

EAST AYRSHRE COUNCIL

COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE – 10TH APRIL 2002

PILOT PARK WARDEN SCHEME

Report by Director of Community Services

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To advise the Committee of the introduction of a pilot Park Warden Scheme in Kilmarnock's larger town parks.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 As part of the budget process, additional service development funding has been made available for expenditure on the environment and it is suggested that £25,000 be made available to support the introduction of a full time Park Warden to work in Kay Park, Howard Park, Dean Park, Annanhill Park and the Bellfield Estate all in Kilmarnock as part of a pilot project to improve community safety and maintenance in these parks. If successful, the initiative could be extended in the next financial year subject to resources being available.

3. CONSIDERATION

- 3.1 The above parks have been selected because of their high levels of use and instances of anti-social behaviour i.e. vandalism, litter, dog fouling and drug and alcohol misuse. The parks in the pilot area are all relatively close together, a factor that will minimise travel time and maximise time spent in the parks.
- 3.2 The aim of the scheme is to provide a visible presence in the parks to act as a deterrent to anti-social behaviour, provide a point of contact for people using the parks and assist with cleansing and maintenance duties.
- 3.3 The funds available will allow the employment of one full-time Park Warden with appropriate equipment and transport. It is expected that the hours of work will cover some evenings and weekends.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The additional service development funding of £25,000 will be fully utilized in supporting the employment of a Park Warden.

5. LEGAL AUTHORITY/IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Nil.

6. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

6.1 The pilot Park Warden Scheme supports the Council's commitment to improve community safety and the quality of the local environment.

7. CONCLUSIONS

7.1 The introduction of a pilot Park Warden Scheme in Kilmarnock's major parks should be a positive step in reducing vandalism and improving people's enjoyment of these amenities.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1 It is recommended that the Committee:-

- (i) notes the introduction of the pilot Park Warden Scheme;
- (ii) remits to the Director of Community Services to report back on the effectiveness of the scheme; and
- (iii) otherwise notes the contents of this report.

William Stafford
Director of Community Services

WS/JAG/JS

22nd March 2002

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

Nil

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AGENDA