

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

NORTHERN AREA LOCAL COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 12 FEBRUARY 1997 AT 1430 HOURS IN DUNLOP PUBLIC HALL, DUNLOP

PRESENT: Councillors Jim O'Neill, Kathleen Hall and Bob Beattie; Community Representatives, Mr W Muirhead, Mr H Hamilton, Mr W Ferguson, Mrs G Roberts, Mrs C Bingham, Ms E MacKay and Ms J Fulton.

ALSO PRESENT: Sergeant John Ramage, Strathclyde Police.

ATTENDING: Bill Walkinshaw, Principal Administrative Officer; Janie Allen, Principal Officer (Pre-5's); Joe Herd, Area Community Education Officer; Allan Hasson, Chief Librarian; Thomas Harris, Public Relations Manager; Brian Weadon, Area Engineer (Roads and Transportation); George Fraser, Senior Policy Advisor; Alan Murray, Senior Community Education Worker; James Laing, Senior Social Worker; Adrian Browne, Planning Officer; and Alex Hewetson, Administrative Officer.

APOLOGIES: Community Representatives Mr J McFadden and Mrs M Clark.

CHAIR: Councillor Jim O'Neill, Chair.

DRAFT DECENTRALISATION SCHEME (Item 5, Page 1623)

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

It was agreed to support the proposals contained within the Draft Decentralisation Scheme.

Community Representative, Mrs J Fulton joined the meeting during discussion of the above item prior to a decision being made.

PUBLICITY FOR LOCAL COMMITTEES AND COMMUNITY FORUM MEETINGS

2. 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, and seeking comments on arrangements for the Northern Area in particular.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to approve the general publicity plan contained within the report and detailed within Sections 5 and 6;
- (ii) to agree that churches within the Northern Area be included in the distribution list for future Community Forums; and
- (iii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

**ROADS AND TRANSPORTATION - AMENDMENTS TO THE 1996/97
PROGRAMME OF STRUCTURAL MAINTENANCE OF ROADS AND FOOTWAYS
(Item 4.2, Page 1700)**

3. There was submitted 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 on 23 January 1997.

It was agreed to note the amendments in respect of the postponement of footways schemes at the B769 Kingsford (School/NO.3) and Vinepark Avenue (Townhead/Glencairn - Northside) Kilmaurs and that schemes postponed this year would be given priority in the next financial year.

**1997/98 PROGRAMME OF STRUCTURAL MAINTENANCE OF ROADS AND
FOOTWAYS (Item 4.1, page 1700)**

4. There was submitted a report dated 17 January 1997 (circulated) by the Director of Development Services advising of the 1997/98 Roads and Footways Maintenance Programme for "inescapable" schemes approved by the Development Services Committee on 23 January 1997 and seeking approval of the "highly desirable" schemes for structural maintenance of footways, 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 structural maintenance of footways detailed within the Appendix to the report.

STEWARTON LOCAL BUS SERVICES

5. Arising from discussion on the above item the Chair informed the Committee that Stagecoach Western had intimated its intention to discontinue most afternoon journeys on the Stewarton Local Bus Service from 31 March 1997 and had requested that a report on the issue be submitted to an appropriate meeting of the Council.

It was agreed:-

- (i) that the Committee express its concern on the withdrawal of this bus service; and
- (ii) to recommend that a representative of Stagecoach Western make a presentation to an appropriate Committee of the Council preferably to the Northern Area Local Committee on the reasons behind the withdrawal of service proposals.

**IDENTIFICATION OF LOCAL RESIDENTIAL AND INDUSTRIAL
DEVELOPMENT SITES (Item 6, Page 1462)**

6. There was submitted a report dated 3 February 1997 (circulated) by the Director of Development Services on the criteria used in the selection of sites for future housing and industrial developments and requesting the Committee to identify any sites

located within the Local Committee area which were considered to have potential residential or industrial use.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to note the framework for the identification of local planned sites for housing and industry in terms of Sections 3 and 4 and Appendix I of the report;
- (ii) to note that an informal briefing session would be arranged for Members of the Committee with Officers of the Planning and Building Control Division of Development Services to discuss land availability for housing and industry within the Northern Area; and
- (iii) thereafter that Members of the Committee would forward the identity of sites within the Local Committee Area which may have potential for future residential or industrial development for consideration in the preparation of the East Ayrshire Local Plan to the Department of Development Services.

BUSINESS GRANTS AND LOANS SCHEMES STATUS REPORT (Item 5, Page 1462)

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

FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF PRE-5 PROVISION (Item 5, Page 1679)

8. There was submitted a report dated 10 January 1997 (circulated) by the Director of Education on further development of the Pre-5 Service in the current year.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to note the progress being made in the delivery of pre-school education in East Ayrshire;
- (ii) to note the expansion of the service in the Northern Area and in Kilmarnock Central which entailed the establishment of 20 FTE place nursery class in Nether Robertland Primary School, Stewarton and a 20 FTE place nursery class in Westpark School, Crosshouse, Kilmarnock; and
- (iii) to note that the expansion of the service was based upon the existing Council Policy on income generation.

DEVELOPING THE LAINSHAW AREA OF STEWARTON (Item 12, Page 1350)

9. There was submitted a report dated 27 January 1997 (circulated) by the Director of Development Services on the formulation of a process whereby Council Departments in conjunction with other agencies and local people could construct a working strategy for the Lainshaw area of Stewarton.

