

## **EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL**

### **EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL LIAISON MEETING WITH THE ELDERLY FORUMS**

#### **MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 6 JUNE 2001 AT 1400 HOURS IN THE MEETING ROOM, COUNCIL HEADQUARTERS, LONDON ROAD, KILMARNOCK**

**PRESENT:** Councillor David Macrae

**ATTENDING:** Gwen Barker, Manager Social Inclusion; Martin Clark, Service Unit Manager (Educational and Social Services); George Malone, Principal Engineer (Homes and Technical Services); Nicola Thom, Assistant Area Housing Manager; Janice Harrison, Community Worker (Educational and Social Services); and Robert Beaton, Administrative Officer; and Elderly Forum Representatives: Norah McCabe, Rena Brown and Jessie Duffy, North Kilmarnock Elderly Forum; Oswald Swindlehurst and William Shaw, Muirkirk Elderly Forum; George Gillen, Cumnock Elderly Forum; Jessie Graham, East Ayrshire Elderly Forum; Catherine Brown, Irvine Valley Elderly Forum; Winnie Campbell and Allan Faulds, Kilmarnock South Elderly Forum.

**CHAIR:** Councillor David Macrae (Chair).

#### **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

1. The minutes of previous meeting of 11 October 2000 (circulated) were submitted and approved.

#### **MATTERS ARISING**

- 2.1 **CONCESSIONARY TRAVEL** - Representatives of the Muirkirk Elderly Forum raised the issue that the cost of bus travel between Muirkirk and Ayr was more expensive than what they understood to be charged under the concessionary travel scheme.

It was agreed that the issue be taken up with Strathclyde Passenger Transport Authority and that the matter be considered at a future meeting.

#### **EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL'S ARRANGEMENTS FOR SECURING SOCIAL INCLUSION INITIATIVES**

3. The Manager Social Inclusion gave a presentation that two Boards had been established: East Ayrshire Coalfield Social Inclusion Partnership Board and East Ayrshire North Social Inclusion Initiative Board. The Manager then gave some examples of current Social Inclusion initiatives and requested that Representatives consider identifying issues which Social Inclusion could further develop into new approaches to assisting older people.

Elderly Forum representatives requested further information on funding possibilities of a development worker and it was noted that the Manager Social Inclusion would forward a funding package to the Elderly Forums and provide further assistance as required.

## **EAST AYRSHIRE HOUSING ALLOCATION POLICY AND SHELTERED HOUSING**

4. The Assistant Area Housing Manager gave a presentation on the Council's Housing Allocations Policy, outlined the allocation procedure, indicated the demand for Sheltered Housing and the availability of sheltered units.

Thereafter, the Service Unit Manager gave further details of the assessment process in relation to Sheltered Housing Units.

It was agreed to note the presentation and Elderly Forum Representatives were invited to contact the Assistant Area Housing Manager (Allocations) if they required any further information.

### **SAFETY OF GAS APPLIANCES AND CARBON MONOXIDE TESTERS**

5. It was noted that this item had been raised at the last meeting and Elderly Forum representatives requested further clarification about the safety of gas appliances, and to request installation of carbon monoxide testers in older people's homes.

The Principal Engineer confirmed that the Council's approach has been to eliminate the need for smoke detectors by ensuring that room sealed central heating boilers are installed in Council housing stock. In addition, that all gas appliances installed fully comply with current gas safety legislation. Annual inspections are arranged and service work programmed on an ongoing basis. All gas appliances receive a safety check even if they have not been installed by the Council. The Principal Engineer also confirmed that it was not the Council's practice to install open gas fires or coal fires.

Elderly Forum representatives were invited to contact the Principal Engineer if they required any further information on the matters raised.

### **STRATHCLYDE ELDERLY FORUM "WEST OF SCOTLAND SENIOR'S FORUM"**

6. The Service Unit Manager advised that the Strathclyde Elderly Forum were in the process of re-organising into the West of Scotland Senior's Forum and requested the view of Elderly Forums if they wished to be affiliated to the new body.

Following discussion, Elderly Forum representatives expressed the view not to be affiliated to the West of Scotland Senior's Forum and requested that, if possible, funding resources be directed at supporting the development of Elderly Forums within East Ayrshire.

### **SUPPORT TO ELDERLY FORUMS - PROVISION OF FULL-TIME DEVELOPMENT WORKER TO SUPPORT ELDERLY FORUMS**

7. The Service Unit Manager requested that Elderly Forum representatives consider the nature of support to the Forums.

Following discussion representatives identified that support was required to help run existing Elderly Forums, to encourage recruitment to existing Forums, to develop new Elderly Forums, to undertake research work and compile a newsletter.

It was noted that the Service Unit Manager would discuss the matters raised further with the Head of Community Support and report back in due course.

## **BETTER GOVERNMENT FOR OLDER PEOPLE**

8. There was submitted (circulated) a report by the Director of Educational and Social Services which sought the views of representatives of the Elderly Forums for the amalgamation of the Bi-Annual Liaison Meetings held between the Council and Elderly Forums and the Better Government for Older People Network Group meeting.

Following discussion, it was agreed to incorporate the regular Liaison meetings between the Council and the Elderly Forums within the framework of the Better Government for Older People Group and to note that all Elderly Forums would have appropriate representation on the Better Government for Older People Group.

The meeting finished at 1606 hours.

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