

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE - 28 NOVEMBER 2002

ANNUAL COMMUNITY COUNCILS CONSULTATIVE MEETING

Report by the Depute Chief Executive/Director of Corporate Resources

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to advise of the outcome of the annual consultative meeting between East Ayrshire Council and East Ayrshire Community Councils held on the evening of 23 October 2002 in the Council Headquarters, London Road, Kilmarnock.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Consultative meetings between East Ayrshire Council and East Ayrshire Community Councils were originally held on a bi-annual basis.
- 2.2 For a number of reasons, the frequency of meetings between the Council and Community Councils is now on an annual basis.

3. ROLE OF CONSULTATIVE MEETING

- 3.1 The consultative meetings are designed to provide a vehicle for communication between the Council and Community Councils in accordance with the principles of the code of practice for Community Councils.
- 3.2 Departments of the Council and Community Councils are requested to submit issues for possible inclusion within the Agenda, which is now divided into categories headed:-
- Community Council Items
 - Council items
 - Joint Community Council/Council Items, (where appropriate)

4. ANNUAL CONSULTATIVE MEETING: 23 OCTOBER 2002

- 4.1 The Consultative Meeting (Appendix I) was held on Wednesday 23 October 2002 in the Council Headquarters, London Road, Kilmarnock, when 35 Community Council members representing 19 Community Councils were in attendance.
- 4.2 The Leader and senior Officers of the Council and Community Councillors met to discuss a number of relevant issues as described in the enclosed note of the meeting.

4.3 Each of the presentations was followed by a question and answer session which promoted a frank and informative exchange of views.

5. FINANCIAL/LEGAL/POLICY IMPLICATIONS - Nil

6. CONCLUSION

6.1 The Annual Consultative Meeting was considered to be very successful, building upon the diversity of subjects discussed at previous meetings and addressed the key issues which had been submitted by Community Councils.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

7.1 It is recommended:-

- (i) to note the outcome of the Annual Consultative Meeting (Appendix I) between East Ayrshire Council and East Ayrshire Community Councils held on 23 October 2002; and
- (ii) to note that the issues raised at the meeting, by Community Council Representatives are either being progressed or have been dealt with.

Fiona Lees
Depute Chief Executive/
Director of Corporate Resources

1 November 2002

AMC/JW

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 1.** East Ayrshire Council Community Council Scheme
- 2.** Responses to Community Council Representatives.

Any person wishing to inspect the background papers relative to this report should contact Anne Marie Carr, Administrative Officer, on (01563) 576134. Any person wishing further information on this report should contact Bill Walkinshaw, Administration Manager, on (01563) 576135.

Implementation Officer: Anne Marie Carr, Administrative Officer

APPENDIX I**EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL****CONSULTATIVE MEETING WITH COMMUNITY COUNCILS****NOTE OF MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 23 OCTOBER 2002 AT 1900 HOURS IN THE MEETING ROOM, COUNCIL HEADQUARTERS, LONDON ROAD, KILMARNOCK**

PRESENT: Councillor Drew McIntyre, Leader of the Council; and 35 Community Councillors representing 19 Community Councils (Appendix A); Councillors Stephanie Young, Daniel Coffey, John Weir, Isabella Macrae, Alex Walsh, William Menzies and Provost Jimmy Boyd.

ATTENDING: David Montgomery, Chief Executive; Bill Stafford, Director of Community Services; Stephen Chorley, Director of Development Services; Alan Neish, Head of Planning and Building Control; Jim Kane, Head of Roads and Transportation; Bill Walkinshaw, Administration Manager; Anne Marie Carr, Administrative Officer; and Lynn Chapman, Trainee Administrative Officer.

