

Kilwinning, Dreghorn and Springside Area Committee
14 May 1997

Kilwinning, 14 May 1997 - At a Meeting of the Kilwinning, Dreghorn and Springside Area Committee of North Ayrshire Council at 10.30 a.m.

Present

Ian Clarkson, James Clements, Jane Gorman, Irene Oldfather and Gena Seales.

In Attendance

W. Simpson, Area Community Development Officer (Community and Recreational Services); H. Hunter, Senior Accountant (Financial Services); D. MacRitchie, Area Services Manager (Social Work); S. Paxton, Administration Officer and D. McCaw, Assistant Administration Officer (Chief Executive).

Inspector G. McLanaghan and Sergeant S. Lacey, Strathclyde Police.

Chair

Mr. Clarkson in the Chair.

1. Minutes Confirmed

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 2 April 1997, copies of which had previously been circulated, were confirmed.

2. Dog Fouling

(Previous Minute Reference: Kilwinning, Dreghorn and Springside Area Committee: 4 March 1997)

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on progress in establishing the five pilot project areas selected to combat dog fouling, the circulation of posters and the distribution of dog tidy bags.

The Clerk confirmed that the installation of the dog bins in the five pilot areas previously agreed, including an area of Dreghorn, is progressing and that as part of the Environment Week activities dog fouling posters have been circulated to all libraries and local offices throughout North Ayrshire. Dog tidy bags have been provided at these locations free of charge. A Responsible Dog Owner leaflet has also been produced for initial distribution at these outlets during Environment Week and will be circulated throughout North Ayrshire thereafter. All dog fouling complaints received continue to be dealt with by arranging for the Commercial Services Directorate. Special arrangements have been made during Environment Week from 12 to 16 May for visits to be made to the five pilot scheme areas by the Dog Warden accompanied by a Police Officer who will, where possible, check the use of any existing dog bins, distribute leaflets and dog tidy bags and speak to the owners of premises and members of the public on dog fouling matters.

Approximately £18,000 has been made available for dog fouling measures in 1997/98 and given the need for disposal arrangements at an annual cost of £10,000 this leaves approximately £1600 per Area Committee. Recommendations on the use of this budget in the current year will not be made until the pilot projects can be completed and assessed. It is hoped that Environment Week will secure considerable media interest and raise the profile of the Council's message that dog fouling in public places causes offence and that owners should act responsibly by cleaning up where this

occurs.

A further report will be submitted to the August meeting of the Area Committee confirming the outcome of each of the five pilot projects, the action taken in relation to school signs and recommending future measures.

The Committee, in noting progress to date, agreed to the purchase of signs for display in school playgrounds.

3. Community Consultation

(Previous Minute Reference: Kilwinning, Dregghorn and Springside Area Committee: 19 February 1997)

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on the outcome of the Community Consultation meeting held on 21 January 1997 with Churches and Church Groups.

Various concerns had been highlighted by representatives of the Churches and Church Groups. The action taken by the Council, in conjunction with Strathclyde Police, on these issues was outlined in the report.

Consideration was given to the next phase of the Community Consultation process which would be a regular feature of the Committee's activities.

The Committee agreed (a) to approve the actions taken by the Council on the issues raised by the Churches and Church Groups; (b) to meet annually with Churches and Church Groups to monitor progress on issues raised; and (c) that the next phase of its Community Consultation process be with organisations working with young people and Voluntary Organisations.

4. Monitoring Reports

(a) Review of Monitoring Reports for 1996/97

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on issues arising from a review of the 1996/97 Monitoring Reports giving details of proposals for their improvement.

The processes for identifying, preparing, submitting and presenting Monitoring Reports were considered at a Special Meeting of the five Chairs of the Area Committees on 15 April 1997.

It had been agreed that identifying appropriate Monitoring Reports should continue to be officer-led in the short-term with members being encouraged to gradually take on this role, based on their experience of local issues of interest. Officers should develop reporting formats which will encourage the use of appropriate benchmarking information (e.g. service targets/plans/standards agreed by Directorates, etc.) and be further encouraged to highlight and comment on only those performance measures which are significantly different from the benchmark measurements.

The Committee agreed to approve the proposals for the development of relevant and concise Monitoring Reports.

(b) Community Development Grants Scheme: Analysis of Grants Paid to 6 May 1997

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on the community development grants paid to 6 May 1997 regarding applications in respect of the Kilwinning, Dregghorn and Springside area, including details of the balance of funding remaining.

Noted.

5. Requests for Financial Assistance: Community Development Grants Scheme

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

(a) Irvine Carers Group

The Committee agreed to grant £100 to the Irvine Carers Group.

(b) Corsehill Retired Club

The Committee agreed to grant £600 to the Corsehill Retired Club.

(c) Adult Education Voluntary Forum

The Committee agreed to grant £610 to the Adult Education Voluntary Forum.

(d) Springside Gala Committee

The Committee agreed to grant £200 to the Springside Gala Committee.

6. Springside: Springside Community Centre

Submitted report by the Director of Community and Recreational Services regarding Springside Community Centre.

Various projects have been undertaken to promote community activities in Springside. These included:-

- i. the formation of a Gala Committee in October 1996;
- ii. the formation of a girls group targeting older girls in the area in January 1997;
- iii. organisation of a Workshop Day to talk about the community in March 1997;
- iv. investigation into the viability of developing after-school care provision within Springside; and
- v. a "Women and Health" Seminar to take place on 22nd May 1997.

A good working relationship with the local community has been established, while alternative venues for the boxing club will continue to be investigated.

Noted.

7. Community Safety: Crime Statistics

Submitted report by Strathclyde Police "UA" Sub-division detailing levels of recorded crime within the Area Committee's boundaries.

Crime levels for March and April were reduced by 34% and 31% respectively. Overall in the Sub-division area for 1996/97 a total of 6079 crimes were committed representing a reduction of 18% from the previous year.

Arising from the discussion on the report (a) Mr. Clements intimated his concern about the consumption and abuse of alco-pops among young people and its contribution toward anti-social behaviour; and (b) the Chair sought clarification on the current position with regard to CCTV.

In noting the report the Committee agreed (a) that representations be made to the Scottish Office and drinks manufacturers expressing concern about the consumption of alco-pops by young people; and (b) that the Clerk advise the Chair on the current position with regard to CCTV and report.

8. Urgent Items

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

(a) Kilwinning: Dirrans Amateur Football Club

The Chair advised that the Dirrans Amateur Football Club sought financial assistance of £150 for their 50th anniversary celebrations. The request, however, does not fit the criteria for a community development grant.

The Committee agreed (a) that the Convener be requested to consider the request; and (b) if no assistance can be provided, alternative means of assistance should be pursued.

(b) Kilwinning: Pedestrian Precinct

Mr. Clements highlighted the disrepair of the pedestrian precinct in Kilwinning Town Centre.

The Committee agreed that the Director of Planning, Roads and Environment be requested to submit a report to the next meeting of the Area Committee on the matter.

The Meeting ended at 11.30 a.m.