

**EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL**

**KILMARNOCK CENTRAL LOCAL COMMITTEE - 10 MAY 2005**

**QUESTIONS ARISING FROM THE FIFTEEN MINUTE QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION**

**Report by the Depute Chief Executive/Executive Director of Corporate Support**

<b><u>MATTERS RAISED</u></b>	<b><u>RESPONSE/ACTION TO BE TAKEN</u></b>	<b><u>CURRENT POSITION</u></b>
<p>Community Representative John Donaldson complained about litter behind BHS which was not being uplifted. Mr Donaldson was concerned about the bad impression this was giving to visitors. There was a similar problem in St Andrew's Street.</p>	<p>Agreed to refer to the Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services.</p>	<p>The Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services has advised that the car park, situated at the rear of BHS, falls within the remit of the Roads and Transportation Section of the Department of Development and Property Services. Colleagues in Roads arranged for the car park to be swept the day after the Local Committee met. The litter apparently comes from large bins located in private ground. The Executive Director has therefore requested his Environmental Health Service to investigate and take appropriate action.</p>
<p>Mr Donaldson was also concerned about the lack of alternative facilities for use by the public during the Burns Mall toilets closure for refurbishment.</p>	<p>Agreed to refer to the Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services.</p>	<p>Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services has advised that the feasibility of providing alternative facilities was investigated, but that the costs were prohibitive and there is no practical alternative open to the Department at the present time.</p>

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<p>Mr Donaldson also raised the issue of recent works at the flower beds at Tesco. Mr Donaldson queried whether Tesco were required to clear up rubble left behind following these works.</p>	<p>Agreed to refer to the Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services.</p>	<p>Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services has advised that the Council's Roads and Transportation Section of the Department of Development and Property Services recently completed the work at this location and all rubble has been cleared.</p>
<p>Community Representative Charles Calman referred to the recent review of sports facilities/golf courses and bowling greens and requested details of the review and any proposed reductions in service/closure of facilities. Mr Calman was particularly concerned about the planned withdrawal of the Greenkeeper at Howard Park Bowling Green and lack of notification about this. Mr Calman requested that the Committee be informed of the outcome of any future reviews of sports facilities, as this affected the whole community.</p>	<p>Agreed to refer to the Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services.</p>	<p>The Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services forwarded to Mr Calman copies of the reports relating to these issues recently considered by the Community Services Committee, which summarised the findings of the reviews of golf and bowling facilities. There are no further reviews of sports facilities underway at present.</p>
<p>Mr Calman also requested an update on repairs at the Burns Monument.</p>	<p>Agreed to refer to the Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services.</p>	<p>Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services forwarded to Mr Calman a report which was considered and agreed by the Community Services Committee on 29 March which highlighted the way forward.</p>

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<p>Community Representative Tom Cook requested clarification regarding provision for litter picking at the grassed area at Grange Academy and whether the cost of the problem could be highlighted to pupils through Environmental Education. Mr Cook also encouraged the Council and Strathclyde Police to use any powers available to fine those dropping litter whilst acknowledging that this tended not to happen when Police Officers were in attendance.</p>	<p>Refer to the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services.</p>	<p>Head of Resource Support has responded to Mr Cook that this issue regrettably has been ongoing for some time and he has spoken on several occasions to the Head Teacher about reminding pupils about their responsibilities in maintaining a positive environment in school grounds and the surrounding areas. The Head Teacher has spoken to pupils at Assembly regarding this and continues to take positive action. The Head Teacher has also been asked to consider whether the issue of litter problems could be highlighted to pupils as part of the PSE curriculum.</p>

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<p>Community Representative John Donaldson requested information on the new traffic system in Kilmarnock.</p>	<p>Agreed to refer to the Head of Roads and Transportation.</p>	<p>The Principal Engineer (Traffic) has advised that the new traffic system is a centrally controlled computer system for operating the traffic signals in Kilmarnock. It is known as Scoot, and widely used in other towns and cities to achieve more efficient traffic movements, reducing delays for buses and for pedestrians crossing the road. The system constantly monitors the traffic flows through a series of detectors which are cut into the road surface or mounted on the traffic signal poles. Then automatically the traffic signal timings continue throughout the day, to reduce traffic queues and delays. Optimising the signal timings also minimises the time pedestrians have to wait before crossing the road at signal controlled crossings. Further loops are cut into the road surface to detect the movement of buses and the system automatically adjusts the signal timings to ease the flow of buses and provide more reliable bus journey times in the busy peak periods.</p>

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		<p>The Scoot system has been installed, however, the computer is not yet operational. The Council's Transportation Consultant for the project is currently carrying out validation checks to ensure that the detectors are working correctly and the traffic flows are being correctly recorded. This work should be completed soon. Thereafter, the Consultant will carry out any fine tuning of the system required and if there are no unforeseen difficulties, the system should be switched on in approximately four weeks time.</p>
<p>Community Representative Tom Cook asked about responsibility for the fence at Dundonald Road. He was concerned that cones were being thrown over the fence.</p>	<p>Agreed that the Administration Manager would seek to clarify responsibility for the fence.</p>	<p>Established that the Estate was taken over by Redrow when Tay Homes went into liquidation. However Redrow have advised that they have nothing in their records about the fence. Further enquiries are underway. Meantime, if youths continue to throw cones over the fence, Police may be able to assist.</p>

26 April 2005  
GH/SR