It was agreed:-

- (i) that in the context of the overall local Regeneration Strategy, a strategy should be constructed for the Lainshaw area;
- (ii) that a team be instituted comprising of a representative of the Council, other agencies (as required) and local people to formulate the strategy; and

(iii) that progress reports be submitted regularly to the Committee.

Community Representative Mr H Hamilton joined the meeting during discussion of the above item.

CONSULTATION WITH YOUTH (Item 1, Page 1346)

10. There was submitted a report dated 28 January 1997 (circulated) by the Director of Education on progress following the meeting of young people from Stewarton Academy on issues identified during the course of consultation with pupils in December 1996.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to commend progress made by the participants at the meeting between young people from Stewarton Academy and Officials of the Council;
- (ii) to invite the participants to establish a local group which would bring forward proposals to develop a strategy which incorporated the needs and aspirations of local young people;
- (iii) to receive reports on progress made by the local group on a regular basis;
- (iv) to remit to the Director of Education to undertake the lead role in co-ordinating relevant Departments of the Council to examine the potential of expanding the envisaged local group to include representation from the wider Northern Area schools, youth organisations, Strathclyde Police, ensuring a minimum of 50% youth representation.
- (iv) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

NAMING OF STREETS BY LOCAL COMMITTEES - DEVELOPMENT AT "SOUTHCRAIGS", KILMARNOCK

11. There was submitted a report dated 29 January 1997 (circulated) by the Director of Support Services requesting consideration to be given to the naming of a street within the "Southcraigs" development, Kilmarnock.

It was agreed:-

- (i) that the name for the street at "Southcraigs", Kilmarnock be "Dean Way"; and
- (ii) that the Department of Contracting and Technical Services be advised accordingly.

NORTHERN AREA COMMUNITY FORUM

12. There was submitted a report dated 29 January 1997 (circulated) by the Director of Support Services on the next meetings of the Northern Area Community Forum.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to note that the fourth meeting of the Northern Area Community Forum would be held at Kilmaurs Primary School on Thursday 13 February 1997 to discuss the Council's Decentralisation Scheme and the Council budget 1997/98; and
- (ii) that an additional meeting of the Northern Area Community Forum would be held at Lainshaw Primary School on Thursday 27 February 1997 where the

issue for discussion would be "Provision of Secondary Education" in the Northern Area.

GRANTS TO LOCAL ORGANISATIONS: COMMUNITY GRANTS

13. The Chair agreed that a Community Grant application from Dunlop and Lugton Community Council be considered an urgent item as an urgent decision was required.

13.1 Declaration of Interest

Mr H Hamilton, Community Representative for Dunlop and Lugton Community Council declared a non-pecuniary interest in the grant application from the Community Council and took no part in the decision.

13.1 Consideration of Item

There was submitted a report dated 29 January 1997 (circulated) by the Director of Support Services advising of applications by Community Groups to the Community Grant Scheme.

It was agreed to approve the undernoted grant payments to the organisations detailed, viz:-

<u>APPLICANT</u>	<u>GRANT AWARDED</u>
Dunlop Theatre Group	£2,500 conditional upon:-
(i) award of match-funding from the Scottish Arts Council to meet the total cost of the project; and	
(ii) failing grant support from the Scottish Office Arts Council that the award be used to purchase an item of equipment, specified within the application, to aid the group's activities.	
Dunlop and Lugton Community Council	up to £750

The award of up to £750 to Dunlop and Lugton Community Council be remitted to the Director of Support Services in consultation with the Chair and Vice-Chair to ensure the grant application met all conditions of grant.

13.3 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF GRANT AWARD

The Chair of the Local Committee reported and it was noted that Kilmarnock Tennis Club had acknowledged receipt of grant, the subject of a cross-boundary Community Grant application, for a project which was supported by the Northern Area Local Committee and had intimated its thanks to the Committee.

13.4 STRATHCLYDE POLICE COMMUNITY POLICING BRANCH (Item 9.2, Page 1632)

There was submitted a report dated 4 February 1997 (circulated) by the Director of Support Services in respect of a Community Grant application submitted by the Community Policing Branch of Strathclyde Police to the Northern Area Local Committee on 17 December 1996.

It was reported that following receipt of further information it had been identified that it would be more suitable for the funding request to be considered by the

Department of Education and, as a result, the Committee's Community Grant budget for 1996/97 would not now be reduced by £60.

It was agreed that the source of funding in respect of the application for the Community Policing Branch of Strathclyde Police be provided by the Department of Education and that the Committee's Community Grant budget for 1996/97 would not now be reduced by £60.

LOCAL ITEM FOR COMMUNITY FORUM IN MARCH/APRIL 1997

14. The Administrative Officer invited the Committee to identify a Local Item for the next Community Forum.

It was agreed:-

- (i) that the Local Item for the next Community Forum would be Provision of Rented Housing in the Northern Area;
- (ii) that the venue for the next Community Forum would be Dunlop Public Hall, Dunlop; and
- (iii) that Community Representatives advise the Administrative Officer of any items for future Forums for discussion with the Chair.

POLICE REPORT

15. Sergeant John Ramage of Strathclyde Police reported on local policing matters and on Strathclyde Police's Spotlight Initiative.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to note a significant reduction in street crime throughout the Northern Area, however, there had been window breakage at Lainshaw Primary School and congregations of youths in Stewarton persisted; and
- (ii) to note comments by the Chair in relation to the assistance of Closed-Circuit Television (CCTV) in combating and deterring vandalism and crime.

The meeting terminated at 1403 hours.