

Kilwinning, Dreghorn and Springside Area Committee  
19 November 1997

**Littlestane, 19 November 1997** - At a Meeting of the Kilwinning, Dreghorn and Springside Area Committee of North Ayrshire Council at 10.30 a.m.

**Present**

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

**In Attendance**

The Director of Community and Recreational Services; D Anderson, Head of Cultural and Community Services; A. Weir, Parks and Horticultural Services Manager; A Pettigrew, Young People's Services Development Officer (Community and Recreational Services); S. Driscoll, Divisional Manager (Housing Services); H Hunter Senior Accountant (Financial Services); D MacRitchie, Manager, Area Services; S Bates, Assistant Manager, Area Services (Social Work); L Scott, Supervising Engineer, Roads Division (Planning, Roads and Environment); S Paxton, Administration Officer and C Graham, Assistant Administration Officer (Chief Executive).

Inspector R. Pollock (Strathclyde Police); K Anderson, Fire Safety Officer and T Kane, Community Fire Safety Officer (Strathclyde Fire Brigade).

**Chair**

Mr Clarkson in the Chair

**1. Minutes Confirmed**

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 8 October 1997, copies of which had previously been circulated, were confirmed.

**2. Monitoring Reports**

**(a) Housing Response Repairs**

Submitted report by the Director of Housing Services on service delivery in relation to Housing Response Repairs.

The Council has established three Response Repair priorities, each with a target maximum response time:-

Emergency Repairs - 24 hours;

Category A Repairs - 7 calendar days; and

Category B Repairs - 28 calendar days.

Within Kilwinning, Dreghorn and Springside, the percentage of repairs completed within the target response times are emergencies 95%, Category A 92% and Category B 97%.

Throughout North Ayrshire, the average time taken to complete Response Repairs is emergencies 0.3 days (i.e. 7 out of 10 emergencies are completed on the same day), Category A repairs 4.56 days and Category B repairs 13.95 days. Most Response Repairs are completed within the maximum response times.

Noted.

#### **(b) Social Work Services**

Submitted report by the Director of Social Work on the provision of Social Work Services.

The Irvine Area Team accounts for over 41% of North Ayrshire's population. It is anticipated there will be an overall population growth of 1.4% by the year 2001 in the 65-74 at (18.4%) and 75+ (52%) age groups which will result in an increased demand for home care and community care services.

The Social Work Directorate, in conjunction with Ayrshire and Arran Health Board have developed new services for older people who wished to remain in the community.

The Augmented Home Care Service provides intensive care to people in their own homes, who, without this care would be unable to remain there. The service is managed and staffed by the Social Work Directorate.

In view of the severe budgetary constraints facing the Council, the Social Work Directorate is currently examining its service delivery mechanisms

Noted.

#### **(c) Community Development Grants Scheme: Analysis of Grants Paid to 8 October 1997**

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on the Community Development Grants paid to 8 October 1997 in respect of Kilwinning, Dreghorn and Springside, including details of the balance of funding remaining.

Noted.

#### **3. Kilwinning, Dreghorn and Springside: Empty Houses**

Submitted report by the Director of Housing Services on empty Council Houses in the Kilwinning, Dreghorn and Springside areas.

There are currently 8 empty properties in the Kilwinning area, representing approximately 0.5% of the total stock in that area and 4 empty properties within Dreghorn and Springside, representing approximately 0.5% of the total stock in that area. All properties within the Kilwinning, Dreghorn and Springside areas are on offer to waiting list applicants.

After discussion and in response to members' questions, the Committee, in noting the report, agreed that a monitoring report be submitted to each meeting of the Area Committee, from January 1998 on the number of empty houses in Kilwinning, Dreghorn and Springside.

#### **4. Kilwinning: Main Street: Provision of Decorative Lighting**

(Previous Minute Reference: Kilwinning, Dreghorn and Springside Area Committee 8 October 1997.)

Submitted report by the Director of Community and Recreational Services on the progress made to provide decorative lighting in Main Street, Kilwinning.

