

Three Towns Area Committee  
19 February 1998

**Saltcoats, 19 February 1998** - At a Meeting of the Three Towns Area Committee of North Ayrshire Council at 10.30 a.m.

**Present**

David Munn, Margaret Munn, Alan Munro and Samuel Taylor.

**In Attendance**

T. Jones, Operations Manager, Cleansing, D. McCall, Cemeteries Officer (Commercial Services); S. McLaughlin, Area Community Development Officer, A. Weir, Parks and Horticultural Services Manager (Community and Recreational Services); J. Ferguson, Assistant Principal Estates Officer (Legal Services); W. Nichol, Senior Accountant (Financial Services); and S. Bale, Administration Officer (Chief Executive).

**Also In Attendance**

Chief Inspector C Harper (Strathclyde Police) Community Fire Safety Officer T Kane (Strathclyde Fire Brigade), J Ledgerwood, Three Towns Initiative and S. MacLeod (ASSIST).

**Chair**

Mr Taylor in the Chair.

**Apologies for Absence**

David Gallagher, Samuel Gooding and Peter McNamara

**1. Minutes Confirmed**

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 8 January 1998, copies of which had previously been circulated, were confirmed.

**2. ASSIST**

The Chair welcomed Mr Stanley MacLeod, Project Manager ASSIST (Ardrossan, Saltcoats and Stevenston Information Support Training) to the meeting.

Mr MacLeod gave a full and informative presentation on the access to vocational training provided by ASSIST. He emphasised the client centred nature of the project, with over 80% of the trainees learning about the project by word of mouth. The project which is funded from the Urban Programme is now in its fourth year. It has also been successful in obtaining additional funding mainly from the European Social Fund. The total spent on vocational training for 1995/96/97 was £392,192. ASSIST will also pay for child care and transport. The project is open to anyone who is seeking employment, the age range being mainly from 18 to mid 50's

The Committee thanked Mr MacLeod for his informative presentation.

### **3. Monitoring Reports**

#### **a) Commercial Services**

Submitted report by the Director of Commercial Services on service delivery regarding uplift of bulky household items.

North Ayrshire Council provides a continuing service for the free collection of bulky household items and details of the operation of the service were given in the report. There has been considerable growth in the service to date (i.e. 443 uplifts per week in 1988 and 709 uplifts per week in 1997/98) amounting to 60% increase since the commencement of the contract. Current performance indicators show that 89.6% of the uplifts within the scheme are completed within the required timescale in the Three Towns area. There has been an improvement on the previous year, although the percentage is still less than in other areas. Changes have, however, been made to the systems to address this situation, which were too late to impact on the figures provided, but should show an improvement in next year's figures.

The Committee was advised that the service is unable to uplift tins of paint due to problems of spillage when they are compacted in the machines.

After discussion, the Committee agreed (a) to request the Director of Commercial Services to investigate the feasibility of introducing a system for the collection of paint tins; and (b) otherwise to note the report.

#### **(b) Analysis of Grants Paid to 16 January 1998**

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on Community Development Grants paid to 16 January 1998 in respect of the Three Towns area, including details of the balance of funding remaining.

Noted.

#### **(c) Three Towns Initiative**

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

The role of the Initiative Support Team during the appraisal process of the Regeneration Programme Funding was highlighted. The Committee was advised that the Initiative was not a member of the North Ayrshire Regeneration Partnership, but provided assistance on appraising each application on its technical merits and liaised directly with the applicants.

The Initiative is also working on the preparation of a framework for a North Ayrshire Grant Programme Training Event on National Lottery Funding, to be facilitated in conjunction with Council officers and the voluntary sector. The training event will look at the changes in the Lottery Small Grant Procedures and working in partnership with the various agencies including Council departments as appropriate, to raise the level of awareness of the Lottery Grants system.

Noted.

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

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

**(a) Ardrossan Academy Playgroup**

The Committee agreed to award Ardrossan Academy Playgroup £1,475.00.

**(b) Stanley Mother and Toddlers**

The Committee agreed to award Stanley Mother and Toddlers £816.00.

**(c) Backbeat Drama**

The Committee agreed to award Backbeat Drama £950.00.

**(d) Saltcoats After Care**

The Committee agreed to award Saltcoats After Care £300.00.

**(e) Ardrossan After Care**

The Committee agreed to award Ardrossan After Care £300.00.

**(f) Stevenston After Care**

The Committee agreed to award Stevenston After Care £300.00.

**(g) Auchendarvie Playgroup**

The Committee agreed to award Auchendarvie Playgroup £555.00.

**(h) SNAP Jewellery Group**

The Committee agreed to award SNAP Jewellery Group £300.00.

**(i) Hayocks Health Group**

The Committee agreed to award Hayocks Health Group £600.00.

**(j) Focus Adult Education Group**

The Committee agreed to award Focus Adult Education Group £548.00.

**(k) Mayfield Playgroup**

The Committee agreed to award Mayfield Playgroup £390.00.

**(l) Three Towns Childminding Group**

The Committee agreed to award the Three Towns Childminding Group £600.00.

**(m) St. Brendan's 200 Club**

The Committee agreed to award St. Brendan's 200 Club £1,000.00.

#### **(n) Whitlees Community Association (Adult Education Sub Group)**

The Committee agreed to award Whitlees Community Association (Adult Education Sub Group) £766.00.

#### **5. Car Parking at Ardrossan Cemetery**

Submitted report by the Legal Services Manager on the progress in relation to the acquisition of ground for car parking at Ardrossan Cemetery.

