

Kilwinning, Dreghorn and Springside Area Committee  
8 October 1997

**Springside, 8 October 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**

J. Leckie, Head of Education Services (Education); A. Weir, Parks and Horticultural Services Manager and D. Gilliland, Community Education Worker (Community and Recreational Services); H. Hunter, Senior Accountant (Financial Services); T. Jones, Operations Manager, Cleansing (Commercial Services); S. Paxton, Administration Officer and D. McCaw, Assistant Administration Officer (Chief Executive).

Chief Inspector P. Collier, Inspector A. Neilson and Sergeant J. Richmond, Strathclyde Police.

**Chair**

Mr. Clarkson in the Chair.

**Apologies for Absence**

Patrick Browne.

**1. Minutes Confirmed**

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 27 August 1997, copies of which had previously been circulated, were confirmed.

**2. Monitoring Report**

**Community Development Grants Scheme: Analysis of Grants Paid to 2 September 1997**

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on the community development grants paid to 2 September 1997 regarding applications in respect of the Kilwinning, Dreghorn and Springside area, including details of the balance of funding remaining.

Noted.

**3. Abbey and Whitehirst Park Primary Schools**

(Previous Minute Reference: Kilwinning, Dreghorn and Springside Area Committee: 25 June 1997.)

The Committee had requested that the Director of Education report to a future meeting on school capacity and usage figures for Abbey and Whitehirst Park Primary Schools, Kilwinning.

Submitted report by the Director of Education advising that school roll projections are updated annually following a new intake to Primary One in August. The current rolls of the schools, taking account of placing requests granted for August 1997, are 321 pupils at Abbey Primary School and

406 pupils at Whitehirst Park Primary School.

The report detailed future projections for both schools based on current capacities and school rolls and also on current trends in placing requests.

Noted.

#### **4. Consultation with Schools**

(Previous Minute Reference: Kilwinning, Dreghorn and Springside Area Committee 27 August 1997.)

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on proposed consultation meetings with local schools.

Community Consultation meetings have successfully been held to date with tenants' and residents' associations, community councils, churches and church groups and the Kilwinning and Eglinton Angling Club. A meeting will also take place on 13 October 1997 with youth and elderly groups.

To date no consultation has take place with secondary school pupils on their perception of the quality of the Council's services and any issues which affect them as a distinct group. The relevant secondary schools within the Committee's boundaries are Kilwinning Academy, St. Michael's Academy and Greenwood Academy.

The Committee agreed, in consultation with the Director of Education and appropriate education staff within those schools to visit schools over the next year in order to explain the Area Committee's role and remit and consult young people on issues of concern for the area.

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

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

##### **(a) St. Mary's Evergreen Club**

The Committee agreed to grant £276 to the St. Mary's Evergreen Club;

##### **(b) Springside Girl's Group**

The Committee agreed to grant £960 to the Springside Girl's Group. The first tranche of the award, £500, will be released now and the balance of £460 will be released subject to the Director of Community and Recreational Services receiving confirmation of a programme of future events; and

##### **(c) Springside History Group**

The Committee agreed to grant £320 to the Springside History Group.

#### **6. Provision of Decorative Lighting**

Submitted report by the Director of Community and Recreational Services regarding the provision of decorative lighting for Kilwinning Town Centre. This matter was raised at a community consultation meeting on 21 January 1997.

The term "decorative lighting" encompasses a wide range of services as detailed in the report, however the delivery of that service has been adversely affected by vandalism. In addition, the increasing costs of the provision and maintenance of new lighting systems and those inherited from the former Irvine Development Corporation, have placed further stress on existing budgets. Traders

have also requested additional decorative lighting to enhance the promotion of town centre shopping.

The estimated cost for Christmas lighting proposals for Kilwinning Town Centre for a system using columns with lights strung across is £10,265, with annual running costs estimated at an additional £3,000.

The Committee, in noting the budgetary constraints for the provision of decorative lighting agreed that the Director of Community and Recreational Services report to the next meeting on alternative methods of providing decorative lighting in Kilwinning Town Centre.

## **7. Dog Fouling**

(Previous Minute Reference: Kilwinning, Dreghorn and Springside Area Committee: 27 August 1997.)

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on a decision of the Corporate Strategy Committee on 9 September 1997 to pursue the appointment of an officer to deal with the issue of dog fouling throughout North Ayrshire. This had previously been agreed by all five Area Committees.

The Kilwinning, Dreghorn and Springside, North Coast and Arran, Garnock Valley and Area Committees had also agreed to defer any further spending in the current financial year pending the decision of the Corporate Strategy Committee. The Irvine and Three Towns Area Committees agreed however to proceed immediately and had identified suitable sites. The Corporate Strategy Committee also agreed to recommend that the North Coast and Arran, Garnock Valley and Kilwinning, Dreghorn and Springside Area Committees review their position on spending during the current financial year.

The report also provided details on the expenditure in the Pilot Schemes for this financial year to date and indicated that each Area Committee had a balance remaining for 1997/98 of £1,100.

After discussion, the Committee agreed that the remaining balance of £1,100 be used to extend the Scheme to a further area of Dreghorn, the site to be clarified in consultation with the local member.

## **8. Community Safety**

### **(a) Challenge Budget**

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on proposals for the disbursement of the Community Safety Challenge Budget.

The Community Safety Challenge Budget established by the Corporate Strategy Committee in 1996/97 has been increased from £10,000 to £12,000. Following wide consultation with relevant agencies and organisations and Public Notice of the Scheme in the local press, a number of proposals for specific projects have been received from groups and organisations throughout North Ayrshire. Details of the projects received, including relevant costs were provided in the report.

The Committee agreed to recommend to the Corporate Strategy Committee that the proposals in respect of the Community Safety Challenge Budget as detailed in the report, be approved.

### **(b) Crime Statistics**

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

The levels of recorded crime within the Area Committee's boundaries for August and September 1997 fell by 23% in comparison to the same period last year. There was a 10% reduction in crime in Kilwinning, a 40% reduction in Dreghorn and a 600% reduction in Springside with only 6

crimes being reported in August and none in September.

Noted.

#### **9. Urgent Items**

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

#### **10. Kilwinning: Pedestrian Precinct**

(Previous Minute Reference: Kilwinning, Dreghorn and Springside Area Committee: 27 August 1997.)

British Gas are at present undertaking major works involving the laying of a new gas main along the full length of Howgate and Main Street, Kilwinning. These works will continue for the next four to five months. British Gas will be responsible for the reinstatement of the area of the street surface disturbed by their works and for the maintenance of this repair for a minimum of two years following completion of the works. The works are causing major traffic congestion problems in the area.

The Committee agreed that the Director of Planning, Roads and Environment contact British Gas to request that these works be progressed quickly in order to minimise any traffic problems and report back on the outcome of this request to the next meeting of the Committee.

The meeting ended at 11.20 a.m.