

KILMARNOCK CENTRAL LOCAL COMMITTEE - 30 AUGUST 2005

QUESTIONS ARISING FROM 15 MINUTE QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION

<u>Matters Raised</u>	<u>Response/Action to be Taken</u>	<u>Current Position</u>
<p>Community Representative John McIvor asked for an update on progress with the one way traffic system at Dick Road and Loanhead Street.</p>	<p>Agreed to request progress report from the Head of Roads and Transportation.</p>	<p>Principal Engineer, Traffic has advised that draft proposals for traffic management measures, including one way traffic and waiting restrictions, have been prepared for a number of streets in the vicinity of the three schools. The aim is to improve access to the area and prohibit parking at junctions and at other locations which can lead to congestion, particularly at the start and end of the school.</p> <p>Indiscriminate parking causes extensive queuing and delays for all traffic entering and leaving the area and is a significant problem for school buses, particularly when negotiating Rennie Street to gain access to Elmbank Drive.</p> <p>The Traffic Section has recently been concentrating on the promotion of a traffic regulation order for waiting restrictions to address the parking problems. The formal consultation stage of the statutory procedure is now completed and no adverse comments have been received. The Headteachers of the three schools support the proposals. It is intended to advertise the order at the end of April and the public will have an opportunity to comment on the proposals, or lodge an objection, at that time.</p> <p>The proposals for one way traffic on Loanhead Street, part of Dick Road, Rennie Street and Elmbank Drive will require the promotion of a separate traffic order. The statutory consultation process for the order will commence shortly. Initial comments from the Community Council and Headteachers, on the principle of introducing one way working, have been supportive.</p>

<u>Matters Raised</u>	<u>Response/Action to be Taken</u>	<u>Current Position</u>
<p>Named Substitute Jean Churchhill expressed concern about proposals to introduce changes to the Meals on Wheels service during July 2005, whereby service users would receive a weekly delivery of frozen meals for microwaving. This could involve those relying on the service, many of whom are compromised, being required to remember to defrost, operate a microwave and transfer hot foods to a plate. Whilst acknowledging that for some the changes could be viewed as an improvement in terms of convenience, there was scope for burns from hot food, particularly for those with restricted mobility.</p> <p>In addition, the meals on wheels service, for some, was the only social contact received and provided a means of raising the alarm in an emergency.</p> <p>Community Representative Maurice Ashbridge was concerned that the Elderly Forum had not been informed about the proposals and wished to receive information, as did Community Representative Linda Thomson, on behalf of the Forum on Disability.</p>	<p>Agreed to refer to the Executive Head of Social Work for details and background to the proposals.</p>	<p>Response awaited.</p>
<p>Community Representative Charles Calman referred to a response received in respect of his previous enquiry, which appended a report, agreed by the Community Services Committee, which highlighted the way forward for the Burns Monument.</p> <p>Mr Calman invited Officers to provide an explanation of the three options contained in the report.</p> <p>Having noted that no final decision had been made in respect of the options and the next stage was public consultation, and that financial constraint was an issue, Community Representative Peter Heywood was keen for meaningful dialogue, and not just presentation of options.</p>	<p>Agreed to refer to the Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services for comment.</p>	<p>Director of Neighbourhood Services has advised that the outcome of the public consultation will be reported to the next meeting of the Community Services Committee on 14 September 2005.</p>

<u>Matters Raised</u>	<u>Response/Action to be Taken</u>	<u>Current Position</u>
<p>Community Representative Tom Cook requested details of the opening hours for Annanhill Walled Garden.</p>	<p>Agreed to refer to the Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services.</p>	<p>The Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services has advised that the Walled Garden at Annanhill is open all year round.</p>
<p>Community Representative Peter Heywood enquired about opportunities for social enterprise in Kilmarnock Town Centre. He gave as examples recent development of West High Church as a centre for charities, fair trade status and farmer's market, all of which enabled locals to contribute to the economy and provide an alternative to what was available in other town centres.</p> <p>Mr Heywood also commented that passing through the Town Centre during the evenings and at weekends felt unsafe, which was attributed to lack of social activity.</p> <p>Information on the number of Town Centre shop closures was also requested, together with details of any existing Town Centre Strategy.</p> <p>Further, a report to the Local Committee on the Council's commitment to developing the Town Centre and proposals to secure long term survival was outstanding.</p>	<p>Agreed to refer to the Head of Economic Development for comment.</p>	<p>Report attached - under Agenda Item 12: Kilmarnock Town Centre Regeneration.</p>

<u>Matters Raised</u>	<u>Response/Action to be Taken</u>	<u>Current Position</u>
<p>Community Representative John Donaldson asked how the new Town Centre parking system was being received. There had been some bad press, but most comments seemed positive.</p>	<p>Community Police Sergeant McInnes responded that Roads and Police were happy with the arrangements which would be subject to review in a couple of months. The traffic wardens were being kept busy and the system was proving effective. There had been some initial problems with the parking meters, which were solar driven, however this had been rectified. Parking provision was improved.</p> <p>Community Representative John Donaldson advised that there had been a mixed reception from the business community, with traders of the opinion that rather than booking, wardens could have assisted in getting people used to the new system during the introductory period.</p> <p>Sergeant McInnes advised that there had been a general lead-in to the introduction with use of the multi-storey car park encouraged.</p>	
<p>Community Representative Tom Cook asked whether any thought had been given to extending use of the multi-storey car park to more floors.</p>	<p>Agreed to refer to the Head of Roads and Transportation for comment.</p>	<p>Principal Engineer, Traffic has advised that the Traffic Section has just finished upgrading the parapet around the lower roof deck, which will enable provision of approx 45 additional parking spaces at 50p per day. The extra parking spaces will be opened to the public as soon as a parking meter has been installed and additional signage provided to guide drivers. It is anticipated that this work will take 2-3 weeks (from report date).</p>
<p>Community Representative John McIvor wishes to highlight abuse of the disabled car parking provision at Grange Academy.</p>	<p>Sergeant McInnes undertook to liaise with the school's Depute Head on this issue.</p>	