

North Coast and Arran Area Committee  
6 October 1997

**Largs, 6 October 1997** - At a Meeting of the North Coast and Arran Area Committee of North Ayrshire Council at 10.30 a.m.

**Present**

John Sillars, Margaret Highet, Elizabeth McLardy, Robert Rae and Richard Wilkinson.

**In Attendance**

J Mason, Principal Engineer - Traffic (Roads) (Planning, Roads and Environment); T Jones, Operations Manager (Cleansing) (Commercial Services); A Moynihan, Principal Trading Standards Officer (Legal Services); R Lee, Assistant Principal Accountant (Financial Services); M Smyth, Area Community Development Officer (Community and Recreational Services); J Bannatyne, Administration Officer and C Graham, Assistant Administration Officer (Chief Executive).

**Also In Attendance**

Inspector M Scally, Strathclyde Police.

**Chair**

Mr Sillars in the Chair.

**1. Minutes Confirmed**

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 25 August 1997, copies of which had previously been circulated, were confirmed.

**2. Arran: Community Consultation Meeting**

(Previous Minute Reference: North Coast and Arran Area Committee 23 June 1997.)

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on the responses from the various Directorates of the Council to the matters raised at the Community Consultation Meeting held on Arran on 19 June 1997.

Messrs Caledonian MacBrayne Limited and the Director of Community and Recreational Services had been requested to consider the possible introduction of a Reduced Fare Scheme for (a) young persons from the age of 16 years and up while still in education; and (b) young persons wishing to utilise mainland leisure facilities. Messrs Caledonian MacBrayne Limited advised that the introduction of such a scheme would severely affect its revenue and expressed concern that if such a concession was given to students, others may seek similar concessions. They had also made reference to the fact that islanders already receive discounts and confirmed that the Company is unable to contemplate any further reductions. The Director of Community and Recreational Services advised that the sale of a joint ticket at Brodick to allow for travel on the ferry and admission to a leisure facility is feasible in principle, but that it would not be practical to offer joint tickets for all activities. He suggested that it may be appropriate to offer a day activity ticket at the Magnum Leisure Centre as a trial project.

The Committee agreed (i) that the Director of Community and Recreational Services be requested to further pursue the possibility of offering a day activity ticket at the Magnum Leisure Centre as a trial project and report; (ii) that a copy of the report be forwarded to those

organisations who were invited to attend the Community Consultation Meeting.

### **3. Largs: Community Consultation Meeting**

(Previous Minute Reference: North Coasts and Arran Area Committee 25 August 1997.)

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on the issues raised at the Largs Community Consultation meeting with local groups/organisations held on 18 September 1997.

The Community Consultation exercise in relation to the North Coast and Arran area has now been completed. A report on a review of all the Community Consultation Meetings undertaken will be submitted to a future meeting of the Area Committee.

After discussion, the Committee agreed (a) that the appropriate Directorates of the Council be requested to investigate the various issues by the groups/organisations who attended the Community Consultation Meeting; (b) that a report on a review of all the Community Consultation Meetings undertaken be submitted to the January 1998 meeting of the Committee; and (c) that consideration be given to the future of the Community Consultation process at that time.

### **4. Dog Fouling**

(Previous Minute Reference: North Coast and Arran Area Committee 25 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 North Coast and Arran, Garnock Valley and Kilwinning, Dreghorn and Springside 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 be invited to review their position on spending during the current financial year.

After discussion, the Committee agreed (a) that the measures which have been tried and tested in the original Pilot Project Areas be extended to new sites in Skelmorlie (in the vicinity of the park) and Fairlie; and (b) that consultation be undertaken with the appropriate local members to determine the location of the sites.

It was further agreed that the Director of Commercial Services investigate the disappearance of a dog bin at the North Pier in Fairlie with a view to its replacement.

### **5. Largs Promenade: Review of Cycle Lane Operation**

(Previous Minute Reference: North Coast and Arran Area Committee 27 March 1997.)

Submitted report by the Director of Planning, Roads and Environment on an interim review of the operation of the Largs Promenade Cycle Zone.

A small number of complaints have been received about the cycle lane layout implemented at the start of July 1997 at Largs Promenade with low key levels of signing and marking. These mainly reflect concerns about potential or perceived hazards to pedestrians from the shared use of the promenade. Strathclyde Police have no substantiated reports of injuries or regular nuisance and at the busiest pedestrian times, cycling is not practical and consequently there is little conflict.

The Committee, having previously agreed to review the Cycle Lane Scheme at the October

meeting, was requested to consider the following options:-

- (a) to continue with the trial with the present layout;
- (b) to continue the trial with enhanced signs and markings;
- (c) to remove the cycle lane and revert to the previous situation with informal use by cyclists; and
- (d) to consider a longer term project for a segregated cycle track within the grass areas, as suggested in the public responses received.

