

Kilwinning, Dreghorn and Springside Area Committee
9 December 1998

Dreghorn, 9 December 1998 - At a Meeting of the Kilwinning, Dreghorn and Springside Area Committee of North Ayrshire Council at 10.30 a.m.

Present

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

In Attendance

I T Mackay, Assistant Chief Executive (Legal and Regulatory Services); S Driscoll, Divisional Manager, Irvine (Property Services); A Weir, Landscape and Amenities Services Manager; M Smyth, Area Community Development Officer (Educational Services); K Nichols, Accountant, Financial Services; S Paxton, Administration Officer and C Graham, Assistant Administration Officer (Chief Executive).

Chief Inspector P Collier and Sergeant P Martin (Strathclyde Police); and Community Fire Officer T Kane (Strathclyde Fire Brigade).

Chair

Mr Clarkson in the Chair.

1. Minutes Confirmed

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 28 October 1998, copies of which had previously been circulated, were confirmed.

2. Woodgreen Mortification Trust

Submitted report by the Assistant Chief Executive (Legal and Regulatory Services) on an application for financial assistance from the Woodgreen Mortification Trust. The purpose of the Trust is to provide relief for the poor of Kilwinning.

Mr and Mrs A live in local authority rented accommodation in Kilwinning and have requested assistance from the Trust for the provision of clothing for their five children, aged between 2 and 13, together with basic household items. Neither Mr or Mrs A have been in employment for many years.

The Committee, having considered the full circumstances surrounding the application, agreed to award £500 to Mr and Mrs A from the Trust, subject to the purchases being undertaken by Social Services Family Support Unit.

3. Monitoring Reports

(a) Empty Houses in the Kilwinning, Dreghorn and Springside Area

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Property Services) on empty council houses within the Area Committee's boundaries.

Details were also provided in respect of Montgomerie Terrace, Kilwinning where 6 properties are void, an increase of 3 on previously quoted figures. The Committee was advised that Montgomerie Terrace would continue to be the subject of special letting initiatives in pursuance of obtaining tenancies for all properties.

The Committee discussed the length of time some properties remain empty, in particular 5 Eglinton Place, Kilwinning which, although now on offer has been void for some 126 days, and the allocation of properties within the Robert Service Court Sheltered Housing Unit.

After a full discussion the Committee agreed (i) that the Local Member be advised of the outcome of investigations in respect of 5 Eglinton Place, Kilwinning; and (ii) that a further report be submitted on Robert Service Court Sheltered Housing Unit to the next meeting.

(b) Housing Services as at 31 October 1998

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Property Services) on performance information in relation to housing voids, allocations, housing benefit, rent arrears and repairs completions in comparison with figures previously provided to Committee and in comparison with other Area Committee areas.

While overall targets were being met within the set timescales, performances would continue to be monitored under the Best Value Regime.

Noted.

(c) Community Development Grants Scheme: Analysis of Grants Paid to 13 November 1998

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on the Community Development grants paid to 13 November 1998 including details of the balance of funding remaining.

Noted.

(d) Litter Awareness Hotline

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Property Services) on service delivery in respect of fly-tipping and the number of calls received by the Litter Hotline in relation to Kilwinning, Dreghorn and Springside.

No incidences of fly-tipping have been reported and six calls in respect of cleansing were received by the Litter Hotline in the period to 31 October 1998.

Noted.

4. Community Development Grants Scheme: Applications for Grant Aid

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Educational Services) on applications received in respect of the Community Development Grants Scheme.

(a) Springside Community Association

The Committee agreed to award £1,500 to Springside Community Association;

(b) Kilwinning Rovers Football Club

The Committee agreed to award £100 to Kilwinning Rovers Football Club for the purpose of travel costs;

(c) Dreghorn Angling Club

The Committee agreed to award £350 to Dreghorn Angling Club for the provision of signage and the purchase of river stock;

(d) Over 50's Club (St Winin's)

The Committee agreed to award £309 to the St Winin's Over 50's Club;

(e) Dreghorn Musical Society

The Committee agreed to award £400 to the Dreghorn Musical Society;

(f) Corsehill United Boys and Girls Club

The Committee agreed to award £250 to the Corsehill United Boys and Girls Club; and

(g) Kilwinning and District Preservation Society

The Committee agreed to award £450 to the Kilwinning and District Preservation Society.

5. Kilwinning: Provision of Christmas Decorations

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Educational Services) on the provision of Christmas Illuminations in Main Street, Kilwinning.

Sufficient funding was raised to purchase and install suitable Christmas Illuminations which were officially "switched on" on 19 November 1998 at a ceremony attended by approximately 8,000 people.

Further improvements will continue to be considered and the provision of floral hanging baskets in Kilwinning Main Street will be examined in consultation with the Development Association early in the New Year.

The Committee noted the success of the event.

6. Benslie Village: Traffic Regulation Order

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Property Services) on a traffic management proposal in respect of the two roads within the hamlet of Benslie, located between Kilwinning and the A736.

At the present time, with the exception of the national speed limit, no other speed restrictions are in place on either road through Benslie and residents have voiced their concerns over speeding.

The Committee agreed to approve the introduction of a 30 mph limit in Benslie Village and to remit the matter to the Infrastructure and Environment Services Committee for the promotion of the necessary Traffic Regulation Order.

7. Kilwinning: Naming of New Private Housing Development by Robison Homes off Glasgow Road

Submitted report by the Assistant Chief Executive (Development and Promotion) on the provision of a street name in respect of a new housing development off Glasgow Road, Kilwinning.

The Committee agreed that the development be named "Hazeldene Park" as recommended

by Councillor James Clements, the Local Member.

8. Community Consultation

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on the issues raised and discussed by the pupils of Kilwinning Academy at the Community Consultation Meeting.

The meeting on 28 October 1998 had been successful and informative and allowed for discussion on a range of issues from staffing at Kilwinning Police Station to litter problems, full details of which were provided in the report.

The Committee agreed that the report be forwarded to the staff and pupils of Kilwinning Academy.

9. Community Safety

(a) Community Safety Challenge Budget

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on a decision by the Area Committee Chairs on 19 November 1998 to fund the provision of armbands for North Ayrshire schoolchildren.

In order to address some of the potential dangers facing children at this time of year due to the hours of darkness, it had been proposed that 5,500 fluorescent armbands and safety stickers be provided to every school pupil in Primaries 1, 2 and 3 within North Ayrshire at a cost of £5,060.

The Committee (i) requested details of the expected timescale for receipt of delivery of the armbands; and (ii) agreed to homologate the decision of the Area Committee Chairs.

(b) Strathclyde Fire Brigade: Fire Statistics for the period 1 to 31 October 1998

Submitted report by Strathclyde Fire Brigade on fire statistics within the Kilwinning, Dreghorn and Strathside areas from 1 to 31 October 1998.

Noted.

(c) Crime Statistics

Submitted report by Strathclyde Police "UA" Division regarding the level of recorded crime in the Sub-Division

Although the number of recorded offences increased between October 1997 and October 1998, Strathclyde Police have undertaken a number of initiatives including "Twin Strike" to combat drug offences and house breaking together with higher visibility policing in Kilwinning. These initiatives resulted in a number of arrests.

Noted.

The Meeting ended at 11.15 a.m.