

**EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL
KILMARNOCK NORTH LOCAL COMMITTEE : 4 FEBRUARY 2004
NORTH WEST KILMARNOCK ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENTS
GROUP**

Report by Director of Development Services

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1** The purpose of this report is to update Committee of the work done by the North West Kilmarnock Environmental Improvements Group (NWKEIG).

2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1** The NWKEIG is a constituted community based group whose objective is to make a positive improvement to the environment in North West Kilmarnock in the area to the West of Western Road and to the South of Hareshaw Drive.

3 FOCUS OF GROUP

- 3.1** A comprehensive Environmental Strategy for the North West Kilmarnock area was produced by consultants and subsequently approved by the group in November 1998. The implementation of this was dependant upon significant additional funding being secured. Various applications have been made in the intervening period with limited success.
- 3.2** The group has therefore concentrated its efforts on implementing smaller scale projects rather than a comprehensive Environmental Strategy. The NWKEIG has in the past been involved in the implementation of various projects, including:
- A tree planting project involving local schoolchildren which involved the planting of 50 trees at Wardneuk Drive, Craufurdland Road and Glasgow Road; and
 - Installation of benches at Kilmaurs Road.
- 3.3** Since the Better Neighbourhood Services Fund (BNSF) was set up in 2002, the group have worked with Council officers and have been involved in the identification of various environmental improvement projects, such as improvements to lighting, pathways and the removal of graffiti which have been implemented by the BNSF in the North West Kilmarnock Area.
- 3.4** A recently completed major project funded by the BNSF, the Multi Sports Arena at Meiklewood Road, was implemented with the

assistance of the group and completed in October 2003. The group helped to determine the location of the arena, and also made financial contributions towards seating at the arena, and the provision of a path to improve access at the rear of the facility. The arena is considered by the group and the local community to be a considerable success.

- 3.5** The group continues to work with officers of the council, mainly from education & social services, housing, planning and leisure who attend group meetings. Additional sources of match funding for the group have been identified and the group will be encouraged to make funding applications to allow further environmental improvements works.
- 3.6** The group are currently investigating the possibility of installing gateway or entrance signage at strategic locations such as Western Road/Tourhill Road. The possibility of implementing further planting or landscaping projects, either with match funding or existing monies, will also be investigated.
- 3.7** The groups accounts are formally audited on an annual basis. This was done by the Council's Finance Department for the financial year 2002/03. A treasurers report from November 10th 2003 noted that the groups account held £23,422, although this did not include the groups expenditure on benches for the multi purpose arena or the future expenditure on a path at the same facility.

4 FINANCIAL AND LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1** None

5 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 5.1 It is recommended that the Committee:**
- 1) Note the contents of the report and the work done by the North West Kilmarnock Environmental Improvements Group and support the implementation of new projects by the group.**

**Stephen Chorley
Director of Development Services
18 December 2003**

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