

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

CUMNOCK AREA LOCAL COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 25 FEBRUARY 1999 AT 1400 HOURS IN NEW CUMNOCK COMMUNITY CENTRE, THE CASTLE, NEW CUMNOCK

PRESENT: Councillors Eric Ross, Jim Kelly, George Smith, Jim Carmichael and Eric Jackson; and Community Representatives Reverend Duncan Eddie, Mr William Crawford, Mr William Lees, Mrs Jean Smith, Mr Alex Currie, Mr David Elliot and Mr Ronnie Hamilton.

ATTENDING: Jim Maitland, Depute Director of Housing; Jim Hazlett, Divisional Social Work Manager; David Hewet, Senior Policy Adviser - Development Services; Bill Hunter, Area Community Education Officer; John Bryson, Area Engineer - Roads Division; Karl Doroszenko, Policy and Projects Manager - Development Services; Julian Thorp, Planning Officer; and Stuart Nelson, Administrative Officer.

ALSO ATTENDING: Chief Inspector Ian Blake, Strathclyde Police.

APOLOGIES: Councillors David Sneller and James Boyd.

CHAIR: Councillor Eric Ross, Chair.

SUPPORT SERVICES

URBAN PROGRAMME TERMINATING PROJECTS: EVALUATION (Item 10, Page 4028)

1.1 FORGE AHEAD PROJECT

There was submitted a report dated 1 February 1999 (circulated) by the Director of Support Services which advised of the initial findings of the Evaluation Panel meeting which evaluated the Forge Ahead Project for which urban programme funding was due to terminate in December 1999.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to note the initial findings of the Evaluation Panel set out in Paragraph 4 of the report;
- (ii) to support the work and future funding of the project;
- (iii) to remit to the Chief Executive to submit the views of the Local Committee to the Policy and Resources Committee for consideration in conjunction with the recommendations of the Evaluation Panel; and
- (iv) otherwise, to note the terms of the report.

Councillor Smith joined the meeting during consideration of the above item.

1.2 ENERGY ADVICE UNIT

There was submitted a report dated 1 February 1999 (circulated) by the Director of Support Services which advised of the initial findings of the Evaluation Panel meeting which evaluated the Energy Advice Unit Project for which urban programme funding was due to terminate in September 1999.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to note the initial findings of the Evaluation Panel set out in Paragraph 4 of the report;
- (ii) to support the work and future funding of the project;
- (iii) to remit to the Chief Executive to submit the views of the Local Committee to the Policy and Resources Committee for consideration in conjunction with the recommendations of the Evaluation Panel; and
- (iv) otherwise, to note the terms of the report.

MINUTES

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

- 2. There were submitted for information, and noted, the Minutes of the meeting of the Cumnock Area Local Committee held on 14 January 1999 (circulated).

DECENTRALISATION ISSUES

APPOINTMENT OF COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES 1999/2000

- 3. There was submitted a report dated 15 February 1999 (circulated) by the Director of Support Services which invited the Committee to consider and determine certain matters in order to facilitate arrangements for the recruitment of Community Representatives to serve on the Local Committee for the period 1 April 1999 to 31 March 2000.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to note the present community representation on this Committee as detailed in the Appendix to the report;
- (ii) that the present community organisation representation on this Committee as set out in the Appendix to the report would continue for the period 1 April 1999 to 31 March 2000;
- (iii) to remit to the Director of Support Services to initiate the process for the submission of new nominations for Community Representatives and named substitutes by the relevant organisations to serve during the period 1 April 1999 to 31 March 2000 and to make such arrangements as might be necessary to facilitate this process; and
- (iv) that report(s) on progress relative to (iii) above be submitted to future meetings of this Committee.

COMMUNITY GRANTS

GENERAL APPLICATIONS

4.1 CUMNOCK AND DOON VALLEY ACCESS PANEL (Item 3.1.2, Page 3591)

The Members of the Committee were reminded that in August 1998 a community grant of £1,000 had been awarded to the Cumnock and Doon Valley Access Panel (Cumnock Area - £750; Doon Valley - £250) in order to assist that group in meeting the costs of an Open Information Day in Cumnock.

