

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL**IRVINE VALLEY LOCAL COMMITTEE****MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 25 SEPTEMBER 1996 AT
1430 HOURS IN DARVEL TOWN HALL**

PRESENT: Councillors David Fulton, Kim Nicoll, George Turnbull and Robert McDill and Community Representatives George Dalziel, Steve Brown, William Pattison, Andrew Nisbet, Janice M Cameron and Lorna Smith.

ALSO PRESENT: Sergeant Thomson, Strathclyde Police.

ATTENDING: Bill Anderson, Principal Officer (Cultural Services); Marlene Campbell, Area Manager (Housing); Anne Jackson, Principal Community Education Officer; James Lally, Senior Administrative Officer; Pete Longman, Principal Engineer (Roads); Andrew MacDonald, Service Manager (Social Work); Jean Nisbet, Quality Development Officer (Education); Jane Overton, Senior Strategy Officer (Development Services); and Jennifer Morrison, Administrative Officer.

APOLOGIES: Councillor David Macrae and Community Representative Mary Bowie.

CHAIR: Councillor David Fulton, Chair.

URGENT ITEM**CROSS BOUNDARY COMMUNITY GRANT APPLICATION
KILMARNOCK AND LOUDOUN YOUTH PANEL**

The Chair agreed that this item of urgent business should be considered as part of Item 18 on the agenda as an early decision was necessary to meet the cost of various events to be undertaken by the Kilmarnock & Loudoun Youth Panel.

CHAIR'S INTRODUCTION

1. Councillor David Fulton introduced to the Committee Sergeant Thomson, Strathclyde Police who was based in Galston, and advised that the Sergeant or a representative of Strathclyde Police would be available to give advice/information at Local Committee meetings.

**THIRD STATUTORY REVIEW OF ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS: EAST
AYRSHIRE COUNCIL (Item 9, Page 1195)**

2. There was submitted a report dated 30 August 1996 (circulated) by the Director of Support Services on the Third Statutory Review of Electoral Arrangements, and the preferred draft scheme of representation for East Ayrshire Council, as considered by the Policy and Resources Committee on 12 September 1996.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to note that the Policy and Resources Committee at its meeting on 12 September 1996 had selected a preferred draft scheme of representation which would provide for 32 electoral wards for the purpose of consultation with Local Committees and members of the public;

- (ii) to note that Community Representatives as well as local organisations and interested individuals would have the opportunity to inspect the proposals which were on display at various locations throughout the District and had been invited to submit written comments on the proposals to the Director of Support Services by Friday 18 October 1996; and
- (iii) that the Director of Support Services would report to the Council meeting to be held on 7 November 1996 with details of representations received following the above consultative process and with recommendations for the finalised draft scheme of representation to be submitted to the Boundary Commission.

**COMMUNITY COUNCIL SCHEME - REPORT ON CONSULTATION ON REVIEW
AND REPLACEMENT OF EXISTING SCHEMES (Item 18, Page 1198)**

3. There was submitted a report dated 9 September 1996 (circulated) by the Director of Support Services on the current position in respect of the ongoing review of the existing Community Council Schemes, as reported to the Policy and Resources Committee on 12 September 1996.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to note the current position with regard to the review; and
- (ii) that should the Council decide to revoke the existing Community Council Schemes that the Director of Support Services make arrangements to ensure that Community Councils could function properly during any transitional period between the existing and any new Schemes being approved.

ROAD SAFETY PROPOSALS (Item 11, Page 1170)

4. There was submitted a report dated 3 September 1996 (circulated) by the Director of Development Services on proposals to reduce the number of road accidents in East Ayrshire.

It was agreed:-

- (i) that when the initial studies into traffic conditions in communities were being undertaken to determine a programme of future action, the Head of Roads and Transportation should advise Local Community Councils of where and when the studies were taking place;
- (ii) that, as part of his study, the Head of Roads and Transportation investigate the possibility of introducing traffic calming measures at Riccarton Road, Hurlford as well as Galston Road, Hurlford;
- (iii) to note that full liaison would take place with the Local Committee; and
- (iv) otherwise to note the contents of the report.

