

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL**DOON VALLEY LOCAL COMMITTEE****MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 4 FEBRUARY 1997 AT 1430 HOURS AT THE COMMUNITY CENTRE, BARBIESTON ROAD, DALRYMPLE**

PRESENT: Councillors John Smith and Robert Taylor and Community Representatives Mr Edward Torrance and Miss Sarah Murray.

ATTENDING: John F Crawford, Head of Protective Services; James Hazlett, Area Social Work Manager; John M Bryson, Area Engineer (South) Roads and Transportation; David Hewet, Senior Policy Adviser, Development Services; Kenneth W Robinson, Principal Administrative Officer; Graham Kerr, Public Relations Officer; Diane MacPherson, Planning Officer; Adrian Browne, Planning Officer and Ian Gemmell, Administrative Officer.

APOLOGY: Councillor Tommy Farrell.

CHAIR: Councillor John Smith, Chair.

DOON VALLEY TOURISM DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY**1.1 REPORT BY DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT SERVICES**

There was submitted a report dated 26 January 1997 (circulated) by the Director of Development Services advising the Committee of progress on the preparation of the Doon Valley Tourism Development Strategy, seeking approval of the proposals for the way forward, and requesting the Committee, following the ensuing presentation to determine potential development projects for consideration by the Development Services Committee in March 1997.

1.2 PRESENTATION BY CONSULTANT

Mr Ian Parkin, the Consultant appointed by East Ayrshire Council gave a presentation on the current state of progress on the preparation of the Doon Valley Tourism Development Strategy, dealing in detail with the various aspects of the strategy including initiatives relating to (a) funding bids for the development of the Waterside/Dunaskin Heritage Centre and the Ayrshire Railway Preservation Group Site at Minnivey, Dalmellington, (b) a restoration scheme for the Chalmerston Opencast Coal Site and subsequent development of the area, (c) the need for regeneration and environmental improvement in Dalmellington, (d) the promotion of the "Book Town" project for Dalmellington and (e) appropriate development of the Loch Doon area.

It was agreed:

- (i) to support in principle the suggested local strategy and action plan for the development of tourism in the Doon Valley;
- (ii) to support the developments at Waterside/Dunaskin and Minnivey, and the associated applications for funding;

- (iii) to support the proposals for the wider development of Chalmerston by the provision of visitor facilities and other tourism outlets and the associated bids for European funding; and
- (iv) that a consultation process involving exhibitions and open meetings, be undertaken to allow the local community to make an input into the strategy and project development particularly for those areas of the Doon Valley where such development was at an early stage, prior to a report being prepared by the Director of Development Services for consideration by East Ayrshire Council's Development Services Committee.

DRAFT DECENTRALISATION SCHEME (Item 2, Page 1611)

2. There was submitted a report dated 16 January 1997 (circulated) by the Chief Executive on the content of the Draft Scheme for Decentralisation, the steps taken to consult on the Draft Scheme, and seeking the comments of the Local Committee thereon.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to inform the Decentralisation Sub-Committee that this Committee considered it inappropriate to allow the attendance of named substitutes for Community Representatives at Local Committee Meetings, that the Local Committee was not in favour of the submission of Minutes of previous Meetings to succeeding meetings of the Local Committee; and
- (ii) otherwise to indicate support for the proposals within the Draft Decentralisation Scheme.

LOCAL FORUMS PUBLICITY PLAN

3. There was submitted a report dated 29 January 1997 (circulated) by the Director of Support Services on the draft publicity plan for Local Committees and Community Forum Meetings, seeking comments on publicity arrangements for the Doon Valley Area in particular.

It was agreed to approve the general publicity plan contained in the report.

PRESENTATION ON OPENCAST COAL OPERATIONS: 16 JANUARY 1997 (Item 6, Page 1446)

4. There was submitted and noted a report dated 21 January 1997 (circulated) by the Director of Support Services advising of the outcome of the presentation made on 16 January 1997 by representatives of the Scottish Coal Company Limited to Elected Members and Community Representatives of the Cumnock Area and Doon Valley Local Committees and Members of the Council's Development Services Committee on the Company's opencast operations within East Ayrshire.