In this connection, it was reported and noted (a) that a letter had been received from the Secretary to the Access Panel advising that due to the support “in kind” received by the group from Departments of the Council in running the event, it had not been necessary to utilise the full grant award; and reimbursing a total sum of £646.96; and (b) that of the sum reimbursed, an amount of £485.22 would be credited to this Local Committee’s grants budget, with the balance of £161.74 being credited to the Doon Valley Local Committee’s budget.

4.2 OUTSTANDING APPLICATIONS

There was submitted a report dated 18 February 1999 (circulated) by the Director of Support Services which outlined the financial position in respect of Community Grants for the financial year 1998/99, indicating, amongst other things, that sums of £1,664 and £485.22 remained available for disbursement under the categories of Older People and General Applications, respectively; and summarised the pertinent information relative to outstanding applications for grant.

Older People’s Groups

It was agreed in respect of the applications submitted by the undernoted groups as follows, namely:-

- (i) Auchinleck Parish Church Seniors Section - that a grant of £100 be made;
- (ii) Auchinleck Senior Citizens’ - Gents Section - that consideration of this application be continued to next financial year;
- (iii) Muirkirk Cabin - that consideration of this application be continued to next financial year;
- (iv) WRVS - Darby and Joan Club, Cumnock - that a grant of £100 be made;
- (v) St Vincent De Paul Society - St John’s Conference - that a grant of £400 be made;
- (vi) Cumnock Lunch Club - that, in principle, a grant of £120 be made, this application to be dealt with in detail by the Director of Support Services in consultation with the Chair and the local Member concerned in the light of the preparation of an assessment and recommendation by the appropriate Service Department;
- (vii) Muirkirk Day Centre Management Committee - that, in principle, a grant of £824 be made, this application to be dealt with in detail by the Director of Support Services, in consultation with the Chair and the local Member concerned in the light of the preparation of an assessment and recommendation by the appropriate Service Department; and
- (viii) Auchinleck Ladies Senior Citizens’ Club - that (a) in principle, a grant of £120 be made to assist in meeting the cost of the group’s Easter trip, this matter to be dealt with in detail by the Director of Support Services in consultation with the Chair and the local Member concerned in the light of the preparation of an assessment and recommendation relative to this application by the appropriate Service Department; and (b) consideration of that part of the group’s application relating to the Halloween and Christmas events be continued to next financial year.

General Applications

It was agreed in respect of the applications submitted by the undernoted organisations, as follows, namely:-

- (i) Netherthird and Craigens Under 5's - that a grant of £260 be made;
- (ii) Catrine Nursery Bus Scheme - that a grant of £75.22 be made;
- (iii) Crosshill Recreation Club - that consideration of this application be continued to a future meeting pending the submission of further information;
- (iv) Clifford Ritchie Dance School Parents Committee - that consideration of this application be continued to a future meeting pending the submission of further information; and
- (v) Skerrington and Netherthird Co-operative Women's Guild - that a grant of £150 be made.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S

STORM DAMAGE WITHIN THE LOCAL AREA (Item 4, Page 4102)

5. There was submitted a report dated 12 February 1999 (circulated) by the Chief Executive on damage caused to Council properties within the local area as a result of the storm on 26/27 December 1998 and the Authority's response to the situation.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to note the terms of the report; and
- (ii) that Members of the Committee would make representations directly to the Director of Community Services, in respect of his Emergency Planning responsibilities, relative to any suggestions which they might have for measures to improve the Council's emergency response procedures.

COMMUNITY SERVICES

"OPERATION SPOTLIGHT"

6. There was submitted a report dated 10 February 1999 (circulated) by Chief Inspector Thomson, Strathclyde Police, which advised of "Spotlight" activity and other crime trends over the recent period.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to note the terms of the report; and
- (ii) to support the initiatives being implemented by the Police within the local area to combat the problem of drug abuse and that the public should similarly support, and where possible assist, the Police in these initiatives.

DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

A PROGRAMME FOR ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS (Item 9, Page 4103)

7. There was submitted a report dated 15 February 1999 (circulated) by the Director of Development Services which identified a number of potential environmental

improvement schemes which could be carried out within the Local Committee's area in respect of the sum of £25,000 included within the Development Services Capital Plan 1998/99 for this purpose; and provided, where possible, further details of these schemes.

It was agreed:-

- (i) that the following schemes be approved as the initial programme for environmental improvements within the Local Committee's area, namely:-
 Cumnock: Hearth Road - Fencing, concrete ramp, tree planting (estimated cost up to £3,500) Netherthird - Resurfacing of footpath between Bowling Club car park/Community Centre and Blackfaulds Road (up to £1,500); Catrine: Development of River Ayr walkways - River Walk/Footbridge (up to £7,500); Muirkirk: Millennium Stones (on south side of A70 route) - Erection of two standing stones on hard standing with seating/picnic area and information board/plaques or arrangement of standing stones in form of Celtic Cross (up to £3,000 - contribution only); and Muirkirk: Demolition of former Co-op building at junction of Main Street/Glasgow Road and clearing, levelling and grassing of site (up to £9,000 - contribution towards estimated total cost of £15,000 - £20,000);
- (ii) that should it not be feasible for some or all of the schemes referred to in (i) above to proceed within the agreed environmental improvement programme, the following schemes be carried out, namely:- (i) Auchinleck: Site of former Social Work Offices, Aird Avenue - grass mounded soft landscaping, footpath, benches (estimated cost - up to £4,000, subject to investigation of the possibility of a contribution towards this cost being made from the contract for the demolition of the building on this site); (ii) Cumnock: Upgrading of existing site between Tanyard and Lugar Bridge/creation of feature site entrance to Lugar Street (up to £5,500) and that the Director of Community Services be requested to undertake minor improvement/tidying works at this location in the meantime; and (iii) Cumnock: Elizabeth Crescent/Townhead Street - upgrading of sites to be agreed (up to £4,000);
- (iii) that the Head of Planning and Building Control consult with other bodies regarding the possibility of their making a financial contribution to the above works and also to seek other ways of obtaining additional funding for the programme; and
- (iv) that should any additional funding become available as a consequence of (iii) above, the Head of Planning and Building Control report back to this Committee to allow consideration to be given to the inclusion of further schemes from the list of projects previously suggested to the Committee.

**PROGRAMME OF STRUCTURAL MAINTENANCE OF ROADS AND FOOTWAYS
1999/2000 (Item 25, Page 4146)**

8. There was submitted a report dated 4 February 1999 (circulated) by the Director of Development Services which (a) advised of the programme of structural maintenance of roads and footways 1999/2000 for "inescapable" schemes approved by the Development Services Committee; and (b) sought approval to the "highly desirable" schemes for structural maintenance of footways, or "desirable" options.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to note the programme of structural maintenance of roads and footways 1999/2000 for “inescapable” schemes approved by the Development Services Committee, as detailed in the report;
- (ii) to approve the “highly desirable” schemes for the structural maintenance of footways, as detailed within the report subject to substitution of alternative works either from the list of “desirable” schemes or otherwise, such as may be suggested by Members of the Committee and approved by the local Elected Member; and
- (iii) to note that any further reduction in the anticipated budget would be accommodated by the Head of Roads and Transportation by reducing the footway resurfacing programme in an equitable manner.

SOCIAL WORK

SOCIAL WORK SERVICES IN THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM: STRATEGIC PLAN 1999/2002

9. There was submitted and noted a report dated 8 February 1999 (circulated) by the Director of Social Work which advised of the content of the Strategic Plan for Social Work Services in the Criminal Justice System.

The meeting terminated at 1555 hours.