On 28 August 1998, the Committee agreed to instruct the Director of Commercial Services to investigate further the feasibility of providing a car park for Ardrossan Cemetery. The Estates Section have since approached the owners of the ground, Persimmon Homes, who have now confirmed that they would agree in principle to the disposal of the ground, but would require a specific proposal to be submitted. The Commercial Services Directorate has now specified the area of land which would be required and following confirmation of its suitability from the Roads Section, formal negotiations will be entered into with Persimmon Homes with a view to provisional terms being agreed. The Commercial Services Directorate has also submitted a bid for funding from the Capital Programme.

Noted.

#### **6. Saltcoats: St. Lawrence Place, Play Site**

Submitted report by the Director of Community and Recreational Services on the legal responsibilities of the Council to provide a fence at the play area at St. Lawrence Place, Saltcoats.

In November 1997, the Committee considered a request by the residents of Sharphill Road, Saltcoats that the Council provide a fence along the boundary of their properties with St. Lawrence Place play site, due to vandalism to their properties by persons using the play site.

The Legal Services Department has confirmed that the boundary between the play area and the properties in Sharphill Road is a mutual boundary, ie repairs/replacement costs would require to be shared equally between the Council and the residents. The cost of providing a chain link fence is estimated at £4,300.00. The Council's share would therefore be £2,150.00 and there is no provision in the budget for this amount. The agreement of all the residents involved would also be required to meet their share of the cost.

It was noted that the original residents group who were instrumental in obtaining funding for the play area had indicated that they would self police the usage of the site. The vandalism has, however, been an ongoing problem. The Police have agreed to arrange for the site to be monitored.

After discussion, the Committee agreed (a) to take no action on the provision of a fence; (b) to note the offer of support from the Police; and (c) to request the Director of Community and Recreational Services to liaise with the original residents group in seeking their assistance in policing the site.

#### **7. Public Open Spaces: Playing of Ball Games**

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on proposals to address the playing of ball games in public open spaces.

The Community and Recreational Services Committee on 3 February 1998 remitted to the Area Committee for consideration proposed solutions to address the playing of ball games in public open spaces in view of complaints which have been received about children kicking balls against cars and houses and the damage, nuisance and noise caused by this activity, which is

particularly prevalent in housing estates during the summer months.

The Committee agreed to (a) advise the Director of Community and Recreational Services of its support for the proposals to address the playing of ball games in public open spaces contained within the report and request that he ensures that local members are consulted in all cases on the proposed erection of "No Ball Games" signs; and (b) note that a final report will be submitted to the Community and Recreational Services Committee.

## **8. Ardrossan: Christmas Decorations**

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on the provision of Christmas decorations in Ardrossan.

On 8 January 1998, the Committee received a letter from a resident of the Three Towns regarding the lack of Christmas decorations in Ardrossan, particularly at the Civic Centre. The Committee agreed that the Chief Executive seek clarification of the position from the Director of Community and Recreational Services and report back.

During Christmas 1997, lights were provided by the Community and Recreational Services Directorate on the trees at the entrance of the Civic Centre, Glasgow Street, Ardrossan. Unfortunately, due to the electricity being supplied via temporary cables from the Civic Centre building, an ingress of water occurred to the installation causing repeated failure. To alleviate this situation, a dedicated outdoor supply of electricity is required. The existing lights are also now in a poor condition and a new set is required.

The estimated cost of a dedicated electricity supply and a new set of lights is £2,750.00, plus a recurring annual cost of £550.00 for running the cable to the trees, installing the lights and removing afterwards. Whilst the Community and Recreational Services budget can meet the recurring annual costs, there is no provision in the budget for the additional one off cost for the new electricity supply and lights. It was also considered that the cost of expanding the Christmas lighting provision further on to Glasgow Street itself, is likely to be prohibitive.

In some other towns in North Ayrshire, contributions have been made from Common Good Funds towards the provision of Christmas lights.

The Committee agreed (a) to meet the costs of new Christmas lighting and an outdoor electricity supply at Ardrossan Civic Centre from Ardrossan Common Good Fund; and (b) otherwise to note the position.

## **9. Community Safety: Fire Statistics**

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on fire statistics for the Three Towns area.

The report details incidents within the Three Towns by station area and using specific Fire Brigade codes. It was pointed out that this report covered both the bonfire night period in November and the school holidays, which normally result in a higher incidence of call outs. The number of malicious calls was also highlighted. The Committee was advised that as agreed by the Committee on 8 January 1998, a joint article between the Fire Brigade and the Housing Services Directorate regarding the maintenance of smoke alarms and the low cost insurance available from the Council will be included in the next edition of "Look North". There is also a current national Fire Brigade campaign on the importance of maintaining smoke alarms. The incidence of malicious calls will also be highlighted in this article and the Fire Service have agreed to investigate the possibility of running a "Name and Shame" campaign again on West Sound Radio, whereby tapes of malicious callers are broadcast and an appeal made for the public to identify them.

Noted.

#### **10. Urgent Items**

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

#### **11. Saltcoats: Bus Routes: Stagecoach**

The Chair advised the Committee of numerous complaints from residents regarding the operation of bus routes by Stagecoach affecting the McKillop Place area. Road safety concerns had been raised as this bus route goes past a nursery school and a petition has been received from local residents.

The Committee agreed to write to Stagecoach expressing concern on behalf of the local community.

The meeting ended at 11.40 a.m.