

Three Towns Area Committee
20 February 1997

Saltcoats, 20 February 1997 - At a Meeting of the Three Towns Area Committee of North Ayrshire Council at 10.30 a.m.

Present

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

In Attendance

J. Mason, Principal Engineer (Planning, Roads and the Environment); W. Nichol, Senior Accountant (Financial Services); I. Traquair, Senior Trading Standards Officer (Legal Services); M. Francey, Assistant Area Services Manager (Social Work); S. McLaughlin, Area Community Development Officer (Community and Recreational Services); A. Osborne, Corporate Policy Officer, S. Bale and J. Bannatyne, Administration Officers (Chief Executive).

Also In Attendance

Inspector W. Ross, Strathclyde Police.

Chair

Mr. Gallagher in the Chair.

1. Minutes Confirmed

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 9 January 1997, copies of which had previously been circulated, were confirmed.

2. Monitoring Reports

(a) Trading Standards

Submitted report by the Legal Services Manager on Trading Standards and various aspects of their service delivery.

The Trading Standards section has a wide ranging remit with certain services being governed by national performance indicators. Steps are currently being taken by the section to enable performance reports for each individual Area Committee to be provided in future.

Noted.

(b) Analysis of Grants Paid to 30 January 1997

Submitted report by the Chief Executive detailing the various categories of grants paid to 30 January 1997.

Noted.

3. Dog Fouling

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on the progress in establishing the five pilot areas initially selected to combat dog fouling, the area in the Three Towns being Sinclair Drive leading down to Auchenharvie Playing Fields, Stevenston.

Five bins per pilot project will be installed and sites for poop scoops, posters and signs will be determined. Strathclyde Police will also provide assistance.

It is also intended that a leaflet be produced for general distribution throughout North Ayrshire providing advice on responsible dog ownership, covering areas such as dog fouling, penalties for retrieving dogs from kennels, the statutory requirements to provide a tag with a name and address of the owner, and to keep dogs on leads in specific areas.

The pilot project should heighten awareness of the issue generally as well as tackling the specific problems of the five areas concerned and the Officers' Group with representatives from various Directorates will again meet to review these efforts and report further to the Committee in due course.

Noted.

4. North Ayrshire Council Litter Awareness and Prevention Campaign

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on the progress of the Council's Litter Awareness and Prevention Campaign.

The Litter Awareness and Prevention Campaign was launched in late January 1997 and will be supported by promotional publicity.

The Litter Hotline to the Commercial Services Directorate is now operating and the public response to the hotline in its initial weeks of operation will be reported to the Committee in due course.

The progress of the Campaign will be reviewed and progress reports will be submitted to a future meeting of the Committee.

Noted.

5. Applications for Financial Assistance

Submitted reports by the Chief Executive on requests received for financial assistance.

(a) Community Grants

(i) Three Towns Blind Social Club

The Committee agreed to award the Three Towns Blind Social Club £1,140.80.

(ii) Three Towns Video Group

The Committee agreed to award the Three Towns Video Group £1,500 on condition that the group (A) maintain a regular contact with the Area Community Development Officer; (B) in conjunction with the Area Community Development Officer, pursue the matter of insurance; and (C) define clearly who is responsible for overseeing the equipment.

(iii) Saltcoats Co-op Women's Guild

The Committee agreed to award the Scottish Co-op Women's Guild £594.

(iv) Cunninghame Road, Miller Road, Townhead Road Tenants Association

After discussion the Committee agreed (a) to defer consideration of this application meantime for further information; and (b) that the Director of Housing Services be requested to report to the next meeting on the current position on the funding of Tenants Associations.

(v) Hayocks Health Group

The Committee agreed to award Hayocks Health Group £500, on condition that a bona fide constitution be forwarded to the Area Community Development Officer at the earliest possible opportunity.

(vi) The Big Endz

The Committee agreed to award The Big Endz £800.

Having been advised that a balance of £650.50 still remained for grants in the current financial year, the Committee further agreed that the Chief Executive and the Director Community and Recreational Services in consultation with the Chair determine any further applications received prior to 31 March 1997.

6. Common Good Funds: Requests for Financial Assistance

(a) Saltcoats Common Good Fund

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on a request for financial assistance from Thomas Dallas towards the costs of attending the World Blind Bowling Championships in New Zealand in February/March 1997 where he will represent the Scottish Association for Blind Bowlers. The cost covering flights, accommodation and uniforms will be £2,500. The Community and Recreational Services Committee on 5 November 1996 awarded Mr. Dallas £250 and details were given of additional funding support from other groups/organisations. The current balance of the Saltcoats Common Good Fund stands at £240.

After discussion, the Committee agreed to award Mr. Dallas £100.

(b) Stevenston Common Good Fund

Submitted report by the Chief Executive updating the current position of the Stevenston Common Good Fund.

i) High Kirk of Stevenston

In August 1996 the Committee agreed to fund 50% of the costs of upgrading works at the High Kirk of Stevenston Church Hall. The High Kirk agreed to meet the remaining 50% of the balance of £2,875.50 but due to a change in circumstances the revised total estimate amounted to £6,867.87 increasing the 50% costs to £3,433.93. They asked whether Stevenston Common Good Fund would still be prepared to fund up to 50% of the revised costs to enable the project to proceed as soon as possible.

In view of the urgency involved, the Chair, in consultation with the two local Members for Stevenston, had agreed to award an increased amount of £3,433.93 as a one-off payment to the High Kirk of Stevenston being 50% of the current revised costs of upgrading the grounds around the Church Hall.

