

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL**NORTHERN AREA LOCAL COMMITTEE****MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 15 MAY 1996 AT 1415 HOURS
IN THE COTTAGE, BEHIND JOHN KNOX CHURCH, HIGH STREET,
STEWARTON**

PRESENT: Councillors Jim O'Neill, Kathleen Hall and Bob Beattie and Community Representatives Mr J McFadden JP, Mr W Muirhead, Mr H Hamilton, Mr W Ferguson, Mrs G Roberts, Mrs M Clark, Mr R Buchanan and Mrs C Bingham.

ALSO PRESENT: Sergeant John Ramage, Strathclyde Police; and Mr Chris Carberry, Strathclyde Passenger Transport.

ATTENDING: John Crawford, Head of Protective Services; Douglas Campbell, Head of Public Relations and Marketing; George Fraser, Senior Policy Adviser; Lance Guildford, Manager Strategy/Partnerships; Bill Anderson, Principal Officer, Cultural Services, Anne Jackson, Principal Officer, Education; Sam McVie, Principal Surveyor; Bill Weadon, Area Engineer (Roads); Douglas Blyth, Solicitor; James Laing, Senior Social Worker; Evelyn Shearer, Pre-School Community Organiser; and James Lally and Alex Hewetson, Administrative Officers.

CHAIR: Councillor Jim O'Neill, Chair.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

1. The Administrative Officer reported on the current position with regard to appointment of community representatives to serve on the Northern Area Local Committee.

It was noted:

- (i) that the request by the Northern Area Local Committee that it be permitted to extend the number of community representatives to 11 had been rejected by the Decentralisation Sub-Committee of the Policy and Resources Committee at its meeting on 23 April 1996 (page 800);
- (ii) that of the 10 organisations invited to serve on the Northern Area Local Committee, 8 had been appointed with the exception of:
 - (a) youth representative to be nominated by pupils residing within the boundaries of the Northern Area Local Committee attending Stewarton Academy, Kilmarnock Academy and St Joseph's Academy;

- (b) Pre-5 Groups - to be nominated by playgroups identified by the Education Department.

Following discussion it was agreed:

- (i) that the youth representative to the Committee be a pupil from Stewarton Academy for a period of one year with a remit to appraise other schools within the boundaries of the Northern Area Local Committee of Committee business; and

- (ii) that in the event of a failure to nominate a Pre-5 Group representative, an invitation be extended to School Boards to nominate a representative to serve on the Northern Area Local Committee.

COMMUNITY FIRST SURVEY: FINAL REPORT

- 2. There was submitted a report dated 25 April 1996 (circulated) by the Director of Support Services advising the Local Committee of the results of the Community First survey carried out by East Ayrshire Council during December 1995.

It was agreed:

- (i) to note the final Community First survey report; and
- (ii) to invite to a future meeting of the Committee a representative from the Local General Practitioners Committee of the Local Health Board Trust to give a presentation on current issues, programmes and initiatives.

COMMUNITY FORUM MEETING

- 3. The Administrative Officer reported that the Northern Area Community Forum meeting would be held on Wednesday 29 May 1996 at 1900 hours in Lainshaw Primary School, Stewarton.

It was agreed:

- (i) that public transport in the Northern Area should be discussed as a topic at the Northern Area Community Forum;
- (ii) that the Director of Development Services be invited to provide a presentation on the issue; and
- (iii) otherwise to note the contents of the report.

LOCAL AREA POPULATION PROFILE

- 4. There was submitted a report (circulated) by the Director of Development Services advising of statistical information relating to the Northern Area. It was agreed:

- (i) that the Director of Development Services should prepare further statistical reports, based on updated information for consideration at future meetings of the Committee;
- (ii) that future reports should include reference to percentage registered disabled; and

(iii) otherwise to note the contents of the report.

**1996/97 PROGRAMME OF STRUCTURAL MAINTENANCE OF ROADS AND
FOOTWAYS**

5. There was submitted a report (circulated) by the Director of Development Services providing details of 1996/97 roads structural maintenance programmes within the Northern Area. The Area Engineer (Roads), explained that since preparation of the report, there had been a number of amendments to the maintenance programme.

It was agreed:

- (i) to note that the programme for 1997/98 would be delegated in part to the Local Committee;
- (ii) that schedules of the proposed works should be accurate and not include works which had been deleted from the programme;
- (iii) that following the setting of the Winter programme of works, consultation with community groups to consider the programme for the Summer maintenance budget would be undertaken;
- (iv) in future years, the Northern Area Committee would be consulted each Autumn on the following year's roads structural maintenance programme; and
- (v) to remit to the Director of Development Services to bring forward a report on road safety issues affecting the Northern Area.

PROPOSED CHANGES IN PUBLIC TRANSPORT SERVICES

6. There was submitted a report (circulated) by the Director of Development Services advising of proposed changes in public transport services and on action being taken to maintain current service levels.

The Committee welcomed the possible improvements in public transport however, concerns were expressed regarding the proposed service reductions in the Northern Area.

