

**CUMNOCK AREA LOCAL COMMITTEE - 9 NOVEMBER 2006**

**QUESTIONS ARISING FROM 15 MINUTE QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION**

<b><u>MATTER RAISED</u></b>	<b><u>RESPONSE/ACTION REQUIRED</u></b>	<b><u>CURRENT POSITION</u></b>
<p>Community Representative Mr Alec Cochrane made reference to the ongoing problem of recycle and refuse collection bins being inappropriately positioned by the Collection Operatives on footways, following emptying, with consequent obstruction and difficulties arising there from, particularly for certain individuals. This was an ongoing problem which Mr Cochrane had raised previously.</p>	<p>Councillor Carmichael acknowledged the justifiable concerns expressed by Mr Cochrane on this matter and suggested that while there may be particular difficulties relating to the road layout in certain areas, the matter would again be drawn to the attention of the Council's Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services and the Head of Protective Services, with a request that they contact Mr Cochrane directly to discuss and progress a solution to the problem highlighted.</p>	<p>Memorandum issued 20 November 2006 to the Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services.</p>
<p>Substitute Community Representative Mr Matt Burns drew attention to the significant amount of dirt/mud etc on the A70 road at the Scottish Coal entrance to the Killoch Plant. This material was being discarded by lorries entering/exiting the Killoch plant and was accumulating over time on the roadway, with a consequential risk to road safety.</p>	<p>Councillor Ross undertook to arrange for this matter to be raised with the Council's Head of Roads and Transportation, and for Mr Burns to be advised of how the matter would be dealt with.</p>	<p>Head of Roads and Transportation advises he has contacted Scottish Coal who have assured him that the wheel washes are in constant use and that a road sweeper is employed for 10-12 hours each day. Officers from the Roads Section frequently use the section of road in question and have not noted any problems of the type indicated.</p>

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<p>Substitute Community Representative Mr James Hastie enquired as to whether there were any proposals to provide raised bus boarding kerbs at the bus stops along the A76 route through New Cumnock.</p>	<p>Michael Brown, Technical Officer, advised that all bus stops at non trunk routes, which are the responsibility of East Ayrshire Council, have had necessary upgrading works carried out including the provision of raised bus boarding kerbs. However, responsibility for trunk routes, including the A76, rests with the Scottish Executive, through Amey, and it is the case that certain of the bus stops on these routes within the Local Committee's area have not been upgraded.</p> <p>It was agreed that Michael Brown would arrange to contact Amey in regard to the concerns expressed by Mr Hastie and would keep him up-to-date on progress in respect of the matter.</p>	<p>Memorandum issued 20 November 2006 to the Roads and Transportation Division requesting that he contact Amey, and respond thereafter to Mr Hastie.</p>
<p>Community Representative Mr William Lees made reference to a previous matter which he had raised regarding the need for weed killing works to be carried out at various locations in New Cumnock. Mr Lees indicated that the latest round of weed killing at the areas concerned had, in his view, proved to be ineffective; and in relation to this matter generally enquired as to whether removal of weeds from footpaths in any way fell within the remit of the street cleansing operatives.</p>	<p>Councillor Carmichael confirmed the arrangements in place within the Cleansing Section for removal of litter and that there was no provision for the removal of weeds by Street Cleansing Operatives. Councillor Ross confirmed that weed killing, due to the nature of the substances used, is in some ways a specialist task and that it would not be appropriate for this to be done by the Street Cleansing Operatives; but suggested that, in general terms, it may be of some use for Community Representatives to be provided with written information on the specification for road sweeping duties.</p>	<p>The Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services has advised that the Outdoor Amenities Section has no responsibility for weed spraying in this area. However, it may be the responsibility of the Housing Service and this is currently being investigated.</p>

