

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

KILMARNOCK NORTH LOCAL COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 29 SEPTEMBER 1998 AT 1400 HOURS IN ONTHANK COMMUNITY EDUCATION CENTRE, KIRKTON ROAD, KILMARNOCK

PRESENT: Councillors Drew McIntyre (Chair), John Knapp and Daniel Coffey; Community Representatives Arlene Lindsay, William Denim, Janet Smith, Archie McKenzie, Matt Donnelly, Maureen Brown and Hugh Stirling.

ALSO PRESENT: Councillors Jane Darnbrough, David Fulton, Ronald Brailsford and Eric Jackson.

ATTENDING: Barbara Haughan, Director of Support Services; Alison Smith, Principal Officer, Registration and Licensing; David White, Environmental Health Officer, Community Services; Tom Williams, Principal Psychologist, Education Services; Janet Nightingale, Assistant Area Housing Manager; Helen McGee, Assistant Divisional Manager, Social Work; Bill Walkinshaw, Principal Administrative Officer; and Robert Beaton, Administrative Officer.

ALSO ATTENDING: Superintendent Torrance Dempsey, Strathclyde Police.

APOLOGIES: Councillor Gordon McCredie and Community Representatives Beryl Graham and Kate Clannachan.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

1. There was submitted for information and noted, Minutes of meeting held on 18 August 1998.
 - (i) **Street Naming, Proposed Development at McKellar Place, Kilmarnock (Item 3, Page 3581)** - Noted that following suggestion by New Farm Loch Community Council that the development be known as Loch View, the Director of Support Services in consultation with the Chair approved the suggestion and the Head of Contracting and Technical Services had been advised accordingly; and
 - (ii) **Programme for Environmental Improvement Projects (Item 7, Page 3583)** - Agreed that the Director of Community Services be requested to provide an update on the condition of the Reformers Monument in the Kay Park in light of possible consideration for an environmental improvement project.

DECENTRALISATION ISSUES

DEVELOPING THE COUNCIL'S DECENTRALISATION SCHEME

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

There was introduced to the meeting members of the Decentralisation Consultation Panel viz:- Councillor Fulton, Brailsford, Darnbrough and Jackson. Thereupon, the Panel sought the views of the Local Committee on practical improvements to the Council's Decentralisation Scheme.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to request that consideration be given to provide childcare provision at Local Committee meetings;
- (ii) to request consideration of further training of Community Members as part of an ongoing programme;
- (iii) to suggest that the 15 minute period allocated for questions and answers be held at the beginning of the Local Committee meeting to allow Officers to leave the meeting after they had reported on their item;
- (iv) to suggest that substitute Local Committee Members attend meetings from time to time to gain experience of the operation of Local Committees (a practice currently operated by the Kilmarnock North Local Committee);
- (v) that consideration be given to provide transport for disabled and elderly to attend meetings;
- (vi) to request that consideration be given to the anomaly of awarding community grants to Voluntary Organisations to pay letting charges to the Council. It was suggested to allow free lets;
- (vii) to note the consultation process being undertaken as part of the review of the Council's Decentralisation Scheme; and
- (viii) to note that a report of the findings of the consultation panel would be presented to a meeting of the Local Committee during 1999.

ANNUAL SEMINAR FOR COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES 1998 (Item 2, Page 3875)

3. There was submitted a report dated 25 September 1998 (circulated) by the Director of Support Services which provided information on the arrangements for developing an annual seminar for Community Representatives.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to note the arrangements made to date for the annual seminar;
- (ii) that the Director of Support Services submit a report on the outcome of the seminar to the Local Committee; and
- (iii) otherwise to note the contents of 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 which advised of the finalised Forward Planning Programme in respect of the agenda and timescales of Local Committee meetings for 1998/99.

COMMUNITY FORUM - 8 OCTOBER 1998

5. The Administrative Officer reported and it was noted that the next Kilmarnock North Community Forum would be held on Thursday 8 October 1998 at 7pm in Onthank Community Education Centre, Kirtkon Road, Kilmarnock. The main item to be discussed would be the issues in relation to East Ayrshire Council's Commercial Operations and the local item would be a presentation on a future economic development regeneration strategy for the Longpark area of Kilmarnock North.

