

Kilwinning, Dreghorn and Springside Area Committee
8 January 1997

Springside, 8 January 1997 - 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, Irene Oldfather and Gena Seales.

In Attendance

The Legal Services Manager; F Keddily, Head of Sports and Horticultural Services; W Simpson, Area Community Development Officer (Community and Recreational Services); T Jones, Operations Manager, Cleansing; R Baillie, Works Controller (Commercial Services); J. Mason, Principal Engineer (Planning, Roads and the Environment); E McNaught, Head of Customer Services (Housing Services); D MacRitchie, Area Manager (Social Work); H Hunter, Senior Accountant (Financial Services); S Paxton, Administration Officer and D McCaw, Assistant Administration Officer (Chief Executive).

Inspector G McLanaghan and Constable McCormack, Strathclyde Police.

Chair

Mr Clarkson in the Chair.

Apologies for Absence

Jane Gorman.

1. Minutes Confirmed

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 20 November 1996, copies of which had previously been circulated, were confirmed.

2. Monitoring Reports

(a) Commercial Services

Submitted report by the Director of Commercial Services on collection of bulky household items.

North Ayrshire Council provides a free collection service for bulky household items with a target response time of 7 calendar days for uplifting. It does not provide a collection service for the removal of builder's rubble, large cast or metal items.

There has been considerable growth in the service from 443 uplifts per week in 1988 to a current figure of 690 uplifts per week. The service is well used and it is anticipated that with the introduction of restricted opening of the civic amenity sites, demand for this service will continue to grow.

Noted.

(b) Analysis of Grants Paid to 4 December 1996

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on the various categories of grants paid to 4 December 1996 in relation to applications in respect of the Kilwinning, Dreghorn and Springside area.

Noted.

3. Kilwinning: Cornmill House

Submitted report by the Director of Housing Services advising on the action proposed to address the problems occurring at Cornmill House, Kilwinning.

There have been security problems at the premises and the residents are concerned over the future of the building. It is therefore considered necessary to undertake a review of the future of Cornmill House. As an interim measure it is planned to install lockable gates at each end of the building.

The Committee agreed (a) to remit consideration of the future use of Cornmill House to the Accommodation Strategy for Homeless Persons Member/Officer Working Group and to consult the residents as part of the process; and (b) that an interim evaluation report be submitted to the next meeting of the Area Committee.

4. Repairs to Vacant Housing Property

Submitted report by the Director of Commercial Services on repairs to vacant housing property and detailing reasons for delay on some occasions in carrying out repairs.

The report outlined the reasons for delay but in order to alleviate the situation, it is now proposed that fortnightly meetings be held between Housing Services and the Works Section and arrangements will be made to ensure that initial inspections cover all the works necessary to upgrade the properties.

Noted.

5. Traffic Conditions

(a) Kilwinning Town Centre

Submitted report by the Director of Planning, Roads and Environment regarding traffic conditions at Whitehirst Park Road/Woodside and Woodwynd, Kilwinning.

Traffic calming measures were introduced in the Woodwynd area in 1995 as a result of the level of traffic using the area in order to avoid the junction at Howgate/Dalry Road which is controlled by traffic lights. This has only had a limited effect on reducing traffic and consequently further measures will now be introduced in the Woodwynd area in an effort to resolve the problem.

A temporary Traffic Order until the end of 1997 has been made at Woodside Road limiting the size of vehicles which will prevent it being used by large vehicles involved in construction works in the area. Although there is an increase in commuter traffic in the area the overall traffic level remains low.

Noted.

(b) Springside: Overtoun Road

Submitted report by the Director of Planning, Roads and Environment on traffic conditions at Overtoun Road, Springside.

Monitoring has shown that despite relatively high speeds measured nearer the boundary

of the village there is very little injury-accident record in the area. To address the speed problems, a package of “gateway” and “carriageway narrowing” measures has been prepared. The cost of these works is approximately £16,000 and will require to be considered along with other schemes for inclusion in a future Capital Programme.

