

## **EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL**

### **EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL LIAISON MEETING WITH THE ELDERLY FORUM STEERING GROUP**

**MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 8 SEPTEMBER 1999 AT 1343  
HOURS IN THE MEETING ROOM, COUNCIL HEADQUARTERS, LONDON ROAD,  
KILMARNOCK**

**PRESENT:** Councillor David Macrae.

**ATTENDING:** Fiona Lees, Depute Chief Executive; Martin Clark, Service Unit Manager, Social Work Department; Neil Bell, Service Engineer, Roads and Transportation; Hugh Mitchell, Police Liaison Officer; Dot Grieve, Area Community Education Officer; Janice Harrison, Support Worker, Social Work Department; and Anne Fairbairn, Administrative Officer; Catherine Brown, Irvine Valley Elderly Forum; Jessie Graham, Irvine Valley Elderly Forum; William Shaw, Muirkirk Elderly Forum; William Cooper, Muirkirk Elderly Forum; Oswald Swindlehurst, Muirkirk Elderly Forum; Jessie Duffy, Northwest Elderly Forum; and Nora McCabe, Northwest Elderly Forum.

**CHAIR:** Councillor David Macrae, Chair.

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

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

#### **MATTERS ARISING**

2. The following matters arose from the Minute.

##### **2.1 EAST AYRSHIRE SHELTERED HOUSING, MUIRKIRK**

Bill Shaw disputed the findings of the Director of Social Work as previously minuted regarding:

- (i) the Sheltered Housing at Muirkirk when the Director had been impressed by the standard; and
- (ii) the complex at Menzies Court, Cumnock when it had been suggested that it could be facilitated for elderly people requiring lunch.

Martin Clark advised the meeting that part of his remit was to look at sheltered and very sheltered housing throughout East Ayrshire and undertook to investigate the concerns raised.

It was agreed that:

- (i) the Chair pursue the areas of concern with the Director of Social Work; and
- (ii) to receive a presentation by Martin Clark regarding sheltered and very sheltered housing accommodation throughout East Ayrshire at the next meeting.

##### **2.2 OLDER PEOPLE SERVICES**

The meeting heard that:

- (i) the new Cumnock Hospital would be completed in March/April 2000 and that x-ray facilities would be available at the new Hospital;
- (ii) with regard to the Podiatry Service, a Strategy document had been written by Ayrshire and Arran Health Board and sent out for consultation, was now in the process of being finalised; and
- (iii) the location of the Podiatry Service would remain at Treesbank Crescent.

### **2.3 DIAL-A-BUS**

The Forum heard that a meeting had been held with Councillor Ross and Mr Pow regarding the Dial-a-Bus Service and a further meeting was scheduled to take place at the end of September.

## **COMMUNITY EDUCATION**

3. The meeting heard a presentation by Dot Grieve, Area Community Education Officer, which outlined the role of Community Education within Social Inclusion, and referred in particular, for the purposes of this presentation, to the Adult Education element when the types of courses available to adults throughout East Ayrshire were highlighted.

The Forum heard that the Council's policy was to ensure that Education reached all age groups and abilities.

During discussion, the Forum identified topics that may be of particular interest to older people when the possibility of providing classes to aid memory improvement was put forward.

It was agreed:-

- (i) that representatives discuss this item with members of their own Forums and advise them what courses were available. Ideas and suggestions then to be submitted to the next Liaison Meeting; and
- (ii) that a presentation be given on the methods of addressing short and long-term memory loss at a future meeting.

## **ROAD TRANSPORT**

4. There then followed a presentation by Neil Bell, Service Engineer, Roads and Transportation, when he outlined the content of the Road Safety Plan document which detailed the work being carried out between East Ayrshire Council and Strathclyde Police together with other agencies in an effort to reduce road accidents. For the future, programmes will be put in place together with ways of working more effectively in joint initiatives.

There then followed a discussion when issues regarding ambulance response times and Newmilns By-pass were raised and following which it was agreed to note the content of the presentation.

## **POLICE ACTIVITY**

5. The meeting heard a presentation by Hugh Mitchell who advised that two extra Community Policemen had been appointed; that the Constabularies of East, North

and South Ayrshire had now amalgamated in to one Super-Division for the whole of Ayrshire.

Reference was made to an earlier meeting when it had been agreed that a safety audit be carried out to ensure that houses were secure. The view now exists, however, that identifying areas of weakness within homes could increase the fear of crime and may involve householders in extra expense in an effort to reach total security and therefore piece of mind.

In this regard, representatives were invited to bring forward suggestions as to how the Spotlight Initiative may impinge in a positive manner, on the elderly community.

Following a compilation of issues submitted by the elderly community the possibility of arranging a seminar to address these concerns could be considered.

The Forum identified areas of concern which included:-

- (i) more community Policing;
- (ii) the need to look at staggering the times when Police visit the smaller communities in an attempt to deter crime;
- (iii) the effects of anti-social behaviour particularly in relation to housing allocations when problems were identified regarding difficult families being housed in the one area;
- (iv) under age drinking when the problems of effecting an arrest in these cases were highlighted due to the legal requirement that Police must have sight of individuals actually drinking from the bottle or can;
- (v) the difficulties in defending your property if the law prevents you from attacking anyone who enters your property illegally; and
- (vi) the possibility of re-introducing resident Police Constables in communities.

### **INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF OLDER PEOPLE**

6. There was submitted a report dated September 1999 (circulated) by the Director of Social Work advising Elderly Forum Representatives about events in East Ayrshire during the United Nations International Year of Older People in 1999.

The meeting heard that several events had been arranged so far including:-

- (i) links between Schools and residential/Nursing Homes and Sheltered Housing Complexes;
- (ii) reminiscence groups;
- (iii) walks in the woodlands in Dalmellington;
- (iv) forthcoming series of films in the Odeon in Kilmarnock with specific intent to older people; and
- (v) "Tea on the Water" during August 1999.

In addition, a series of information days covering a range of issues will take place on 15 November 1999 in Cumnock Town Hall and 16 November 1999 in the Grand Hall, Kilmarnock.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to invite elderly people to attend and observe Jimmy McGregor opening the pathways and walkways in Muirkirk.

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

- 7. The next meeting will take place on 9 February 2000 at 1400 hours in the Meeting Room, Council Headquarters, London Road, Kilmarnock.

The meeting terminated at 1507 hours.

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