PROGRAMME FOR MEETING

- 1.1 The programme for the Consultative Meeting consisted of an introduction and welcome by Councillor Drew McIntyre, Leader of the Council. The Chair's introduction was followed by presentations from Alan Neish, Head of Planning and Building Control and Jim Kane, Head of Roads and Transportation on Planning Procedures and Arrangements for Liaison on Traffic Management and Road Safety Issues. Bill Walkinshaw, Administration Manager, then gave a presentation on Community Council Issues including East Ayrshire Council's Consultation Process with Communities on Matters of Local Interest; Communication Links between Community Councils and the Council; and Profile of Community Councils - How to encourage more interest in Community Councils.
- 1.2 Each of the presentations were followed by a question and answer session and the meeting concluded with an open discussion/question and answer session.

PRESENTATIONS - FEEDBACK/QUESTION TIME**2.1 PLANNING PROCEDURES AND ARRANGEMENTS FOR LIAISON ON TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT AND ROAD SAFETY ISSUES****2.1.1 Issues and Questions Raised by Community Council Representatives in the Session Included:**

- The possibility of using an e-mail contact for each Community Council to speed up communication particularly where consultation periods were relatively short such as those for planning applications; and
- The possibility of Community Councils receiving information on the sale of publicly owned land prior to consultation.

2.2 COMMUNITY COUNCIL ITEMS

2.2.1 Issues and Questions Raised by Community Council Representatives in the Session Included:

- The communication links between Officers of the Council and Community Councils and the assistance provided by the Council is very helpful;
- How, in addition to Local Members, Community Councils could be kept informed of local issues where appropriate for example through the simultaneous circulation of relevant press releases to Community Council contacts;
- The level of funding received by Community Councils for allowances and expenses;
- The problems encountered in encouraging individuals to become Community Councillors; and
- The possibility of all Community Councils receiving copies of all seven Local Committee Grapevines to facilitate the sharing of ideas for possible development elsewhere.

2.3 OPEN DISCUSSION/QUESTIONS AND ANSWER SESSION

2.3.1 Issues and Questions Raised by Community Council Representatives in the Session Included:

- Clarification of the frequency of the Community Council Consultative Meeting, which it was confirmed would be held once a year in future;
- Implications for the Council arising from the implementation of the Disability Discrimination Act, particularly in respect of access to premises in Stewarton and lack of facilities for the disabled locally; and
- Road Sweeping Cycles in Mauchline.

CLOSING COMMENTS

3. Councillor McIntyre thanked those who had attended for their contribution to the meeting.

ANALYSIS OF ATTENDANCE AT CONSULTATIVE MEETINGS

4.

<u>DATE OF MEETING</u>	<u>NO OF COMMUNITY COUNCILLORS IN ATTENDANCE</u>	<u>NO OF COMMUNITY COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES</u>
June 1997	34	19
February 1998	34	20
November 1998	30	20
30 November 1999	35	16
21 August 2000	35	19
23 October 2002	35	19

APPENDIX A**CONSULTATIVE MEETING: 23 OCTOBER 2002****ATTENDEES**

<u>NAME OF COMMUNITY COUNCIL</u>	<u>ATTENDEES</u>
Auchinleck	John Smillie Rhoda Clelland
Bellfield	Jean Collins June Shields
Catrine	Linda Warmington Peter Smith Jim Kleboe
Crosshouse	Sadie McHarg Dorothy Murray
Cumnock	William Salmond Jack Campbell Margaret Campbell
Cumnock Landward	Bill Marshall
Dunlop and Lugton	Davina Batey
Galston	May Anderson Margo Dykes
Gatehead	John McIvor
Grange/Howard	Maurice Ashbridge Margaret Cook
Kilmaurs	James Corson
Mauchline	Douglas Hall I Hall
Moscow & Waterside	Arthur Francis
Muirkirk	Ian Smith

<u>NAME OF COMMUNITY COUNCIL</u>	<u>ATTENDEES</u>
New Cumnock	Mr Alex Jess Mr James Hastie Mr William Lees
Ochiltree	Jim Brown Iain Clark
Piersland-Bentinck	Linda Thomson Ian McVey
Sorn	Derek Philps Jim Sutherland
Stewarton and District	Iain Finlayson Graham Piggott

35 in total