The Committee agreed that the proposal be remitted to the Infrastructure and Environment Services Committee for inclusion in the prioritised Capital Programme bid for 1997/98.

6. Kilwinning: Woodwynd: Environment Improvements

Submitted report by the Director of Community and Recreational Services on environmental improvements to Woodwynd, Kilwinning.

The Area Committee on 28 August 1996 agreed that the local member, along with appropriate officers, inspect the area at Woodwynd to identify possible environmental improvements. Arising from the inspection it is apparent that there is a need to examine ways to improve the environment in the area. Three proposals to assist in improving the area have been identified viz:- clearing an area of ground comprising former house gardens at the rear of Howden Avenue, improving the landscape, and encouraging residents to maintain their gardens to a higher degree.

The estimated cost of clearing the site at Howden Avenue is £1,152 and the landscaping costs are approximately £93,000. The landscaping proposals were considered in the Community and Recreational Services Directorate's Service Strategy along with other landscaping proposals and options for highlighting wider environmental issues.

The Committee (a) agreed to approve the proposals to clear the area of ground at Howden Avenue subject to finance being identified; and (b) noted that the requirement to improve landscaping in the area and to provide information to the community on improving their environment will be addressed in the Directorate's Service Strategy.

7. Dogs in Public Places

(a) Control of Dogs

Submitted report by the Chief Executive detailing the current legislation governing the control of dogs as undernoted:-

(a) The Dangerous Dogs Act 1991;

(b) Control of Dogs Order 1992;

(c) Environmental Protection Act 1990 and the Environment Protection (Stray Dogs) Regulations 1992; and

(d) The Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982.

Noted.

(b) Dog Fouling

Submitted report by the Chief Executive detailing the findings of the Officers' Working Group established to address the problems of dog fouling.

On 27 November 1996 the Corporate Strategy Committee instructed the Working Group to develop a strategy based on (a) bin provision; (b) the installation of better signage; (c) the provision of poop scoops; and (d) raising awareness of the problem through education and

publicity.

Due to financial constraints a budget of £1,600 is available for each Area Committee and to ensure maximum impact it is suggested that a concerted campaign focus on one street, park, etc. within each area.

The Committee agreed (a) that a central recording system be established to effectively record complaints, to ensure where possible that the area is cleaned, that the Police are notified and that where appropriate individual action is encouraged through the District Court under Section 49 of the Civic Government (Scotland) Act, 1982; (b) that the Chair liaise further with members and report to the Corporate Strategy Committee on the area selected; and (c) that in order to minimise delay Officers be authorised to prepare a package of measures for the priority area identified and arrange for its implementation as soon as possible following consultation with the Chair.

8. Requests for Financial Assistance

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on the undernoted applications for community grants to voluntary organisations.

(a) Corsehill Community Centre: Playmates Group

The Committee agreed to grant £1,376 to the Corsehill Community Centre Playmates Group.

(b) Pennyburn Primary School: Pennyburn Playgroup

The Committee agreed to defer consideration of this application to the next meeting of the Area Committee to seek clarification on the number of voucher and non-voucher children in place at the Playgroup and whether this would act as a bar to a grant application.

(c) Woodwynd Health and Fitness Club: Crèche

The Committee agreed to grant £100 to the Woodwynd Health and Fitness Club Crèche.

(d) Caley Playgroup, Kilwinning

The Committee agreed to grant £500 to Caley Playgroup, Kilwinning.

(e) Whitehirst Park Playgroup

The Committee agreed to grant £1,090 to the Whitehirst Park Playgroup.

(f) Woodwynd Playgroup, Kilwinning

The Committee agreed to grant £760 to the Woodwynd Playgroup, Kilwinning.

9. Requests for Financial Assistance: Woodgreen Mortification Trust

Submitted report by the Legal Services Manager on applications for financial assistance from the Woodgreen Mortification Trust.