A survey of ground floor traders in Main Street Kilwinning took place in late October with

only six responses being returned. Of that number, four indicated they would not be willing to contribute towards costs, with the remaining two traders indicating they would be willing to contribute £100 and £50 respectively.

The Committee agreed in view of the timescales involved (a) not to provide decorative lighting for Christmas 1997; (b) to pursue the initiative in respect of Christmas 1998; and (c) that a progress report be submitted to a future meeting of the Committee.

## **5. Kilwinning: Town Centre Pedestrian Area: British Gas Transco Works**

(Previous Minute Reference: Kilwinning, Dreghorn and Springside Area Committee 8 October 1997.)

Submitted report by the Director of Community and Recreational Services on the current position in relation to the works by British Gas Transco in the replacement of a gas main in Kilwinning Town Centre.

The condition of the former gas main in this area had had been considered by British Gas Transco as requiring replacement to improve the gas mains infrastructure. It is anticipated that all works will be completed by 21 November 1997 and footpath repairs will be carried out thereafter.

The Committee was advised that similar works will require to be carried out in the Bridgend area of Kilwinning and the contractor has been advised of (a) the Area Committee's concerns relating to the disruption within the town centre area; and (b) that no further works should be carried out until early 1998. The Committee was further advised that every effort will be made to reduce inconvenience to road users and residents when the next phase of works begins.

Noted.

## **6. Community Consultation**

### **(a) Meeting with Youth and Elderly/Social Groups**

(Previous Minute Reference: Kilwinning, Dreghorn and Springside Area Committee

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on the outcome of the Community Consultation meeting held with youth and elderly/social groups on 13 October 1997.

The appropriate Directorates of the Council have been requested to investigate the various issues raised by the groups/organisations as indicated in the report and a response will be forwarded to the relevant organisations in due course.

Noted.

### **(b) Meeting with Churches and Church Groups**

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on a proposal to meet with churches and church groups within the Committee's boundary in January 1998.

The Committee has already met with a number of organisations as part of its Community Consultation process and agreed at its meeting on 14 May 1997 to meet annually with churches and church groups in order to monitor progress on the issues raised. It is proposed that the Committee meets with the church and church groups in January 1998.

The Committee agreed (a) that the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Chair, progress arrangements to meet with churches and church groups in January 1998; and (b) that a

report be submitted to the next meeting.

## **7. Kilwinning Eglinton Angling Club**

(Previous Minute Reference: Kilwinning, Dreghorn and Springside Area Committee 28 August 1997.)

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on the outcome of the investigations undertaken by Officers of the Council regarding the River Garnock.

The Committee met with the Kilwinning Eglinton Angling Club in August 1997 and subsequently agreed that (a) the Chief Executive arrange for appropriate Officers of the Council to assess the 1991 report by Crouch Hogg Waterman, Engineering Consultants and the West Galloway Fisheries Trust on the River Garnock; (b) the Club advise the Chief Executive of all the problem areas together with land owners within its area of operation; (c) the Director of Community and Recreational Services discuss with the Club long-term funding measures; and (d) the Committee meet with the Club again in January 1998.

The Director of Planning, Roads and Environment has completed his investigations into the Crouch Hogg Waterman report and the works already carried out by the Club and has now advised that the work already undertaken and those proposed would result in improvements to the River Bank. He could not however comment on the water quality and fish habitat.

The Scottish Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA) has a statutory responsibility to test the water quality of rivers and the Agency has agreed to provide the Council with data on the water quality and flow of the River Garnock from Dalry to Nethermains, at no cost. Based on the most recent data the Agency has indicated that the water would appear to be of good quality.

There are many legal issues relating to riparian ownership and technical matters which will have to be considered prior to the formulation of any action on the River. Consultations will have to take place between the Club, North Ayrshire Council, SEPA, the Scottish Office (Agriculture and Fisheries Department), riparian owners and the Freshwater Fisheries Laboratory.

