

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL LIAISON MEETING WITH THE ELDERLY FORUM STEERING GROUP

**MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 11 OCTOBER 2000 AT 1400
HOURS IN THE MEETING ROOM, COUNCIL HEADQUARTERS, LONDON ROAD,
KILMARNOCK**

PRESENT: Councillors David Macrae and Eric Ross.

ATTENDING: Gwen Barker, Manager Social Inclusion; Martin Clark, Service Manager (Educational and Social Services); Campbell Johnston, Design Manager and George Malone, Principal Engineer, Homes and Technical Services; Steven Sheach, Service Officer (Planning) Educational and Social Services; Janice Harrison, Community Support Worker (Educational and Social Services) and Robert Beaton, Administrative Officer; Winnie Campbell and Agnes Gallacher, South Kilmarnock Elderly Forum; William Shaw, Oswald Swindlehurst, William Cooke and George Gillen, Muirkirk Elderly Forum; Rena Brown and Norah McCabe, North Kilmarnock Elderly Forum; Catherine Brown, Irvine Valley Elderly Forum; Jessie Graham, East Ayrshire Elderly Forum.

ALSO ATTENDING: Chris Carberry, Public Transport Officer, Strathclyde Passenger Transport Authority.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

1. The Minutes of the previous meeting of 29 March 2000 (circulated) were submitted and approved.

MATTERS ARISING

- 2.1 **Outing For Elderly Forum Representatives** – Noted that the Community Support Worker would make inquiries with the Head of Leisure Services on the possibility of an educational trip being organised to the Dean Castle Country Park or the Baird Institute during 2001.
- 2.2 **Better Government for Older People** – The Service Manager advised that an invitation had been received from the Lord Provost of Glasgow inviting five representatives of the Elderly Forum to attend a meeting in Glasgow on 31 October 2000. The meeting would explore mutual links and it was noted that the Community Support Worker would co-ordinate the invitation between the elderly representatives.
- 2.3 **Cumnock Community Hospital** – Noted that contact had been made with Cumnock Community Hospital and a date for a visit to the hospital would be arranged in due course.

CONCESSIONARY TRAVEL SCHEME/DIAL-A-BUS

2. Councillor Ross, Chair, Strathclyde Passenger Transport Authority (SPTA), advised that implementation details were awaited from the Scottish Executive Minister for Transport, Sarah Boyack, in connection with the Scottish Executive's recent announcement of free off-peak bus travel within the local area.

In respect of the Dial-A-Bus provision for the former Kilmarnock and Loudoun area, Councillor Ross explained the Foregate Square, Kilmarnock, could not

accommodate the turning circle of the new vehicle provided by HAD Coach Services. As a result, the drop-off and pick-up points for the service would now be provided at "Dino's Café", Bank Street, Kilmarnock. It was noted that there was no toilet/shelter provision in this area and Councillor Ross indicated that arrangements would be made for the Dial-A-Bus to arrive 5-10 minutes before departure time and provide shelter to passengers from the weather.

Councillor Ross indicated that the Dial-A-Bus service between Muirkirk and Glenspin had been discontinued on economic grounds.

With regard to the "Hub and Spoke" scheme, Councillor Ross advised that a meeting of the Concessionary Affairs Committee of the SPTA would be arranged in due course and the Elderly Forum would be kept advised of progress.

It was noted that there was an average 8-week timescale for processing applications for the Dial-A-Bus service and a 3-week turn-around was possible in certain cases. Representatives of the Elderly Forum were asked to contact Chris Carberry, Public Transport Officer, SPTA in the first instance.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND HOUSING IMPROVEMENT INITIATIVES

4. The Design Services Manager, Homes and Technical Services, advised that smoke detectors had been fitted in every Council house in East Ayrshire. Currently, 30% of these had been replaced with a "hard wired" type and there was a rolling programme to replace the remaining battery-operated devices.

It was noted that the Council had been phasing out the use of gas fires with the implementation of its Warm Homes Programme which provided central heating boilers with balanced flues directed to the outside air and sealed from the room. It was confirmed this initiative combined with annual checks by approved maintenance personnel and the combustion of a controlled quality fuel would make the presence of carbon monoxide most unlikely and the sealed flue further safeguarded against the effects of such unlikely occurrence. It was noted that these measures were of a preventive nature and that this had eliminated the need for wide scale use of carbon monoxide detectors, although they had been fitted in recent solid fuel installations where there was a slight risk of carbon monoxide production if poor fuel and poor cleaning of flues was ongoing.

In relation to the Scottish Executive's recent announcement which provided funding assistance for central heating, it was noted that in most respects the Council's Warm Homes Initiative had already delivered most of the benefits of the Scottish Executive's proposals.

It was noted that details of Energy Efficiency Schemes were available and Elderly Forum Representatives were invited to contact the Principal Engineer at the end of the meeting. It was further noted that a pilot scheme was under way to upgrade single pane windows to double-glazing with a view to extending this to other areas in due course and to suitable window types.

DRAFT COMMUNITY CARE PLAN 2001-2004

5. There was submitted and noted (circulated) a report dated 4 October 2000 by the Director of Educational and Social Services which advised of the processes involved in the development of East Ayrshire Joint Community Care Plan 2001-2004.

ELDERLY FORUM CONFERENCE 3 OCTOBER 2000

6. The Community Support Worker advised that 60 representatives had attended the Elderly Forum Conference on 3 October 2000 within the Grand Hall, Kilmarnock. The Workshops had been very successful and numerous issues had been raised which would be followed up by Officers.

It was agreed to note that the Conference had been a success and had stimulated interest in the Elderly Forums in East Ayrshire.

REQUEST FOR PRESENTATIONS AT FUTURE MEETINGS

7. The Chair requested Elderly Forum Representatives to suggest topics, which could be taken as a presentation at future meetings.

It was agreed to request that the Council's new arrangements for securing Social Inclusion Initiatives be taken as a presentation at a future meeting.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

8. It was agreed to note that the next meeting would be arranged during Spring 2001.

The meeting terminated at 1600 hours.

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