

Three Towns Area Committee
25 June 1998

Saltcoats, 25 June 1998 - At a Meeting of the Three Towns Area Committee of North Ayrshire Council at 10.30 a.m.

Present

David Gallagher, Peter McNamara, David Munn, Margaret Munn, Alan Munro and Samuel Taylor.

In Attendance

T. Jones, Operations Manager - Cleansing (Commercial Services); C. Forsyth, Engineer, (Planning, Roads and Environment); S. McLaughlin, Area Community Development Officer, (Community and Recreational Services); W. Nichol, Senior Accountant (Financial Services); J. Bannatyne, Administration Officer and N. Miller, Assistant Administration Officer (Chief Executive).

Also In Attendance

Superintendent J. Young, Community Liaison Officer Sgt. R. Young and Sgt. Michael Oates, Police Liaison Officer (Strathclyde Police); Community Fire Safety Officer T. Kane (Strathclyde Fire Brigade); and J. Ledgerwood, Three Towns Initiative.

Chair

Mr. Gallagher in the Chair.

1. Minutes Confirmed

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 14 May 1998, copies of which had previously been circulated, were confirmed.

2. Crime Statistics for 1997/98: Annual Report for Sub-Division

The Committee received a presentation by Superintendent J. Young, Strathclyde Police on crime statistics for 1997/98.

Superintendent Young advised the Committee that crime statistics fall into two categories, namely, reported crimes, which are perpetrator initiated and reported offences, which are initiated by the Police e.g. road traffic offences etc. He further advised that overall there has been a decrease of 14% in crimes in the 'U' Division area with a 15.5% decrease in the Sub-Division. With regard to offences there has been a 33% increase reported, the majority of which are road traffic offences.

Within general crimes there are the following categories:-

Domestic housebreaking, the Force target being a 10% reduction. 'U' Division have indicated a decrease of 19.5% with the Sub-Division showing a decrease of 31.1%.

Vandalism, the Force target being a 5% reduction. 'U' Division have shown a decrease of 25.6% with Sub-Division indicating a decrease of 25.5%.

Serious assaults, the Force target being a 2% reduction over the Force. 'U' Division has indicated a reduction of 18.8% with the Sub-Division showing a decrease of 15%.

Supt. Young reported that overall the strategies adopted by Strathclyde Police have been very successful and that these will be pursued over the coming year.

Noted.

3. Community Safety: Fire Statistics

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on fire statistics within the Three Towns Area for the period 1 April to 1 June 1998.

The report detailed incidents within the Three Towns by station area and using specific Fire Brigade codes. It was noted that there were no fatalities or serious injuries during this period.

Concern was expressed over the problems experience by elderly or disabled people in maintaining smoke alarms and the Community Fire Officer advised the Committee of a scheme in East Ayrshire Council whereby an emergency helpline number is available for elderly/disabled people who require help in changing smoke alarm batteries, switching off water supplies etc.

After discussion, the Committee agreed (a) to remit to the Director of Social Work in consultation with the Director of Housing Services to investigate the possibility of providing an emergency hotline scheme for elderly/disabled people in North Ayrshire and report; and (b) otherwise to note the report.

4. Ardrossan: Princes Street

Submitted report by the Director of Planning, Roads and Environment on the current traffic situation in Princes Street, Ardrossan.

On 14 May 1998, the Three Towns Area Committee requested information regarding the congestion and sightline situation in Princes Street, Ardrossan.

An investigation has been undertaken by the Roads Section in consultation with Strathclyde Police and the local Member and the report detailed their findings.

Arising from discussion concern was expressed at the potential danger caused by cars parking on the inside bend opposite side of the Barony St. John's Church in Ardrossan causing vehicles to move out against oncoming traffic and cars parking either in or adjacent to the bus bay in Princes Street.

After discussion, the Committee agreed (a) that the Director of Planning, Roads and Environment (i) investigate the parking situation opposite Barony St. John's Church in Ardrossan with a view to determining whether there is a need to impose parking restrictions; (ii) examine the bus bay in Princes Street, Ardrossan with a view to either extending it or improving the road markings within the bus bay; and (iii) continue to monitor the position regarding the left hand turn at the junction of Glasgow Street/Princes Street to determine whether any action is required to restrict parking in Princes Street at this location, and report; and (b) otherwise to note the position meantime.

5. Monitoring Reports

(a) Commercial Services Directorate

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

The report detailed instances of fly tipping at three locations and calls to the litter hotline for the Three Towns area (i.e. March (7), April (8) and May (5)).

In response to concerns expressed by the local Member for Ward 23 (Saltcoats), Strathclyde Police undertook to advise the Council of incidents involving litter and broken glass which can be linked in some cases to drinking in public places, to enable appropriate action to be taken.

Noted.

(b) North Ayrshire Council Industrial Estate Factories

Submitted report by the Legal Services Manager on the letting/availability of factories on Council industrial estates within the Three Towns area.

The Hill Street Industrial Estate, Ardrossan comprises 13 units, four of which are vacant at present. The current occupancy rate is 66.6% and 24 full-time staff and 1 part-time worker are employed in connection with these units.

The Moorpark Industrial Estate, Stevenston comprises 15 units with 2 currently vacant and a further unit presently under offer. The current occupancy rate is 86.6% and 71 full-time and 23 part-time staff are employed in connection with these units.

The Portland Place Industrial Estate, Stevenston comprises 14 units, 3 of which are vacant at present. The current occupancy rate is 78.6% and 38 full-time and 4 part-time staff are employed in connection with these units.

Noted.

(c) Three Towns Initiative

Submitted report by the Initiative Manager on progress of the Three Towns Initiative.

Details were given on the progress on the development of key projects and on future project development in relation to the Initiative. The Three Towns Initiative has commissioned consultants, James Barr & Son, Glasgow to undertake the initial feasibility work for the Ardrossan Harbour project site and presented a preliminary Assessment to the project partners on 4 June 1998. A more detailed development plan is currently being prepared.

Progress on a number of other key projects was highlighted and, in response to questions, the Initiative Manager confirmed that a number of options have been identified in respect of the development of the Ardrossan Harbour area and that the feasibility of these would be investigated further.

Noted.

(d) Community Development Grants Scheme: Analysis of Grants Paid to 14 May 1998

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on the analysis of grants paid to 14 May 1998 in respect of the Three Towns area, including details of the balance of funding remaining.

Noted.

3. Community Development Grants Scheme: Requests for Financial Assistance

Submitted report by the Director of Community and Recreational Services on requests for financial assistance.

(a) Ardrossan Highland Games Committee

The Committee agreed to award the Ardrossan Highland Games Committee £700;

(b) Caley Music Group

The Committee agreed to award the Caley Music Group £1,000;

(c) 1st Stevenston Boy's Brigade

The Committee agreed to award 1st Stevenston Boy's Brigade £1,000;

(d) Saltcoats Activity Group

The Committee agreed to award Saltcoats Activity Group £244;

(e) Ardrossan Youth Association

The Committee agreed to award Ardrossan Youth Association £1,500; and

(f) West Coast Disabled Club

The Committee agreed to award West Coast Disabled Club £1,008.

The Meeting ended at 11.20 p.m.