

**EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL**

**CUMNOCK AREA LOCAL COMMITTEE – 1 FEBRUARY 2007**

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

<b>No.</b>	<b>MATTER RAISED</b>	<b>REPSONSE/ACTION REQUIRED</b>	<b>CURRENT POSITION</b>
1.	Community Representative Mrs Jean Smith advised of concerns which had been expressed to her by wheelchair users and people using prams regarding the perceived obstruction of the footway adjacent to the Royal Bank of Scotland in Cumnock as the result of the erection of scaffolding at this building.	The Acting Area Roads Engineer confirmed that this matter had previously been drawn to the attention of the Roads Section and it had been found that there may have been some temporary obstruction to the footway whilst the scaffolding was being erected, but the minimum required access gap at the footway of 1.2 m was maintained during the carrying out of works.	N/A
2.	Community Representative Mrs Jean Smith enquired as to the response of East Ayrshire Council to the closure of the "One Plus" organisation.	Councillor Crawford and Councillor Ross suggested that there were few, if any, families within East Ayrshire affected by the closure of this organisation, however, Councillor Crawford undertook to clarify the position and arrange for Mrs Smith to be advised accordingly.	The Head of Community Support has responded to Mrs Smith advising that Easy Ayrshire Council does not commission any services from One Plus in relation to Early Education or Childcare. It may be, however, that there are one or two individual families who access the services of One Plus. These families may not be

			in contact with Council Services and therefore the Council would not be in a position to ascertain if the closure of One Plus presents a difficulty for them.
3.	Community Representative Mrs Jean Smith enquired as to when works at the "MUGA" in Netherthird would be finished.	Councillor Menzies advised that, with the exception of associated lighting and footpath installation, these works had been carried out and the facility was currently in use.	N/A
4.	Community Representative Mr Alec Cochrane acknowledged the positive response he had received to an issue he had raised at the last meeting regarding the Wheeled bin refuse and recycle collection services.	Noted	N/A
5.	Community Representative Mr Jim McMillan made reference to an ongoing problem regarding blockage of surface water drains within the car parking areas at the Barshare Housing Scheme in Cumnock. Mr McMillan explained that the blockage was being caused by the surface of the car park breaking up and the loose material entering the drainage system.	Agreed that the Administrative Officer would request the Head of Housing to provide a response to Mr McMillan on this matter.	The Housing Officer has spoken to Mr McMillan regarding the specific flooding problem which he highlighted and it appears that the gully on the footpath is blocked, and action will be taken to remedy the problem as soon as possible.  The Area Housing Manager advises that the apron area in front of the

			<p>lockups has been identified by the Housing Officer in her walkabout with Barshare residents' representatives in January of this year, for surface upgrade. The Area Housing Manager will be meeting with the Tenants and Residents Forum on 17 April 2007 to discuss projects highlighted by Housing Officers and Community Representatives to agree a three year plan within the estate management budget for the area. It is pointed out that the value of projects far out weighs the available financial resources and it is anticipated that the Forum will agree priorities.</p>
6.	<p>Community Representative Mr William Lees drew attention to the frequent occurrence of the burning of rubbish in a skip at the rear of the former Kingsmead factory in Cumnock.</p>	<p>Agreed that Eleanor Bell, Environmental Health Officer would arrange for this matter to be investigated and pursued appropriately, and for Mr Lees to be advised of the outcome. Councillor Menzies also advised that this matter had been drawn to attention of P.C.</p>	<p>The Team Leader – Health and Safety, has written to Mr Lees advising that this matter had already been investigated and dealt with by Officers from the Public</p>

		Ross Kelly, Strathclyde Police.	Health – Pollution Control Team following complaints from members of the public in mid January. The situation has been frequently monitored since then and there has been no reoccurrence of the problem and monitoring will continue in the meantime.
7.	Substitute Community Representative Mr James Hastie made reference to the request by NERV to take over accommodation at New Cumnock Town Hall, and enquired as to the Council's position on this matter.	Councillor Carmichael advised that the Council were currently examining the possibility of establishing a "One Stop" facility within New Cumnock to incorporate a range of services including Local Office, and that it was unlikely that the Council would be in a position to consider the disposal/lease of the building at the Town Hall to another organisation before this proposal had been achieved.	N/A
8.	Community Representative Mr Alec Cochrane made reference to the information presented as part of the Council's budget consultation process and suggested that it might be appropriate for the Council to make a greater level of provision for non payment of Council Tax, particularly in view of other pressures on limited personal incomes.	Councillor Menzies advised that the level of provision in this regard is determined based upon analysis of the historical level of Council Tax collection, in accordance with good accounting practice.	N/A
9.	Community Representative Mrs Jean	The Assistant Administration Manager	N/A

	Smith, on behalf on Cumnock and Doon Valley Access Panel, sought an assurance that the polling stations to be used for the forthcoming Scottish Parliament and Local Government Elections in May of this year, both by East Ayrshire Council and South Ayrshire Council would be fully accessible to disabled persons.	advised that the Council placed paramount importance on ensuring that polling stations are accessible to all individuals; that in cases where a new venue is to be used for a Polling Station, careful consideration is given to ensure suitability for disabled persons; and that comments in respect of South Ayrshire Council would be taken on board.	
10.	Community Representative Mrs Jean Smith enquired as to the position regarding the proposed upgrading of the CCTV system within Cumnock Town Centre.	Councillor Ross advised that it is anticipated that the necessary upgrading works would be carried out prior to the end of the current financial year.	N/A
11.	Community Representative Mrs Jean Smith drew attention to problems at the rear of Townhead Street in Cumnock associated with a large population of pigeons.	Agreed that Eleanor Bell, Environmental Health Officer would arrange for this matter to be investigated and actioned appropriately, and to clarify the terms of the current legislation covering this situation; and would arrange for Mrs Smith to be advised accordingly.	The Team Leader-Pollution Control has written to Mrs Smith clarifying the various aspects of this issue and the action which the Council has already taken.
12.	Chief Inspector Alan Lawrence made reference to the recent death of Jim Clark former Chief Inspector at Cumnock and advised of the funeral arrangements.	Members of the Committee noted with sadness the death of Jim Clark, and agreed that the Chair, on behalf of the Local Committee, send a letter of condolence to his widow.	A letter of condolence signed of by the Chair was sent to Mrs Lilly Clark on 8 February 2007.

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