

Garnock Valley Area Committee  
24 June 1997

**Dalry, 24 June 1997** - At a Meeting of the Garnock Valley Area Committee of North Ayrshire Council at 10.30 a.m.

**Present**

James Jennings, Thomas Dickie, and Thomas Morris.

**In Attendance**

J Leckie, Head of Educational Services; E McNaught, Head of Customer Services; J Houston, Divisional Manager (Housing Services); C Hamilton, Area Services Manager (Social Work); J McKinlay, Area Community Development Officer; G Clark, Country Parks Manager (Community and Recreational Services); W Telford, Senior Accountant (Financial Services); J Bannatyne, Administration Officer; and C Graham, Assistant Administration Officer (Chief Executive).

**Also In Attendance**

Inspector R Pollock, Strathclyde Police and S O'Grady, Area Careers Officer, Ayrshire Careers Partnership.

**Chair**

Mr Jennings in the Chair.

**Apologies for Absence**

Robert Reilly and George Steven.

**1. Minutes Confirmed**

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 13 May 1997, copies of which had previously been circulated, were confirmed.

**2. Garnock Valley Survey: Three Towns Unemployed Workers Centre**

(Previous Minute Reference: Garnock Valley Area Committee 13 May 1997.)

Submitted report by the Director of Social Work on the outcome of further enquiries into the survey carried out by the Three Towns Unemployed Workers Centre which had raised questions concerning crime, pre-five services, advice-giving and welfare rights services and lone parents provision.

The report confirmed that although the survey raised a range of issues which were of concern to local residents, most of these matters were already being addressed by initiatives or services operated by North Ayrshire Council or by other agencies and details of these were provided. No work has however been undertaken with lone parents in the Garnock Valley to date and accordingly the Social Work Directorate will now arrange for its lone parent worker to explore this possibility.

Noted.

**3. Glengarnock: Longbar Estate: Regeneration Update**

(Previous Minute Reference: Garnock Valley Area Committee 13 May 1997.)

Submitted report by the Director of Housing Services advising the Committee progress in the Longbar Regeneration further to the Housing Services Committee's decisions of 24 April to tackle problems facing the estate.

The report confirmed that meetings have now been held to decide on the best method of carrying out the household survey, which is scheduled to take place in late June/early July, and that the brief is currently being drafted to commission consultants to carry out the detailed option appraisal for Longbar hopefully in the autumn.

The Committee acknowledged that while it is necessary to build up a clear and sustainable strategy for Longbar solutions are unlikely in the short term and accordingly while progress will continue to be made on fulfilling the recommendations it is equally important to allow a proper timescale for this development taking into account all relevant views.

Noted.

#### **4. Kilbirnie Loch Management Group**

(Previous Minute Reference: Garnock Valley Area Committee 13 May 1997.)

On 6 May 1997 the Kilbirnie Loch Management Group agreed that action was required in relation to the Blue/Green Algae problems at Kilbirnie Loch and the maintenance of the boardwalk at the Loch. The Country Parks Manager was instructed to investigate these matters and submit proposals on the action required including costings to Councillor Reilly (the Group Chair) and Councillor Steven for approval under the powers remitted to them by the Group.

The Committee was advised that Councillors Reilly and Councillor Steven had agreed the following in relation to treating the problems of Algae: (a) that the costs for the initial application of barley straw required in the current year be met from the Kilbirnie Loch Management Group funds; and (b) that Scottish Enterprise be asked to meet the costs, either in whole or part, of the second application in April/May of next year.

In connection with the repair of the boardwalk, the Country Parks Manager confirmed that parts of the structure had been retrieved from Kilbirnie Loch for repair and that following completion of this year's straw application, consideration will be given to reinstating the boardwalk.

Noted.

#### **5. Beith: Housing Services: Office Accommodation**

The Committee received a report which had been requested by the Chair on the future of the Beith Housing Office giving the Director of Housing Services' view that the premises should be closed as quickly as possible because of a number of Health and Safety issues arising in relation to both staff and customers. The report also highlighted that there is no scope for development and Housing Services do not intend to seek new premises for their sole use.

The Committee echoed the Chair's interest in the possibility of a First Stop Shop in Beith which would counter such a closure and provide comprehensive coverage of all Council services.

The Committee agreed (a) to recommend to the Housing Services Committee that Beith Housing Office should not be closed until a suitable alternative can be established in the town; and (b) that the Chief Executive be asked to report on the possibility of a First Stop Shop in Beith.

#### **6. Dog Fouling**

(Previous Minute Reference: Garnock Valley Area Committee: 13 May 1997.)

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on (a) the joint arrangements with Strathclyde

Police to combat dog fouling; and (b) the production of a dog owners advice leaflet.