After discussion, the Committee agreed (a) that the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Chair, make arrangements to meet with the Angling Club in January 1998; (b) that the Scottish Environmental Protection Agency and relevant officers of the Council also be in attendance at the meeting; and (c) that report on progress be submitted to the next meeting of the Area Committee.

## **8. Community Safety**

### **(a) Community Safety Strategy**

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on the development of a Community Safety Strategy for North Ayrshire.

On 21 October 1997, the Corporate Strategy Committee agreed to approve and adopt the Community Safety Strategy and to have it implemented. The Corporate Strategy Committee also agreed to a formal request from Strathclyde Fire Brigade for one of their officers to attend all future meetings of the 5 Area Committees, to enable general advice and assistance to be given and provide statistical information.

The Community Safety Strategy will be used as a framework for enhancing community safety within North Ayrshire.

The Strategy set out a way forward for the Council, in consultation with other agencies to provide and enhance Community Safety. This included the establishment of a Joint Agency Community Safety Steering Group.

The Committee discussed the Strategy in relation to its local boundaries and identified Dreghorn Cross and Whitehirst Park, Kilwinning as the two main areas of concern with regard to young people.

The Committee agreed that (a) the Chief Executive arrange a meeting at an early date with appropriate officers of the Council and relevant agencies to identify specific problems in Kilwinning and Dreghorn and explore means of addressing them; and (b) a further report be submitted to the next meeting of the Committee.

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

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

Strathclyde Police provided the crime statistics, excluding traffic offences, for the months of September and October 1997 and highlighted particular areas of crime and their implications.

In response to members' questions in relation to the proposed installation of a CCTV Scheme in Irvine, the Committee was advised that Enterprise Ayrshire had refused support for the Scheme and that the funding offered by the Strathclyde Police Board had been withdrawn. The Committee discussed the possibility of a North Ayrshire wide CCTV system as opposed to a settlement specific system.

After discussion the Committee, in noting the level of recorded crime, agreed to remit to the Corporate Strategy Committee to investigate the possibilities of funding in respect of a North Ayrshire-wide CCTV Scheme.

## **9. Dreghorn and Springside: Activities for Young People**

Submitted report by the Director of Community and Recreational Services on the provision for young people in the villages of Dreghorn and Springside.

Following the Community Consultation Meeting on 13 October 1997, when concern had been expressed regarding the lack of facilities in Springside and Dreghorn, the Chair had requested a report on the current situation be submitted to this meeting of the Area Committee.

At present a comprehensive list of community groups does not exist, however the Young People's Services Development Section are in the process of compiling a database of young people's services across North Ayrshire. Following completion of this, information on services in Dreghorn and Springside will be published in leaflet form and the services widely promoted in partnership with other Directorates, the Police, local agencies and groups.

A number of organisations in Springside have expressed an interest in using the Community Centre for youth work. The Young People's Services Development Officer will work with the local communities to establish provision in Springside and Dreghorn and to discuss re-scheduling of current activities wherever possible to allow a greater accessibility to young people.

After discussion, the Committee agreed (a) that notification of the activities on offer to young people be made available as a matter of urgency; and (b) that a further report be submitted in February 1998.

## **10. Community and Recreational Services Directorate Strategy 1998-2003**

Submitted report by the Director of Community and Recreational Services on the Community and Recreation Strategy 1998-2003 consultation document.

On 12 August 1997, the Community and Recreational Services Committee approved the consultation document and agreed to support the proposed consultation programme, including

consultation with Area Committees. The document sets out the Directorate's strategic aims and objectives in a "Framework for Action" with priorities and action plans. All proposals will be considered and interpreted in specific service plans which will be prepared within the Directorate between October and December 1997. "Partnership" and "Community" are fundamental elements within the Strategy and it is intended to ensure that meaningful and effective consultation takes place which reflects the range of service provision and users. The Consultation Programme will therefore include national organisations, local organisations, North Ayrshire Council Directorates, Community and Recreational Services staff, Trade Unions and members of the public.

The Committee agreed to approve the consultation document and the programme of consultation.

The meeting ended at 12.30 p.m.