Arising from discussion of this item it was agreed that the Head of Roads and Transportation investigate the lack of a pedestrian/pelican crossing in Crookedholm and report to a future meeting.

EAST AYRSHIRE REGENERATION PARTNERSHIP (Item 6, Page 1033)

5. There was submitted a report dated 27 August 1996 (circulated) by the Director of Development Services advising of the progress with the East Ayrshire Regeneration

Strategy and providing an opportunity for comment on the Local Area Statements and on potential projects.

It was agreed:-

- (i) that "plan" be substituted for "vision" in future reports referring to the Local Area Statements for Gilfoot, Newmilns and Crookedholm;
- (ii) that the Director of Development Services investigate the possibility of extending the "New Start" projects into Crookedholm/Gilfoot, Newmilns and investigate whether there was any potential to extend any other existing training programmes into Crookedholm/Gilfoot, Newmilns; and report thereon to a future meeting of the Committee;
- (iii) to note the priority area boundaries; and
- (iv) to note the content of the Local Area Statements.

LOCAL REGENERATION STRATEGIES (Item 4, Page 820)

6. There was submitted a report dated 2 September 1996 (circulated) by the Director of Development Services on the proposed process for constructing a Local Regeneration Strategy.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to approve the proposed process for preparing the strategy, as detailed within section 4.1 of the report;
- (ii) that the East Ayrshire Regeneration Partnership be the channel through which the involvement of a wider range of agencies be undertaken; and
- (iii) otherwise to note the report.

REGENERATION OF THE IRVINE VALLEY

7. There was submitted a report dated 5 September 1996 (circulated) by the Director of Development Services on a possible approach to economic and physical regeneration of the Irvine Valley and recommending a first step in the development and implementation of a regeneration initiative.

It was agreed that sections 2-5 of the report be used as a basis for a discussion paper to be circulated to the bodies listed in paragraph 4.3 of the report to establish the level of interest in an Irvine Valley Partnership, and that a further report be submitted to the Committee outlining responses received.

RURAL CHALLENGE (Item 15, Page 938)

8. There was submitted a report (circulated) by the Chief Executive on progress towards the identification of projects which might be funded under the Rural Challenge budget, in respect of which a sum of £13, 840 had been made available to East Ayrshire Council, and under which Cumnock Area, Doon Valley, Irvine Valley and Northern Area Local Committees had been invited to submit bids for Rural Challenge funding.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to support the one application that had been received in respect of the Native and Community Woodland Project (phase 2) in the sum of £2,000 and to

forward the application to the Policy and Resources Committee for further consideration;

- (ii) to recommend that should the Policy and Resources Committee approve the application that the Senior Strategy Officer investigate the feasibility of the Project Consultant including as part of their study the possibility of a 'Tree Avenue' along the A71 in the Irvine Valley and if not feasible to identify alternative sources of funding for the 'Tree Avenue'.

CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICE PLANS (Item 6, Page 1194)

9. There was submitted a report dated 3 September 1996 (circulated) on the statutory duty of the Council to prepare, consult upon, and publish a Children's Service Plan for the Council's area and on progress made to date on agreeing the process for completing this plan.

It was agreed:-

- (i) that the Director of Social Work bring forward a further report to the Local Committee as necessary to progress the East Ayrshire Service Plan; and
- (ii) otherwise to note the contents of the report.

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY SERVICES/AIDS AND ADAPTATIONS (Item 5, Page 1086)

10. There was submitted a report dated 2 September 1996 (circulated) by the Director of Social Work on progress in respect of Occupational Therapy staffing, identification of need, and current referral status.

It was agreed:-

- (i) that the Director of Social Work provide the Irvine Valley Local Committee Councillors and Community Representatives with an explanation as to the assessment categorisations (A, B and C);
- (ii) that the Director of Social Work provide Councillor McDill with the information on the Social Work Department's procedures in respect of referrals for assessments and for aids and adaptations; and
- (iii) otherwise to note the contents of the report.