LOCAL COMMITTEE GRANTS SCHEME

6. There was submitted a report dated 16 September 1998 (circulated) by the Director of Support Services which outlined the financial position in respect of grants received for the financial year 1998/99 together with a summary statement which related to the outstanding applications for community grant received from local organisations.

The Committee considered the undernoted applications and took the following decisions:-

- (i) **Applications Approved** (for the purpose specified on the application), viz:-
- (a) Disability
East Ayrshire Support Group - £60
- (b) Young People
Kilmarnock & Loudoun Scout Fellowship - £60

The Committee agreed to approve the above grant subject to an additional condition to the standard grant conditions as follows: that, in making this grant, the Council does not render itself liable in respect of any claims which may arise at the instance of any person in respect of any loss, injury or damage suffered as a result of:- (a) any fault or defect in the equipment to be purchased with the grant as specified in the application; and (b) any use of said equipment by any person at any time and for any purpose.

COMMUNITY SERVICES

“OPERATION SPOTLIGHT”

7. There was submitted a report dated 23 September 1998 (circulated) by the Director of Community Services which advised of the nature and results of “Spotlight” operations of the proceeding 6 week period and advised of forthcoming initiatives.

It was agreed:-

- (i) that the Local Committee community representatives identify any local problems which may be addressed by a “Spotlight” operation and advise the Director of Community Services accordingly; and
- (ii) otherwise note the content of the report.

DOG FOULING INITIATIVE (Item 19, Page 2972)

8. There was submitted and noted a report dated 10 August 1998 (circulated) by the Director of Community Services which advised of the outcome of a pilot scheme introduced to improve public awareness about dog fouling.

It was agreed:-

- (i) that the Director of Community Services consider the feasibility of establishing a designated area where dog owners could walk their pets and to report back to a future meeting of the Local Committee on the available options; and
- (ii) otherwise to note the contents of the report.

EDUCATION

PROMOTING GOOD PRACTICE IN EDUCATION : EARLY INTERVENTION INITIATIVE

9. There was submitted a report dated 17 September 1998 (circulated) by the Director of Education which informed of the progress of an early intervention initiative in East Ayrshire Council as an example of current good practice within the Education Department.

It was agreed to note the contents of the report and that the community representatives be invited to consider the need for more detailed briefings to be held on this significant Education initiative and that the Director of Education be advised accordingly.

HOUSING

GARDEN COMPETITION 1998

10. There was submitted a report dated 17 September 1998 (circulated) by the Director of Housing which advised of the outcome of the 1998 Garden Competition and requested that the Local Committee extend its congratulations to the area winners.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to extend the Local Committees congratulations to the local area winners;
 - Winner - D Smith, 4 Murray Place, Kilmarnock
 - Runners up - D Hopes, 12 MacAndrew Place, Kilmarnock and J Scade, 4 Brodie Place, Kilmarnock
 - Hanging Baskets - A Morrison, 42 Cumbrae Drive, Kilmarnock
 - Overall best garden in East Ayrshire - J Alexander, 36 Kings Drive, Cumnock
- (ii) to note that the Director of Housing would make appropriate arrangements to hold the Civic function and notify the winners; and
- (iii) to request that the Director of Housing advise Local Committee Community Members of the operational details of the East Ayrshire Garden Competition particularly in relation to the rules for judging.

SOCIAL WORK

POSITIVE ACHIEVEMENTS 1997/98

11. There was submitted a report dated 14 September 1998 (circulated) by the Director of Social Work which informed of the Social Work Department's new developments and positive achievements during the period April 1997 to March 1998.

It was agreed:-

- (i) that the Director of Social Work be requested to consider the feasibility of providing a benefits roadshow throughout the Kilmarnock North area to promote the take up of benefits; and
- (ii) to otherwise note the contents of the report.

CARERS STRATEGY (Item 6, Page 3932)

12. There was submitted and noted a report dated 15 September 1998 (circulated) by the Director of Social Work which provided information on the Carers Strategy as detailed within the report.

The meeting terminated at 1511 hours.