

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION COMMITTEE

At a meeting of the Community Participation Committee held in the Council Chambers, Municipal Buildings, Station Road, Dumbarton, on Wednesday 8 October 2003 at 2.00 p.m.

Present: Councillors Jim Bollan, Dennis Brogan, Gail Casey, Jack Duffy, Margaret McGregor and Andy White. Mr Mark Ewing, Bellsmyre Neighbourhood Forum; Mrs Wendy Hutchinson and Mr Murdoch Cameron MBE, West Dunbartonshire Community Councils Forum; Mrs Margaret Morrison, Clydebank Forum on Disability; Ms Patricia Rice, Clydebank Unemployed Community Resource Centre; Ms Jeanette Jennings, Faifley Neighbourhood Forum; and Mrs Hope Robertson, South Drumry Tenants and Residents Association.

Attending: Liz Cochrane, Policy Manager; Anne Clegg, Policy Officer – Community and Consultation and Fiona Anderson, Administrative Assistant, Legal and Administrative Services.

Also Attending: Mr Mike O'Donnell, Manager, West Dunbartonshire Partnership and Ms Sandra Davidson, Community Development Manager, West Dunbartonshire Partnership.

Apologies: Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillors Margaret Bootland, Jackie Maceira, Marie McNair, Connie O'Sullivan; Clydebank Youth Forum and Mrs Frances McGonagle, Lone Parent Group.

Councillor Gail Casey in the Chair

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

924 Before commencing with the business of the meeting, Councillor Casey welcomed the Community Representatives to the second meeting of the Community Participation Committee and thanked them for attending.

PRESENTATION

- 925 Mr Mike O'Donnell and Ms Sandra Davidson, West Dunbartonshire Partnership, described the Partnership's community involvement arrangements including the Community Forums and the resource bases in Clydebank, Dumbarton and the Vale of Leven. They asked that the review of the Decentralisation Scheme should consider the co-ordination and linking of partners' community involvement structures.
- 926 Having heard Mr O'Donnell and Ms Davidson in answer to Members' questions, Councillor Casey, on behalf of the Committee, thanked both officers for their very interesting and informative presentation.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

- 927 The Minutes of Meeting of Community Participation Committee held on 20 August 2003 were submitted and approved as a correct record.
- 928 With reference to the item headed "Community Participation Committee – Proposals for Interim Community Representation" the Policy Officer – Community and Consultation advised that Catriona Renton (former Glasgow City Councillor) had been contacted and had agreed, in principle, to attend a future meeting to report on her experiences of interacting effectively with young people.
- 929 After discussion, it was agreed that Ms Clegg proceed with arrangements, which would include examining the possibility of offering a wider audience the opportunity to attend a future meeting of the Community Participation Committee.

ROLE OF INTERIM COMMUNITY MEMBERS ON THE COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION COMMITTEE

- 930 A report was submitted by the Chief Executive clarifying the role of interim Community Members on the Community Participation Committee.
- 931 At this point in the meeting, it was noted that Clydebank Youth Forum had requested that meetings should not be held during school hours in order to allow young people to attend.
- 932 After discussion, during which Members of the Committee expressed their views, it was agreed:-
- (1) that Members of the Committee should be contacted and their views sought on the preferred time and venue for future meetings;

- (2) that, if necessary, a report be submitted to Council requesting permission to vary the arrangements for Community Participation Committee meetings previously scheduled by Council;
- (3) that a report be submitted to the next meeting detailing the remit and powers of the Community Participation Committee;
- (4) to note that a key role of the interim members would be to provide views on the arrangements for the future permanent community membership of the Committee and to participate in discussions and associated consultation processes; and
- (5) to note that the interim community representatives would also be asked to give views and suggestions on the business which comes before the Committee during their membership.

SCHEME OF DECENTRALISATION: REVIEW UPDATE

- 933 A report was submitted by the Chief Executive providing an update on the review of the Council's Decentralisation Scheme.
- 934 After hearing the Policy Officer – Community and Consultation, in further explanation, the Committee agreed to note the contents of the report.

COMMUNITY WEEK/COMMUNITY CONFERENCE BACKGROUND ON 2003 – PLANNING FOR 2004

- 935 A report was submitted by the Chief Executive providing background information on Community Week and on the Council's Annual Community Conference 2004.
- 936 Having heard the Policy Officer – Community and Consultation in further explanation, it was noted that a second meeting had now been held to discuss arrangements for the community week/community conference and that a large of number of events were now at the planning stage.
- 937 After discussion and having heard Ms Clegg in answer to Members' questions, the Committee agreed to recommend:-
- (1) that "anti-social behaviour and crime" should be lead issues at the Conference; and
 - (2) that Officers should discuss these revised proposals for the Conference programme with the Planning Group;
 - (3) that workshops at the Conference could focus on issues such as:-

- (a) the powers of community representatives on Council committees and the delegation of both rights and responsibilities; and
 - (b) the delivery of services using a “one stop shop” approach.
- (4) that the proposals at paragraph (3) above be taken to the Community Week/Conference Planning Group for further discussion;
 - (5) that Members should receive a report on the progress for the Conference at the next meeting of the Community Participation Committee; and
 - (6) that the local Liaison Officer, Strathclyde Police be asked to submit a report on the powers of the Police to deal with certain situations in relation to crime and anti-social behaviour to the next meeting of the Committee.

Margaret Morrison left the meeting during discussion of the above item.

COMMUNITY COUNCILS

- 938 A report was submitted by the Director of Corporate Services requesting the Committee to consider the current position of Community Councils within West Dunbartonshire Council.
- 939 After hearing Ms Rice and Ms Jennings, the Committee noted that with reference to the Appendix to the report, their request that the comments on Faifley Community Council should be amended to read that ‘a Community Council had been active until 1998’.
- 940 After discussion, the Committee agreed to recommend to Council:-
- (a) that training be provided for office bearers of Community Councils on the basis described in the report and that further discussions and consultation would take place with Community Councils and the Forum on further training required;
 - (b) that discussions take place with Community Councils and the Forum on ways of enhancing the profile of Community Councils, subject to available financial and staffing resources; and
 - (c) that consideration be given to identifying financial resources to support increased training and development.

Mr O'Donnell and Ms Davidson left the meeting at this point.

DRAFT STRATEGY ON EXTERNAL COMMUNICATION AND CONSULTATION

- 941 A report was submitted by the Chief Executive presenting a draft strategy for the conduct of the Council's Communication and Consultation with the people of West Dunbartonshire and other stakeholders in its services.
- 942 Following discussion, it was noted that inter-departmental communications regarding avoiding the coincidence of meeting times, could be improved.
- 943 After consideration and having heard the Policy Manager in answer to Members' questions, the Committee agreed to recommend to Council approval of the draft strategy detailed in Appendix 1 to the report, with appropriate arrangements being made for ongoing consultation with the local community and other stakeholders.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

- 944 It was confirmed that the next meeting was scheduled to be held on Wednesday 10 December 2003 at 11.00 a.m. in the Municipal Buildings, Dumbarton.

The meeting closed at 4.10 p.m.