The Corporate Strategy Committee on 27 May 1997 had agreed a request from Strathclyde Police to extend the joint Strathclyde Police/Dog Warden Initiative in which dog tidy bags, responsible dog owner leaflets and advice were given to the public in the five pilot project areas. As from 16 June 1997 the Dog Warden will continue to work with Police Officers on 2 half days per week for an initial period of up to six months. Advice will continue to be given to dog owners on their obligations and responsibilities and a review of the initiative will be undertaken after the initial period or earlier at the request of either party.

The supply of dog owner advice leaflets used in the initial campaign has now been exhausted but requests for copies continue to be received and it has been suggested that a leaflet be provided for every household within North Ayrshire. The total cost of printing the leaflets is estimated at £2,000, representing a cost to each Area Committee of £400.

Councillor Morris advised that due to the success of the scheme to date, care must be taken to ensure that bins are emptied on a regular basis.

The Committee agreed (a) that the Director of Commercial Services be requested to investigate the emptying of the dog tidy bins with a view to increasing the service where required; and (b) to authorise the share of costs in the printing of a dog owner advice leaflet.

## **7. Street Naming by Developers for Marketing Purposes**

(Previous Minute Reference: Garnock Valley Area Committee 1 April 1997.)

At its meeting on 1 April 1997 the Committee expressed concern that certain developers are marketing developments by using unauthorised street names thereby causing confusion amongst potential purchasers. The Director of Planning, Roads and Environment was instructed to make every attempt to ensure that developers only use street names which had been approved by the Council.

Further to this decision the Director of Planning, Roads and Environment has written to developers confirming (a) the need to emphasise to prospective purchasers, the difference between the developers unofficial marketing name, and the official street name given by the Council, which will form the official postal address; (b) that marketing names should seek to reflect general names, rather than specific street or road names; and (c) that developers should make formal application to his Directorate to have official street names and numbers allocated to their development by the Council. The Committee acknowledged that the Director has also confirmed that notes accompanying Planning decision matters will in future be extended to clarify this position.

Noted.

## **8. Monitoring Reports**

### **(a) Area Committee Statistics**

Submitted report by the Director of Education on attendance, running costs and leaver destinations in relation to schools serving pupils from within the Garnock Valley.

The Committee agreed (i) to receive such reports on an annual basis; and (ii) to otherwise note the content of the report; and

### **(b) Community Development Grants Scheme: Analysis of Grants Paid to 6 June 1997**

Submitted report by the Chief Executive providing an analysis of grants to 6 June 1997.

Noted.

### **9. Community Development Grants Scheme: Requests for Financial Assistance**

Submitted report by the Director of Community and Recreational Services on the undernoted applications for grants to voluntary organisations.

#### **(a) Dalry Primary Association**

The Committee agreed to defer consideration pending further discussion between the organisation and the Directorates of Community and Recreational Services and Education; and

#### **(b) St Inans Festival Committee/Beith Community Association**

The Committee agreed to award the St Inans Festival Committee/Beith Community Association £300.

### **10. Playscheme Applications 1997**

Submitted report by the Director of Community and Recreational Services on the undernoted applications for Playscheme grants 1997 as recommended under the Playscheme formula:-

#### **(a) Garnock Valley Lunch Club (Women's Aid)**

The Committee agreed to award the Garnock Valley Lunch Club £495;

#### **(b) Barrmill Playscheme**

The Committee agreed to award Barrmill Playscheme £390;

#### **(c) Beith Summer Playscheme**

The Committee agreed to award Beith Summer Playscheme £380; and

#### **(d) Women's Aid, Kilbirnie**

The Committee agreed to award Women's Aid £747.

### **11. Community Safety**

#### **(a) Community Safety Challenge Budget 1997/98**

Submitted report by the Chief Executive confirming (i) the activities undertaken during 1996/97 to promote community safety funded under the Community Safety Challenge Budget; and (ii) inviting proposals for the use of the Challenge Budget during 1997/98.

The Committee agreed (A) to invite local organisations to submit proposals for local Community Safety Initiatives against the Challenge Budget of £12,000 for 1997/98 prior to consideration by the Corporate Strategy Committee at its meeting on 21 October 1997; and (B) to otherwise note the success of the 1996/97 Community Safety Challenge Budget.

#### **(b) Strathclyde Police: Crime Statistics**

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on crime statistics within the Garnock Valley at April 1997 provided by Strathclyde Police.

Overall crime fell by 42% with a total of 83 crimes being reported compared to 142 in April

1996. Serious crimes of violence have fallen by 77% while housebreaking has increased by 33%.

Noted.

The meeting ended at 11.20 a.m.