Option (b) has cost implications which would require to be funded from the 1998/99 Revenue Budget and option (d) would require to be funded through the Capital Works Programme and would require appropriate consultations/planning consent.

Reference was also made to concerns which have been expressed in relation to the use by cyclists of the Bowencraig Walk which runs from Warren Park Road to the Pencil.

After discussion, the Committee agreed (a) to continue the trial Cycle Lane Scheme with enhanced signs and markings to be funded from the 1998/99 Revenue Budget; (b) that the Scheme be further reviewed by the Committee in October 1999 with a view to consideration being given at that time to a longer term project for a segregated track within the grassed areas suggested in public responses; and (c) that the appropriate Directorates, in consultation with the local member, be requested to investigate the concerns over cyclists using Bowencraig Walk to determine whether action should be taken (e.g. the erection of appropriate signs).

#### **6. West Kilbride: Parking Main Street/Ritchie Street**

Traders in West Kilbride have expressed concern over the lack of suitable parking places in Main Street and Ritchie Street. Strathclyde Police, while aware of the problems, continue to enforce the parking restrictions to prevent congestion. The Local Plan identified problems relating to parking and traffic movements and agreed the need for a traffic study to be undertaken. Although this proposal has been included in a Programme of Works, the study can only be undertaken when resources become available.

After discussion, the Committee agreed to advise the Director of Planning, Roads and Environment of its concern over the parking problems in West Kilbride and to request that every effort be made to address these problems at the earliest possible opportunity.

#### **7. Largs Promenade: Public Shelters**

Concern was expressed over the fact that public shelters in Largs are falling into disrepair and are being vandalised. It was suggested that a Maintenance Programme requires to be initiated if these shelters are to be preserved.

The Committee agreed that the Director of Community and Recreational Services be requested to consider the possibility of the provision of funding in the next financial year to enable a Maintenance Programme to be undertaken, and report.

#### **8. Largs Common Good: Largs Chess Club: Application for Funding**

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on an application from Largs Chess Club for funding from the Largs Common Good Fund towards the staging of the Largs Chess Congress 1997.

The Largs Chess Club had previously applied for a grant of £1500 through the Community Development Grants Scheme and had been awarded £900. The Chess Club have now formally

made application for a further grant from the Largs Common Good Fund to cover their potential financial deficit. The Largs Common Good funding for the current financial year amounts to £14,200 of which £13,650 has already been disbursed, leaving an available balance of £550.

The Committee agreed (a) to award a grant of £550; and (b) that the Group be advised to seek additional sponsorship to stage similar future events.

#### **9. Community Safety Challenge Budget 1997/98**

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on proposals for the disbursement of the Community Safety Challenge Budget to be recommended to the Corporate Strategy Committee for approval.

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.

#### **10. West Kilbride: Seamill: Street Naming**

Submitted reports by the Director of Planning, Roads and Environment on the provision of street names in respect of the undernoted developments:-

**(a) New Private Housing Development by Kielburn Construction at Ardrossan Road, Seamill, West Kilbride**

The Committee agreed that the street be named "Arranview Gardens" in accordance with the recommendation of the local member; and

**(b) New Private Housing Development by RDK Construction at Chapelton Farm, Ardrossan Road, Seamill, West Kilbride**

The Committee agreed that the street be named "Chapelton Mains" in accordance with the recommendation of the local member.

#### **11. Monitoring Reports**

**(a) North Ayrshire Council Industrial Estate Factories**

(Previous Minute Reference: North Coast and Arran Area Committee 25 August 1997.)

Submitted report by the Legal Services Manager on the letting/availability of factories on Council Industrial Estates.

The report indicated that the level of occupancy (currently 83%) and continuing demand for the Council's factory/workshop units is healthy and that the requirements of a particular niche market for certain types of businesses are apparently being met.

Noted.

**(b) Community Development Grants Scheme: Analysis of Grants Paid to 29 August**

**1997**

Submitted report by the Chief Executive detailing the grants paid to 29 August 1997 in respect of the North Coast and Arran area.

Noted.

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

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

### **(a) Whiting Bay Guides**

The Committee agreed to award the Whiting Bay Guides £200; and

### **(b) Lamlash Church of Scotland**

The Committee agreed to refuse the application on the grounds that any award from the Committee's budget would not be significant in the context of the project's overall funding requirements.

## **13. Trading Standards: Presentation**

The Principal Trading Standards Officer gave a presentation on the work of the Trading Standards section in relation to the service structure and objectives, consumer affairs and licensing.

The Committee, in welcoming the presentation, acknowledged the need to heighten public awareness of the various aspects of the services provided by the Trading Standards Section.

## **14. Date of Next Meeting**

The Chair confirmed that the next meeting of the Committee will be held on Monday 17 November 1997 in Moorburn House, Largs.

Noted.

The meeting ended at 12.05 p.m.