and J. Mulligan, Assistant Divisional Officer and T. Barr, Community Fire Officer (Strathclyde Fire Brigade).

**Chair**

Mr. Reilly in the Chair.

**Apologies for Absence**

Thomas Dickie.

**1. Minutes Confirmed**

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 15 September 1998, copies of which had previously been circulated, were confirmed.

**2. Monitoring Reports**

**(a) Education: Review of Services for Children Under Eight**

Submitted report by the Director of Educational Services on the final Review Documents on Services for Children Under Eight in North Ayrshire, copies of which had previously been circulated to all members of the Council.

The Children Act 1989 requires all Local Authorities to register and inspect all daycare services for children under eight within their area every three years. Following extensive consultation and appropriate advertising a final Review Document has been produced which takes account of the many useful comments and suggestions received through the consultation process. The Review Document details the full range of daycare and support services provided to children under the age of eight. It is published in two parts, comprising a Service Directory and a Summary containing an analysis of service pertaining to children under eight years of age in North Ayrshire. A video has been produced and is available to interested parties. The final Review Document has now been submitted to the Scottish Office.

Noted.

**(b) Community Services**

**(i) Sports Development**

Submitted report by the Director of Community Services, providing statistical information on the levels of activity of the Sports Development Service throughout North Ayrshire over the period April to September 1998.

The report indicated that there has been a reduction in the level of attendance at sporting activities within the North Coast and Arran area between April and September 1998 largely due to the poor weather. A new Football Development initiative was introduced in May 1998 to promote football as an activity and a Football Development Officer has been appointed. This initiative, jointly funded by the Council, the Scottish Football Association and the Inverclyde National Sports Training Centre has resulted in a significant increase in activity.

A new sports facility is currently operating at Geilsland School, Beith for individuals suffering from Cerebral Palsy. There are currently 18 participants for whom transport is provided to and from the facility. Access for the disabled to enable them to fish in Kilbirnie Loch is also currently being investigated by the Kilbirnie Loch Management Group.

After discussion, the Committee agreed (a) to request details from the Director of Community Services of the individual sporting events held within the Garnock Valley; and (b) otherwise to note the position.

#### **(ii) Leisure Management**

Submitted report by the Director of Community Services on the levels of activity within the Leisure Management Service.

While there has been a drop in attendance figures for core sporting activities at Garnock Swimming Pool, income is satisfactory. Emphasis is being placed on improved coaching facilities in an effort to increase attendance figures. Although hall hire figures are down due to the increasing use of schools as a preferred option by activity groups, attendance at sports pitches has significantly increased.

Noted.

#### **(iii)Country Parks**

Submitted report by the Director of Community Services, reviewing the level of activity over the period April to September 1998 within the Country Parks and Ranger Service.

Recorded attendances at Eglinton Country Park and at related special events are down in the first half of the financial year, largely as a result of the poor weather. Relevant statistical information was provided in the report.

The Committee agreed (a) that the staff of the Ranger Service are to be commended for their programme of activities; and (b) otherwise to note the report.

#### **(iv)Libraries Issue Figures**

Submitted report by the Director of Community Services giving details of the library issue figures for the Garnock Valley area in respect of books, audio cassettes and videos for the period April to September 1998 showing comparative figures for the same period in 1997.

Significant cuts in the book fund to effect budget savings have resulted in a decrease in book issues. Audio issues have also been affected by lack of funding and by the introduction of charges although issues are now once again on the increase. Video issues in Kilbirnie have increased by 39%.

Noted.

#### **(v) Litter Awareness**

Submitted report by the Director of Community Services on service delivery regarding litter awareness.

The report detailed three instances of fly tipping over September and October and confirmed that no telephone calls had been made to the litter hotline during August 1998. The Committee was advised that the Officers Working Group on Litter Awareness and Prevention is currently taking steps to ensure that the litter hotline telephone number continues to receive widespread publicity. There has been full co-operation between the Council and the emergency services when dealing with such incidents.

Noted.

### **(c) Legal Services: North Ayrshire Council Industrial Estate Factories**

Submitted quarterly report by the Legal Services Manager on the letting/availability of factories on Council Industrial Estates within the Garnock Valley area.

The Bridgend Industrial Estate, Kilbirnie comprises seven units. The current occupancy rate is 85.7% and 15 full-time and two part-time staff are employees in connection with these units.

The Paddockholm Industrial Estate (River Place), Kilbirnie comprises nine units. The current occupancy rate is 100% and 41 full-time and three part-time staff are employed in connection with these units.

The Paddockholm Industrial Estate (Riverside Place), Kilbirnie comprises four units. The current occupancy rate is 75% and 23 full-time staff are employed in connection with these units.

Noted.

### **(d) 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.

A number of grant applications are currently being processed and will be submitted for consideration to the next meeting. An assurance was given that every effort will be made to encourage local groups and organisations to apply for grant funding during this financial year.

Mr. Steven requested that the grant funding position in relation to Fun Weeks which are currently held every three years be reviewed to ascertain whether it might be practical to provide grant funding for these events on an annual basis.

After discussion, the Committee agreed (a) that the Director of Community Services investigate the current position in relation to the provision of grant funding for Fun Weeks within the Garnock Valley and report to the next meeting and (b) otherwise to note the position meantime.

### **3. Longbar: Housing Estate: Speeding Problems**

A request had been received from Longbar Community Association for consideration to be given to installing traffic calming measures within the estate and a pedestrian crossing on the Main Road in the vicinity of the Community Centre to address problems of speeding. Strathclyde police confirmed that they would take steps to address the speeding complaint.

After discussion, the Committee agreed that the Director of Planning Roads and Environment and Strathclyde Police be requested to investigate the appropriateness of traffic calming measures and a pedestrian crossing and report to the next meeting.

#### **4. Community Safety**

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

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on crime statistics within the Garnock Valley for August 1998, provided by Strathclyde Police.

There were 111 crimes reported in the Garnock Valley in August 1998, which is a reduction of one on those reported in August 1997. The figures from 1 April to 30 August 1998 show a total of 485 crimes reported which is a reduction of seven over the same period last year. The detection rate for crime in the Garnock Valley as a whole for the year to date is 50%.

Thirty three offences relating to drinking in public are being dealt with by the Procurator Fiscal by fixed penalty.

Strathclyde Police are aware of an emerging drug problem in the Garnock Valley and that due to excellent co-operation from members of the public crime detection figures in this area are rising.

Noted.

##### **(b) Fire Statistics**

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on Fire Statistics within the Garnock Valley for the period 1 August to 30 September 1998.

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

Forty five incidents of flooding had occurred throughout North Ayrshire, 13 of which were in the Garnock Valley area. This had resulted in a substantial demand for the provision of sand bags and since the Fire Service do not provide these it was suggested that steps be taken to advise members of the public of an appropriate emergency number for this service.

The Committee agreed that the Council's Emergency Planning Officer be requested to liaise with the Fire Service in this regard and otherwise to note the position.

The meeting ended at 11.35 a.m.