

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

KILMARNOCK NORTH LOCAL COMMITTEE: 29 MAY 2001

NORTH WEST KILMARNOCK ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENTS GROUP

Report by Director of Development Services

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To inform the Committee of the recent, current and future activities in which the North West Kilmarnock Environmental Improvements Group have been involved, and to invite the Committee to nominate a Community Representative and Substitute to serve on the Group.

2. BACKGROUND

2.1 The North West Kilmarnock Environmental Improvements Group is a constituted community group which was established to act as a focus to achieve the objectives of an environmental improvement action plan for the North West of Kilmarnock including Altonhill, Knockinlaw and Onthank for the benefit of the inhabitants of the area, (see the attached map showing the boundary of the area which the Group covers).

3. RECENT PROJECTS

3.1 On Sunday, 25 March, Mothers Day, around 80 people took part in a tree planting project under the guidance of the Council's Parks Ranger Service. In addition to the group members, youngsters from the local primary schools of Onthank, Mount Carmel and Hillhead and their parents and the local youth project were also in attendance. The trees, 50 in number, were donated through the '2000 for 2000' project run by the Millenium Trust and Scottish Natural Heritage whose objective is to work with the local community to improve the local environment.

3.2 Unfortunately, some of the trees have recently been vandalised and the Group are currently considering replacement planting.

4. CURRENT PROJECTS

4.1 The Environmental Strategy which was produced by consultants on behalf of the Group, highlighted that play areas within the North West area of Kilmarnock are damaged and generally underused. The group is currently attempting to secure funding for improving the play area in Wardneuk Drive which is located adjacent to one of the key routes into Kilmarnock.

4.2 The project has been subject of initial discussions with the Community Services Department and involves the relocation of existing equipment and key issues to be addressed include spatial definition using planting; ground modelling and fencing; separation of uses; increased safety with fencing, resurfacing and planting; and the provision of seating. The improvements will not only create an improved facility that will be utilised more than at present, but will provide a more visually stimulating area. The approximate costs are £38,000.

4.3 The Group has submitted a grant application to SCORE Environmental Ltd and a decision on financial assistance is expected imminently. The Group itself will contribute towards the project and additional funding will also be sought from other agencies to complete the project. Once the funding is in place further discussion with the Community Services Department regarding the details of the scheme will be held prior to progressing the project.

5. FUTURE ACTIVITIES

5.1 Projects which the group intends to pursue in the future are:-

- The erection of landmark features and planting
- Gateway and entrance planting
- Boundary improvements
- Improvements to edges and surfaces
- Further avenue planting along main routes
- A kick about area

5.2 The Group meets every 4-6 weeks at the Social Work Offices in Cambeltown Drive and welcomes anyone who lives in the North West of Kilmarnock and who is interested in improving the area to attend the Group meetings. The next meeting is at 7.00pm on 4 June 2001.

6. COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES

6.1 The Group is trying to encourage integration of the Altonhill, Knockinlaw and Onthank Communities and has requested that the Committee be invited to nominate a Community Representative and Substitute to assist as members of the Group.

7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

7.1 There are no legal implications arising from this report.

8. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

8.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

9. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

9.1 There are no personnel implications arising from this report.

10. RECOMMENDATIONS

10.1 It is recommended that the Committee:

- (i) note the contents of this report and endorse the proposed future activities of the North West Kilmarnock Environmental Improvement Group; and
- (ii) nominate a Community Representative and substitute to serve on the Northwest Kilmarnock Environmental Improvement Group.

Stephen Chorley
Director of Development Services

17 May 2001

(SMcA/MS)

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

1. Tennant Garmory Partnership – North West Kilmarnock Environmental Improvement Strategy 1998.
2. Development Services Committee – 3 June 1997 – Environmental Improvements Projects.
3. Development Services Committee – 11 March 1998 – North West Kilmarnock Environmental Improvement Project.
4. Kilmarnock North Local Committee – 25 May 1999 – Progress Report on Longpark Strategy and North West Kilmarnock Environmental Project Group.
5. Development Services Committee - 31 August 1999 – North West Kilmarnock Environmental Improvements Group.

For further information on the contents of this report, please contact Stuart McAdam on 01563 576757.

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AGENDA