

Garnock Valley Area Committee  
7 October 1997

**Dalry, 7 October 1997** - At a Meeting of the Garnock Valley Area Committee of North Ayrshire Council at 10.30 a.m.

**Present**

Robert Reilly, Thomas Dickie, James Jennings, Thomas Morris and George Steven.

**In Attendance**

T Jones, Operations Manager (Commercial Services); J Houston, Divisional Manager (Housing Services); W Telford, Senior Accountant (Financial Services); A Pettigrew, Young People's Services Development Officer; J McKinlay, Area Community Development Officer (Community and Recreational Services); J Bannatyne, Administration Officer and C Graham, Assistant Administration Officer (Chief Executive).

**Also In Attendance**

Inspector J Thomson, Strathclyde Police.

**Chair**

Mr Reilly in the Chair.

**1. Minutes Confirmed**

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 6 August 1997, copies of which had previously been circulated, were confirmed.

**2. Dalry/Kilbirnie/Beith: Drop-in Facilities**

(Previous Minute Reference: Garnock Valley Area Committee 26 August 1997.)

At its previous meeting the Committee agreed that the Director of Financial Services, in consultation with appropriate Chief Officers, investigate the possibility of providing £5,000 towards the upgrading of the premises known as the Mission Hall, in Kilbirnie, for use as a Drop-in Facility.

The Director of Financial Services has indicated that this sum could not be found from the Cultural & Community Services Directorate's budget.

The Young People's Services Development Officer advised that the Council's Architectural Services Department had intimated that £5,000 would be the amount required to upgrade the Mission Hall to an acceptable standard. The Estates Section is currently in discussion with Knox Estates regarding the possibility of a short-term lease for the Drop-In Group and other further funding options are currently being considered by the Group. Additional works will be carried out to the building by the young people in co-operation with other agencies such as Geilsland School and local businesses. The Coopers and Lybrand report "Young People and Crime in Scotland" indicated that any reduction in youth crime represents considerable savings to society. The recent fall in crime within the Garnock Valley area can be attributed in the main to the facilities now being provided for young people in the area.

Following discussion, the Committee agreed to recommend to the Corporate Strategy Committee that funding in the sum of £5,000 be identified and allocated in the current financial

year to upgrade the Mission Hall, Kilbirnie.

### **3. Kilbirnie Loch Management Group**

(Previous Minute Reference: Garnock Valley Area Committee 26 August 1997.)

Submitted report by the Director of Community and Recreational Services on progress to date in controlling the blue-green algae on Kilbirnie Loch and repairs to the Boardwalk.

The Committee was advised that all installations and works have now been completed in the Loch within the budget of £600 allocated from the Kilbirnie Loch Management Group. Works in relation to the Boardwalk will resume prior to the end of the year and a report on progress will be submitted to the Committee in due course.

Noted.

### **4. Dog Fouling**

(Previous Minute Reference: Garnock Valley Area Committee 26 August 1997.)

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on a decision of the Corporate Strategy Committee to on 9 September 1997 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 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 Beith; and (b) that consultation be undertaken with the local members to determine the location of the sites.

### **5. 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.

### **6. Glengarnock: Longbar Estate: Allocation of Council Housing Stock**

(Previous Minute Reference: Garnock Valley Area Committee 24 June 1997.)

Submitted report by the Director of Housing Services advising of the situation in relation to

the allocation of vacant properties in Longbar.

On 13 May 1997 the Committee was advised of the establishment of a Regeneration Strategy for the area. That process is currently underway with consultants having been appointed to prepare a detailed options report and a cost-benefit analysis for Longbar. Thereafter a multi-agency Steering Group will be established which will include members of the local community to recommend a Long-Term Strategy And Implementation Plan.

At the present time, thirty properties are vacant in the Longbar area. Efforts will continue to be made to allocate these properties in line with the Council's Allocation Policy while promoting maximum stability within the community and preventing further deterioration of the area.

Noted.

## **7. Beith: Street Naming**

### **(a) Naming of New Private Housing Development by HT Developments off New Street, Beith**

Submitted report by the Director of Planning, Roads and Environment on the provision of a street name in respect of a new housing development off New Street, Beith.

The Committee agreed that the street be named "Kirk View" as recommended by Councillor Robert Reilly, the local member.

## **8. Monitoring Reports**

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

(Previous Minute Reference: Garnock Valley Area Committee 26 August 1997.)

Submitted report by the Legal Services Manager on the letting and availability of factory/workshop units within the Garnock Valley area.

The level of occupancy and continuing demand for the units is healthy and would appear to be meeting the requirements of a particular niche market for particular types of businesses.

Noted.

### **(b) Community Development Grants Scheme: Analysis of Grants Paid to 29 August 1997**

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on analysis of Community Development Grants paid to 29 August 1997 in respect of the Garnock Valley area.

Noted.

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

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

Prior to consideration of the applications before them, the Committee was advised that an application submitted to the Committee at its meeting on 24 June 1997 in respect of Dalry Primary School Parents Association has been withdrawn.

### **(a) Kilbirnie and Glengarnock Community Council**

The Committee agreed to award Kilbirnie and Glengarnock Community Council £400;

**(b) Garnock Choral Society**

The Committee agreed to award Garnock Choral Society £500;

**(c) St Columbian Senior Youth Club**

The Committee agreed to award St Columbian Senior Youth Club £400;

**(d) Salvation Army Mums and Tots**

The Committee agreed to award the Salvation Army Mums and Tots £455; and

**(e) Kilbirnie MAP Club**

The Committee agreed to award the Kilbirnie MAP Club £1100.

**10. Strathclyde Police: Crime Statistics**

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on crime statistics within the Garnock Valley at 31 August 1997, provided by Strathclyde Police.

Overall crime in the year to date fell by 35%, down from 751 crimes to 489. The detection rate on crime for the year is up from 30% to 34%.

Recent increases in break-ins to both commercial premises and homes in Kilbirnie have been dramatic but enquiries to trace those responsible have been successful.

The Committee noted the promotion to Sergeant and transfer of Robert Smith, Community Police Officer in Beith and otherwise noted the report.

The meeting ended at 11.15 a.m.