The Committee agreed to homologate the decision.

ii) Ardeer Parish Church

Ardeer Parish Church have advised that their project to carry out stonework repairs to the Church has not yet been approved and consequently they will not require the £5,000 awarded by the Committee in the coming financial year.

Noted.

7. Roads Reports

(a) Saltcoats: Argyle Road: On-Street Parking

Submitted report by the Director of Planning, Roads and the Environment on the current position regarding on-street parking within Argyle Road between its junctions with Springvale Street and Jack's Road/Donaldson Avenue.

There is no-off street parking in this area.

While the on-street parking pattern restricts the free flow of vehicles using the road it does have a beneficial effect in naturally calming the speed of traffic at this location.

Argyle Road is not considered to be a suitable location at which to introduce a Waiting Restriction Traffic Regulation Order given the wholly residential nature of the area and parking restrictions are not considered to be appropriate.

While welcoming the report the Committee expressed concern over the publicising of reports by the local press prior to their consideration which in some instances can lead to members of the public receiving inaccurate information, in respect of decisions taken.

The Committee agreed (a) that the Director of Planning, Roads and the Environment continue to monitor the on street parking situation within Argyle Road, Saltcoats; (b) to remit to the Principal Officer (Marketing and Publicity) to pursue the matter relating to the publicising of reports by the local press which have not yet been considered by the Committee; and (c) otherwise to note the position meantime.

(b) Saltcoats: Braes Road: Traffic Conditions at Retail Development

Submitted report by the Director of Planning, Roads and the Environment on the traffic conditions on Braes Road, Saltcoats in the vicinity of the new Aldi/Iceland retail development.

Noted.

8. Cunninghame Water Sports Association

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on the outcome of the meeting held with Cunninghame Water Sports Association on 30 January 1997 to discuss their proposals for the development of a permanent water sports facility in the Three Towns area.

The Water Sports Association have been investigating funding assistance from various sources including Enterprise Ayrshire. Lottery funding assistance has been explored and would necessitate the Association meeting between 25% and 50% of the total costs themselves.

At the meeting on 30 January 1997 the Association were advised that the Council would be unable to provide financial assistance towards the project but could provide assistance in kind by way of officers advice, drawing up a development plan and assisting in the completion of a lottery application, etc. Various possible sites for a permanent facility were discussed including the Harbour area at Ardrossan owned by Clyde Port, the Customs House at Saltcoats Harbour and Stevenston

Slip. It was proposed that a technical report on the Customs House building be obtained to determine whether the building is capable of being converted.

The Committee agreed (a) to refer investigation of the various proposals and sites for a Water Sports Centre in the Three Towns to the appropriate Directorates for their consideration; and (b) to meet with Cunninghame Water Sports Association again once the various investigations have been completed.

9. North Ayrshire Law Centre Urban Aid Project

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on the outcome of a meeting on 12 February 1997 between the Area Committee, staff of the North Ayrshire Law Centre, the Law Centre Management Committee and the Social Work Directorate to discuss progress on the North Ayrshire Law Centre Project funded under the Urban Programme.

The former Strathclyde Regional Council had obtained Scottish Office approval for the project under the supervision of the Social Work Department. Whilst the project is located within the Three Towns it is intended to target all Urban Programme Eligible Areas within North Ayrshire once these areas have been confirmed. The first staff appointment of a Senior Solicitor was made in February 1996 and the proposed premises for the Centre are Unit 14 in Ardrossan Business Centre, Glasgow Street, Ardrossan.

At the meeting on 12 February 1997 the representatives of North Ayrshire Council expressed a number of serious concerns about this project.

The Committee agreed that the Director of Social Work submit a report on the progress of the project to date, its financial position and the future proposals to the next meeting of the Corporate Strategy Committee on 4 March 1997.

10. Community Safety: Challenge Budget

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on the current position of the Community Safety Challenge Budget.

The Committee, on 21 November 1996 approved an award of £1400 for a Home Security Initiative for elderly, disabled and single parents, to be funded from the Community Safety Challenge Budget to be co-ordinated by the Safe Three Towns Project in co-operation with local lone parents, disability, elderly groups and Women's Aid. The purpose of the funding was to fit security locks in the homes of identified vulnerable households within the Three Towns.

Due to the wind up of the Safe Three Towns Project, the Home Security Initiative has not yet gone ahead and the £1400 requires to be awarded prior to the end of this financial year.

It is proposed that the local Crime Prevention Panel be requested to co-ordinate the initiative in co-operation with the groups identified.

The Committee agreed (a) that the Crime Prevention Panel be requested to co-ordinate, in consultation with a wide range of appropriate groups/organisations, the Home Security Initiative for elderly, disabled and single parents, which is being funded from the Community Safety Challenge Budget; and (b) that the Chief Executive in consultation with the Chair draw up a programme of presentations to future meetings from representatives of appropriate organisations whose activities are related to Community Safety.

11. Saltcoats: Jack's Road/Argyle Road: Area of Ground Under Bridge

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on complaints regarding the behaviour of youths congregating under the bridge at Jacks Road/Argyle Road, Saltcoats which have been addressed by Strathclyde Police through Operation Spotlight. While the problem is ongoing and recurs on a regular basis, no major problems have arisen in terms of crime. The Police will continue to closely monitor the area.

The Youth Team within the Community and Recreational Services Directorate have been in contact with the youths involved and negotiations and discussions are taking place. A further report on progress will be submitted to the next meeting.

Noted.

The Meeting ended at 11.40 a.m.