PHYSICAL DISABILITY/SENSORY IMPAIRMENT

11. There was submitted a report dated 27 August 1996 (circulated) by the Director of Social Work on the services disaggregated to East Ayrshire Council for adults with a physical disability and adults with a sensory impairment, and on arrangements to address inadequate resources disaggregated.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to note the consultation and development tasks to be undertaken by the Service Officer, Physical Disability and Sensory Impairment Services; and
- (ii) that the Director of Social Work submit a further report in February 1997 on a proposed Sensory Impairment Service.

MEASURED TERM MAINTENANCE CONTRACT CONSULTATION

12. There was submitted a report dated 2 September 1996 (circulated) by the Director of Housing on progress made in the preparations for the re-tendering of the Measured Term Maintenance Contract, with particular regard to consultation undertaken.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to endorse the approach to consultation taken by the Department on this important issue; and
- (ii) otherwise to note the contents of the report.

DRAFT PARTICIPATION POLICY

13. There was submitted a report dated 2 September 1996 (circulated) by the Director of Housing on the proposed framework for East Ayrshire Council's Draft Participation Policy.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to note the contents and the issues contained within the Draft Participation Policy;
- (ii) to endorse the undertaking to concentrate priority on those Local Committee Areas without tenant/resident association representation;
- (iii) to approve the Draft Policy for detailed consultation with East Ayrshire Council's tenant and resident associations and national groups;
- (iv) that in order to encourage the formation of tenant/resident associations in the Irvine Valley, the Director of Housing stage four public meetings one each in Darvel, Newmilns, Galston and Hurlford and inform residents by leaflet about these meetings; and
- (v) otherwise to note the contents of the report.

VANDALISM TO LEISURE AND RECREATION FACILITIES (Item 2, Page 1139)

15. There was submitted a report dated 8 August 1996 (circulated) by the Director of Community Services which had been submitted to the Leisure Sub-Committee of the Community Services Committee held on 27 August 1996.

The purpose of the above report had been to advise the Sub-Committee of considerable damage to leisure and recreation facilities by vandals in the period 1 April to 31 July 1996, and it had been referred by the Leisure Sub-Committee to the Local Committee for consideration.

It was agreed:-

- (i) that arising from a point raised by Councillor Kim Nicoll about Portland Park in Galston, the Director of Community Services provide a report to the next meeting following a survey of the availability and type of play facilities in the Irvine Valley and the maintenance and associated costs in respect of Play Parks; and
- (ii) that the Director of Community Services discuss with Strathclyde Police, ways of reducing the amount of vandalism to leisure and recreation facilities.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PLANNING

15. There was submitted and noted a report dated 3 September 1996 (circulated) by the Director of Education on progress being made within the Community Education Service in respect of Community Development Planning.

Community Representative Lorna Smith left the meeting at this point.

IRVINE VALLEY COMMUNITY FORUM

16. There was submitted a report dated 19 September 1996 (circulated) by the Director of Support Services on the last Community Forum Meeting held at St Sophia's Primary School, Galston on 4 September 1996.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to note that following the access problem experienced by wheelchair users at St Sophia's Primary School, Galston, the Forum would be rerun on the evening of 10 October 1996 in the School by which time a ramp would have been installed to enable easy access for wheelchair users; and
- (ii) otherwise to note the contents of the report.

FUTURE MEETINGS

17. Consideration was given to possible local issues in respect of the next two meetings of the Irvine Valley Community Forum.

It was agreed:-

- (i) that the next Community Forum be held in Loudoun Academy, Galston and that the local item for discussion be youth/play facilities, and that in this respect an open invitation be issued to school pupils of Loudoun Academy to address the Forum; and
- (ii) provisionally that the "garden scheme" be the local item for the Forum meeting thereafter.