STRUCTURAL MAINTENANCE OF ROADS AND FOOTWAYS

5.1 AMENDMENTS TO THE 1996/97 PROGRAMME (Item 4.1, Page 1700)

There was submitted and noted a report dated 20 January 1997 (circulated) by the Director of Development Services advising of amendments to the 1996/97 Roads and Footways Structural Maintenance Programme approved by the Development Services Committee.

5.2 1997/98 PROGRAMME (Item 4.2, Page 1700)

There was submitted a report dated 17 January 1997 (circulated) by the Director of Development Services (a) advising of the 1997/98 Roads and Footways Structural Maintenance Programmes for “inescapable” Schemes approved by the Development Services Committee, and (b) seeking approval to the “highly desirable” schemes or “desirable” options

It was agreed:-

- (i) to note the 1997/98 Roads and Footways Structural Maintenance Programmes for “inescapable” Schemes approved by the Development Services Committee; and
- (ii) to approve the “highly desirable” schemes for the Structural Maintenance of Footways as detailed in the Appendix to the report.

ENHANCEMENT SCHEME FOR DRONGAN ACCESS ROAD

6. There was submitted a report dated 8 January 1997 (circulated) by the Director of Development Services on progress with the Drongan Access Road Enhancement Scheme. On the matter being raised the Senior Policy Adviser confirmed that he would request the consultant to examine opportunities for the improvement of car parking facilities at Drongan Cemetery. The situation was noted.

IDENTIFICATION OF LOCAL RESIDENTIAL AND INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT SITES

7. There was submitted a report dated 15 January 1997 (circulated) by the Director of Development Services giving details of criteria used by the Department of Development Services in the selection of sites for future housing and industrial developments, and requesting the Committee to identify any sites within the Local Committee area considered to have potential for future residential or industrial use.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to note the framework for the identification of local plan sites for housing and industry set out in the report; and
- (ii) that an informal briefing session should be arranged by the Director of Development Services for members of the Local Committee and Officers of the Planning and Building Control Division to discuss land availability for housing and industry within the Local Committee area; and
- (iii) that following the aforementioned briefing sessions, the Director of Development Services prepare a further report for submission to this Committee.

BUSINESS GRANTS AND LOAN SCHEME STATUS REPORT (Item 8, Page 1447)

8. There was submitted and noted a report dated 20 January 1997 (circulated) by the Director of Development Services giving a detailed breakdown of the companies receiving grant and loan support in the period 1 April to 31 December 1996.

PROGRESS REPORT ON LOCAL PARTNERSHIP ARRANGEMENTS AND IMPLEMENTATION OF ASSOCIATED PROJECTS

9. There was submitted and noted a report dated 16 January 1997 (circulated) by the Director of Development Services on the current position regarding (i) the implementation of the programme of local development projects associated with existing partnership arrangements; and (ii) the registration of the Dalmellington Working Party as a Local Rural Partnership.

COMMUNITY GRANTS

- 10.1 There was submitted a report dated 22 January 1997 (circulated) by the Director of Support Services on the undernoted applications received from local organisations for grant assistance in terms of the Community Grants Scheme in respect of which the following decisions:-

10.1.1 RANKINSTON OLD PEOPLE'S WELFARE COMMITTEE

That a grant of £174.00 be made, based on a payment of £3.00 per capita, the number of senior citizens on the organisation's register being 58.

10.1.2 BELLSBANK SENIOR CITIZEN'S CLUB

That a grant of £150.00 be made, based on a payment of £3.00 per capita, the number of senior citizens on the organisation's register being 50.

10.1.3 THURSDAY CLUB (DOON VALLEY PARENTS SUPPORT GROUP)

That a grant of £500.00 be made.

10.1.4 CUMNOCK AND DOON VALLEY WOMEN'S AID

That a grant of £415.00 be made.

10.1.5 AYRSHIRE HANDSPINNERS AND WEAVERS

That a grant of £250.00 be made.

The meeting terminated at 1615 hours.