

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

DOON VALLEY LOCAL COMMITTEE

**MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 29 OCTOBER 1998 AT
1400 HOURS IN DRONGAN COMMUNITY CENTRE, MILMANNOCH AVENUE,
DRONGAN**

PRESENT: Councillors John Smith and Robert Taylor; and Community Representatives Mr Ross McLeod, Mr Tony Foote and Mr John Weir.

ATTENDING: Arthur West, Service Manager (Development), Social Work; Michael Rooney (Team Leader), Pollution Control, Community Services; Hilary MacGillivray, Early Intervention Co-ordinator, Education; James Lally, Senior Administrative Officer; and Ian Gemmell, Administrative Officer.

ALSO ATTENDING: Inspector John Merrylees, Strathclyde Police.

APOLOGIES: Councillor Tommy Farrell and Mr Edward Torrance.

CHAIR: Councillor John Smith, Chair.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

1. There were submitted for information and noted, the Minutes of the Doon Valley Local Committee of 8 September 1998 (circulated).

DECENTRALISATION ISSUES

DEVELOPING THE COUNCIL'S DECENTRALISATION SCHEME

2. There was submitted a report dated 9 September 1998 (circulated) by the Chief Executive advising that, as part of a review of the Council's Decentralisation Scheme, a panel of Councillors would visit every Local Committee to consult on developing the Council's Decentralisation Scheme.

It was further reported and noted that the Panel would attend the Doon Valley Local Committee at their meeting on 2 February 1999, as part of the consultation process.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to note the consultation process being undertaken as part of the review of the Council's Decentralisation Scheme;
- (ii) that Members of the Committee should, prior to the attendance of the Consultation Panel at the Doon Valley Local Committee on 2 February 1999, consider any matters which should be drawn to the attention of the Panel in relation to the operation of the Scheme; and
- (iii) to note that a report on the findings of the Consultation Panel would be presented to a meeting of the Local Committee during 1999.

ANNUAL SEMINAR FOR COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES 1998

3. There was submitted a report dated 25 September 1998 (circulated) by the Director of Support Services on the arrangements for developing the Annual Seminar for Community Representatives.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to note the arrangements made to date for the Annual Seminar for Community Representatives;
- (ii) that the Director of Support Services submit a report on the outcome of the Seminar in due course; and
- (iii) otherwise to note the report.

LOCAL COMMITTEES - FORWARD PLANNING 1998/99

4. There was submitted and noted a report dated 23 September 1998 (circulated) by the Director of Support Services advising of the finalised forward planning programme in respect of the Agenda and timescales of Local Committee meetings for 1998/99.

COMMUNITY SERVICES

“OPERATION SPOTLIGHT”

5. The Committee received a verbal report from Inspector John Merrylees, Strathclyde Police, on local crime statistics and on the current work of Strathclyde Police under the “Operation Spotlight” Initiative.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to note the information provided; and
- (ii) that the misuse of drugs should be selected as the local topic for a future meeting of the Doon Valley Community Forum, Inspector Merrylees having indicated that Strathclyde Police would be prepared to participate by providing a presentation on the role of the Police in combating this problem.

COMMUNITY MEMBERSHIP OF DOON VALLEY LOCAL COMMITTEE: UPDATE

6. There was submitted a report dated 16 October 1998 (circulated) by the Director of Support Services advising of the current position in respect of the appointment of Community Representatives from local organisations to serve on the Doon Valley Local Committee for the period 1 April 1998 to 31 March 1999.

It was reported and noted (i) that a nomination had been received from Doon Academy in respect of the Pupils’ Representative (Dalmellington/Patna/Dalrymple); and (ii) that the Peer Education Project in Patna had concluded and accordingly, the group for that area had been disbanded.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to accept the following nominations:- Dalmellington Community Council - Mr John Weir; and Pupils’ Representative (Dalmellington/Patna/Dalrymple) - Mr Steven Smith;
- (ii) to note that vacancies existed as follows:- Dalmellington Community Council (Substitute); Bellsbank Women’s Project (Representative and Substitute); and Pupils’ Representative (Dalmellington/Patna/Dalrymple) (Substitute);
- (iii) to note the completion of the Peer Education Group Project in Patna; and

- (iv) that with regard to the vacancy left following the disbandment of the Peer Education Group, the Director of Support Services, in consultation with the Chair, make enquiries with a view to identifying a suitable local organisation who may be in a position to appoint a Community Representative and Substitute, in place of the Peer Education Group; and report to a future meeting of this Committee.

DOG FOULING INITIATIVE

- 7. There was submitted a report dated 10 August 1998 (circulated) by the Director of Community Services advising of the outcome of a pilot scheme introduced to improve public awareness about dog fouling.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to request that the Director of Community Services consider an appropriate method of incorporating publicity about dog fouling in the Council's annual Anti-Litter Campaign promoted during the Council's Environment Week to raise public awareness of this issue; and
- (ii) otherwise to note the report.

EDUCATION

CURRENT GOOD PRACTICE IN THE EDUCATION SERVICE: EARLY INTERVENTION INITIATIVE

- 8. There was submitted a report dated 17 September 1998 (circulated) by the Director of Education on the progress of the Early Intervention Initiative in East Ayrshire Council, as an example of current good practice within the Education Department.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to note the terms of the report; and
- (ii) that more detailed briefings be held on this significant educational initiative.

HOUSING

EAST AYRSHIRE GARDEN COMPETITION 1998

- 9. There was submitted a report dated 17 September 1998 (circulated) by the Director of Housing advising of the outcome of the 1998 Garden Competition, and requesting that the Local Committee extend its congratulations to the area winners.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to extend the Committee's congratulations to the local area winners;
- (ii) to note that the Director of Housing had made appropriate arrangements to hold a civic function at which the presentation of prizes would take place; and
- (iii) otherwise to note the report.

SOCIAL WORK

POSITIVE ACHIEVEMENTS 1997/98

10. There was submitted and noted a report dated 28 August 1998 (circulated) by the Director of Social Work on the Social Work Department's new developments and positive achievements during the period April 1997 to March 1998.

CARERS STRATEGY

11. There was submitted and noted a report dated 16 September 1998 (circulated) by the Director of Social Work which provided information on the East Ayrshire Carers Strategy.

COMMUNITY GRANTS

12.1 GENERAL APPLICATIONS

There was submitted a statement dated 16 October 1998 (circulated) by the Director of Support Services which summarised the pertinent information relative to outstanding applications for Community Grants received from local organisations, and outlined the financial position in respect of Community Grants for the financial year 1998/99.

12.1.1 APPLICATIONS APPROVED (For the Purpose Specified in the Application)

(a) **Leisure Activities**

- (i) Drongan Craft Club - £300

(b) **Older People**

To approve payment of grant to the following organisations in terms of the adopted formula of £3 per capita according to present registered numbers:-

- (i) Age Concern, Patna - £1,311; and
 (ii) Rankinston Senior Citizens' Welfare Association - £204.

12.1.2 APPLICATION CONTINUED

(a) **Older People**

- (i) Bellsbank Senior Citizens' Club - to enable further information on the application to be obtained.

The meeting terminated at 1505 hours.