It was agreed:

- (i) that the issue of public transport be a feature of the Local Community Forum to be held on 29 May 1996;
- (ii) to reject totally the reference to little social need for the Stewarton - Kilmarnock journey identified in the report;
- (iii) that arrangements would be made by the Director of Development Services to facilitate a meeting between Councillor Beattie and the Passenger Transport Authority; and
- (iv) to remit to the Director of Development Services to express to the Passenger Transport Executive the total opposition of the Northern Area Local Committee to the proposal to withdraw bus services in Stewarton and Fenwick.

PRE 5 ADMISSIONS POLICY

7. There was submitted and noted a report dated 23 April 1996 (circulated) by the Director of Education providing the details of the Pre 5 Admissions Policy and the implementation arrangements thereof.

GARDEN WASTE

8. There was submitted and noted a report dated 23 April 1996 (circulated) by the Director of Community Services advising of changes to the arrangements for the collection of household garden refuse.

It was agreed:

- (i) that J Crawford, Head of Protective Services agreed that a skip would be provided for Waterside Environmental Week; and
- (ii) otherwise to note the contents of the report.

ENVIRONMENTAL STRATEGY AND LOCAL COMMITTEES

9. There was submitted a report dated 22 April 1996 (circulated) by the Director of Community Services outlining the objectives of the Environmental Strategy and identifying the role of the Local Committees in achieving the objectives.

It was agreed:

- (i) to participate fully in the implementation of the Environmental Strategy;
- (ii) that further reports on how Local Committees could facilitate this exercise would be forthcoming; and
- (iii) otherwise to note the contents of the report.

LOCAL SPORTS COUNCIL - PROGRESS REPORT

10. There was submitted and noted a report dated 22 April 1996 (circulated) by the Director of Community Services updating on progress made in relation to the formation of East Ayrshire Sports Council.

ENVIRONMENT WEEK 1996

11. The Chair reported that the Director of Community Services wished to donate a tree to each of the seven Local Committees within East Ayrshire in order to mark Environment Week 1996.

Having heard proposals from Members and community representatives on where the trees should be situated it was agreed to remit the matter to the Director of Development Services, the Chair and the Northern Area Local Members to agree the matter.

LOCAL COMMITTEE COMMUNITY GRANTS SCHEME

- 12.1 **Community Grants Scheme** - There was submitted a report dated 2 May 1996 (circulated) by the Chief Executive advising the Committee of (i) the sum available to the Local Committee for distribution in order to support community and voluntary organisations; (ii) the process whereby that sum was arrived at; (iii) the scheme of

grants and conditions; and (iv) the application forms for local grants and playschemes.

It was agreed to note;

- (i) that the sum of £15,478 had been allocated to the Northern Area Committee for the support of community and voluntary organisations;
- (ii) the content of the paper describing the process of disbursement of finance and the Local Committee Grants Scheme including conditions of grant; and

- (iii) the application forms.

12.2 Consideration of Applications

There was submitted a report dated 15 May 1996 (circulated) by the Chief Executive requesting consideration of appropriate playscheme applications for financial year 1996/97.

It was agreed:

- (i) to approved in principle a grant being given to Dunlop Playscheme and Enable Playscheme based on last year's base figure for the Summer playscheme;
- (ii) that the above be subject to:
 - (a) the Director of Education being satisfied that any requirements in terms of the Children's Act were met;
 - (b) the financial and programming information being submitted by the organisation;
 - (c) consultation with the Chair and Vice-Chair; and
 - (d) the other Members of the Committee being advised of the decisions taken in respect of the above grant.

CONSULTATION WITH YOUTH - GIVING YOUNG PEOPLE A VOICE

- 13.** There was submitted a report dated 1 May 1996 (circulated) by the Director of Support Services advising the Local Committee of the results of a consultation exercise with pupils from Stewarton Academy which was initiated by Councillor O'Neill.

It was agreed:

- (i) that the suggestions received from the pupils of Stewarton Academy be sent to appropriate Departments with a view to them preparing reports on any matters which fall within their remits for consideration at the September Meeting of the Northern Area Local Committee; and
- (ii) that the September Meeting of the Northern Area Local Committee be held within Stewarton Academy to better facilitate the pupil involvement.

VENUES FOR FUTURE MEETINGS OF THE NORTHERN AREA LOCAL COMMITTEE AND LOCAL PLANNING COMMITTEE

- 14.** There was submitted a report dated I May 1996 (circulated) by the Director of Support

Services requesting consideration of venues for future meetings of the Northern Area Local Committee and Local Planning Committee. It was agreed

- (i) that the Local Committee should over a period of eight meetings visit Stewarton four times, Kilmaurs twice, Dunlop once and Fenwick once;
- (ii) that the issue of transport for community representatives to Local Committee Meetings would be investigated and a report duly submitted.

POLICE REPORT

15. The Chair welcomed Sergeant John Ramage, Strathclyde Police. The Committee heard the Sergeant refer to local crime statistics which were mostly vehicle related, however, concern in all communities was under-age drinking, a problem which was being investigated and tackled by the local Police.

It was agreed:

- (i) that if any member of the Committee had a particular concern then the local Police should be contacted; and
- (ii) a written report on crime statistics related to local issues would be submitted at a future meeting of the Committee.

The meeting terminated at 1625 hours.