GRANTS TO LOCAL ORGANISATIONS - COMMUNITY GRANTS SCHEME

18. There was submitted a report (circulated) by the Director of Support Services advising of applications by Community Groups for community grants for the period 27 June to 25 September 1996.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to note that the sum of £33, 410 had been allocated to the Irvine Valley Local Committee in support of community and voluntary groups within the local area for the period 1996/97 and that after deducting grants already approved the balance now available for Community grants was £31, 042;
- (ii) to approve the undernoted grant awards for the purpose specified in the applications:-
 - (a) Elderly Groups
Age Concern, Hurlford - £400,
Galston and District Old Peoples Welfare Association - £685.73

Darvel Ladies Social Club - £80

(b) Disabled Groups

East Ayrshire Support Group - £150

St Marnock Youth Club (Enable) - £588 subject to condition that all Local Committees considering the application pay their portion of the grant.

(c) Youth Groups

Galston Playgroup - £262.85 and that the Assessing Department (Community Education) report to next meeting on why they had deemed a bookcase not strictly necessary.

Strathclyde Police - Unity Event - £20

Kilmarnock & Loudoun Youth Panel - £604

(d) Miscellaneous Groups

Chain (Claimants Housing Advice and Information Network) - £214 subject to condition that all Local Committees considering the application pay their portion of the grant

Irvine Valley Joint Community Council Transport Group - £6, 000

(iii) to refuse the undernoted applications for the reasons detailed:-

(a) Elderly Groups

Darvel Old Peoples Welfare Association - on the grounds that:

there would be no lasting benefit to the community as a result of the proposed project; and that expenditure could be met from existing bank balance.

(b) Miscellaneous Groups

Kilmarnock Folk Club (Traditional Dance Project in Primary Schools) - on the grounds that it would be inappropriate to fund a teacher's time out of his/her base school to work in other schools via the community grants scheme.

Kilmarnock & Loudoun Victim Support - on the grounds that the group intend to resubmit an application with more up-to-date financial information.

(iv) to note that the application from Glencraigs Nursing Home, Newmilns did not fall within the terms of the community grants scheme and that the applicant had been advised accordingly; and

(v) that a 'total cost of project' column be included in the table in subsequent reports.

**PROVISION OF INFORMATION & ADVICE SERVICES -
CONSULTATION PANELS (Item 4, Page 1245)**

19. There was submitted and noted a report dated 11 September 1996 (circulated) by the Chief Executive on the Consultation Panels appointed by the Decentralisation

Sub-Committee to undertake a programme of local visits to examine how information and advice services might be best delivered in respect of those communities where there was not currently a Local Office.

LOCAL OFFICE PROVISION (Item 7, Page 970)

20. There was submitted a report dated 11 September 1996 by the Director of Support Services on the position relative to the upgrading of local offices and general matters relating to the information and services provided from 1 April 1996.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to note the progress to date; and
- (ii) that a further report be submitted to a future meeting of the Local Committee.

MANAGEMENT RULES FOR MORTON PARK, DARVEL (Item 8, Page 1141)

21. There was submitted a report dated 28 August 1996 (circulated) by the Director of Community Services regarding proposed management rules for the use of Morton Park, Darvel.

It was agreed that the Community Representatives submit to next meeting any proposed amendments to the Management Rules.

ANTI-POVERTY STRATEGY

22.1 FUEL POVERTY (Item 9, Page 1034)

There was submitted and noted a report dated 17 September 1996 (circulated) by the Director of Housing on the current position regarding the development of future strategies to help relieve fuel poverty in Council houses.

22.2 BENEFITS TAKE UP CAMPAIGN (Item 9, Page 1034)

There was submitted a joint report dated 21 May 1996 by Directors of Housing and Social Work which had been submitted to the Housing Committee of 29 May 1996, together with a 'Quick Guide' Benefits Leaflet.

It was agreed to note the position with regard to the success of the Benefits Take Up Campaign, and the Information contained within the Benefits Leaflet.

The meeting terminated at 1655 hrs.