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	Also agreed that this matter again be drawn to the attention of the Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services and the Acting Executive Director of Development and Property Services and that a response be provided directly to Mr Lees.	
Substitute Community Representative Mr James Hastie, following on from the previous item, reported that he had been advised that the responsibility for weed killing at the footpath adjacent to his property lay with the Council's Outdoor Amenities Section, but that the necessary works had not been carried out.	Agreed that the Administrative Officer would pursue this matter, on behalf of Mr Hastie, with the Outdoor Amenities Section.	The Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services has advised that the Outdoor Amenities Section has no responsibility for weed spraying in this area. However, it may be the responsibility of the Housing Service and this is currently being investigated.
Community Representative Mr Alec Cochrane sought clarification in respect of the legality of sign posts (for example house sale signs) being erected at roadside locations, and on miscellaneous signs being attached to existing road signs, lamp posts etc.	Councillor Carmichael advised that, in general terms, small notices located on lamp posts or near to the public road require the prior approval of East Ayrshire Council Roads Section, whilst larger signs will need planning consent. Councillor Ross confirmed the information provided by Councillor Carmichael but suggested that, due to the proliferation of smaller signs, notices etc, it was difficult for East Ayrshire Council to police this matter, in view of the manpower/resource implications. It was, however, agreed that a suggestion be made that a feature on this significant matter be included in an early edition of the "Headlines" magazine with a view to informing and advising the public of the requirements in this regard.	Memorandum issued 22 November 2006 to the Head of Corporate Development and Communications requesting this matter be included in an early edition of "Headlines".

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<p>Community Representative Mr Alec Cochrane made reference to a recent announcement that the amount of funding available from European sources to local organisations would be reduced and enquired as to East Ayrshire Council's position in light of this, particularly within the local area.</p>	<p>Councillor Carmichael advised that a report on the position regarding the availability of Community Grant funding for local organisations within the Cumnock Area would be submitted to an early meeting of the Local Committee.</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>Community Representative Mrs Jean Smith made reference to the sale of fireworks over the recent period, particular in relation to a shop which had been temporarily set up in Cumnock for this purpose; and enquired as to whether such sellers require to be licensed and the period of time for which they are allowed to sell fireworks.</p>	<p>In the first instance, Councillor Carmichael advised that there was no legislation relating to when during the year fireworks could be set off.</p> <p>Sergeant Quinn advised that shops do require a licence to sell fireworks and that there were a number of shops in the Local Committee's area which were temporarily set up for this purpose, the proprietors of all of which had been made aware of the terms of their licence.</p> <p>Alex Lindsay, Strathclyde Fire and Rescue, confirmed that joint inspections of all fireworks retailers within East Ayrshire had been undertaken by Strathclyde Fire and Rescue, Strathclyde Police and Trading Standards.</p> <p>It was noted that Sergeant Quinn/Alex Lindsay would respond directly to Jean Smith in relation to the period of time for which the shops are licensed to sell fireworks.</p>	<p>Sergeant Quinn has provided a response to Mrs Smith advising that the shops in question are licensed to sell fireworks two weeks prior to and five days after 5 November.</p>

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<p>Community Representative Mrs Jean Smith enquired as to whether there were any proposals to carry out works to widen the steps leading to the public pathway at Cairnscadden Road, Netherthird, during 2007/2008.</p>	<p>Councillor Menzies advised that the need for this work had already been drawn to the attention of the Head of Roads and Transportation for inclusion in an early programme of works; and at the suggestion of Councillor Ross, it was agreed that the Administrative Officer consult with the Roads Section regarding the timescale for programming of the works referred to and advise Mrs Smith accordingly.</p>	<p>Mrs Smith has been advised that proposed works to widen the steps have been included in the draft Structural Maintenance Programme for 2007/2008 which is subject to approval by the Council.</p>
<p>Community Representative Mrs Jean Smith sought clarification as to the extent to which groups using Council premises for meetings, events etc., were covered by the Council's insurance policies relating to the buildings concerned.</p>	<p>The Assistant Administration Manager advised that the appropriateness of cover provided by the Council's insurance policies in such circumstances depended upon the nature of the event and the letting conditions attached to the venue. However, Officers of the Council were happy to provide advice to organisations where necessary in relation to particular uses of venues.</p>	<p>N/A</p>

Updated: 23 January 2007  
SN/SR