The Committee agreed (a) to refuse the request from Applicant 'A'; (b) to refuse the request from Applicant 'B' but to suggest that she contacts the Welfare Rights Adviser; and (c) to continue the request from Applicant 'C' until the result of the application to the Education Endowment Trust is known.

10. Kilwinning: Foundry Wynd: Community Grant Application

The Area Community Development Officer reported that the Foundry Wynd Neighbourhood Watch Group had now complied with the conditions of grant, adopted a Constitution and were opening a bank account. Accordingly the grant would now be processed.

Noted.

11. Kilwinning: Corsehill Community Centre: Love Memorial Hall

Submitted report by the Director of Community and Recreational Services advising on the condition of the Love Memorial Hall, Kilwinning.

The existing hall is in need of major refurbishment both internally and externally. The present Hall Committee are undertaking redecoration to some of the worst areas and general internal improvements are the subject of an application for financial assistance. The committee has commissioned a property survey to ascertain what works are necessary and the costs involved. The results of the survey are expected in February. The cost of the internal work required is £2,910.

The Committee agreed (a) to refer consideration of the funding of the proposed refurbishment to the Corporate Strategy Committee; and (b) to award the residual balance in the Community Grants budget to the Love Memorial Hall.

12. Dreghorn Youth Work

Submitted report by the Director of Community and Recreational Services advising on the staffing, scope and range of youth work activity directly provided by the Directorate.

The Irvine, Dreghorn and Springside areas are served by the Irvine Youth Work Team which comprises one full-time community education worker, four part-time twenty hour appointments and sessional paid staff who are directed to work on a priority basis.

The Irvine Youth Work Team are carrying out the current policy as outlined in the regeneration strategy which targets the enumeration districts with the highest levels of deprivation. Although it is possible to undertake youth work outwith the agreed policy areas this would be subject to availability of finance, staff and other resources including the pre-condition that a viable community partnership exists through which youth work can be developed and maintained.

Noted.

13. Community Safety

(a) Strathclyde Police: Crime Statistics

Inspector McLanaghan reported on crime levels within the Kilwinning, Dreghorn and Springside area.

Crime levels for offences such as house breaking, drugs, vandalism and car crime has fallen in the Dreghorn/Springside area. There are rises in the levels of house breaking and car crimes recorded in Kilwinning in comparison with the same period last year.

The total number of offences/crimes reported to the police (including road traffic offences and breaches of the peace) fell by 38 from 379 in November 1995 to 341 in November 1996. Over a 4 year period there has been a drop of 3,000 crimes overall.

Inspector McLanaghan stated that information was being sought from members of the public as well as the Area Committee on the areas where they would wish the Police to

concentrate in the next twelve months.

Noted.

(b) Accident Prevention Seminar

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on an Accident Prevention Seminar to be held in Kilmarnock on 16 January 1997.

The Committee agreed not to be represented at this Seminar.

14. Schedule of Meetings 1997

Submitted report by the Chief Executive detailing the arrangements for dates and times of future meetings of the Area Committee to January 1998.

Noted.

15. Urgent Items

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

(a) Springside Evangelical Church Youth Club

The Area Community Development Officer reported that since the Springside Evangelical Church Youth Club had been given a community grant they had been experiencing problems with break-ins. The Club's Insurance Company has refused to continue cover unless the Club takes steps to secure the building.

The Club have requested that the balance of their community grant, being the sum of £289, be used to make the building secure against break-ins.

The Committee agreed that the balance of grant be used for this purpose.

(b) Kilwinning: Ashgrove Neighbourhood Watch

An application has been received from the Ashgrove Neighbourhood Watch, Kilwinning requesting a community grant of £199 to cover the cost of supplying and erecting neighbourhood watch signs.

The Area Community Development Officer advised that the Group was already constituted and met the criteria for a community grant.

The Committee agreed to grant £199 to the Ashgrove Neighbourhood Watch, Kilwinning.

The Meeting ended at 12 Noon.