

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION COMMITTEE

At a Meeting of the Community Participation Committee held in the Council Chambers, Clydebank Town Hall, Dumbarton Road, Clydebank on Wednesday, 24 October 2007 at 2.00 p.m.

Present: Councillors Jim Brown, George Black, Geoff Calvert, Gail Casey, Willie Hendrie, Jonathan McColl, John Millar, Iain Robertson and May Smillie. Francis McNeill, Community Councils Forum; Megan Harrison, Faifley Neighbourhood Forum; Mary Theresa Doherty, Faifley Neighbourhood Forum; Abdul Ghani, West Dunbartonshire Minority Ethnic Association; Rhona Young, West Dunbartonshire Seniors Association; Joe McCormack, West Dunbartonshire Citizens Advice Service and Brenda Pasquire, Dumbarton Credit Union Ltd.

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

Also Attending: Cheryl Gallacher, Sustainable Development Officer; Valerie McIlhatton, Policy Officer; Suzanne Greer, Policy and Development Officer – Diversity; Kate Coleman, Senior Community Education Worker; Julia McCourt, Community Support Worker; and Emma Cuckow, Solicitor.

Apologies: Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Murdoch Cameron, MBE, Community Councils Forum; Bill Rankin, West Dunbartonshire Access Panel; and John Diamond, Bellsmyre Neighbourhood Forum.

Councillor Jim Brown in the Chair

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of Meeting of the Committee held on 22 August 2007 were submitted and approved as a correct record.

INSPIRE COMMUNITY TRAINING GROUP

A report was submitted by the Director of Educational Services regarding the existence and work of the “Inspire” Community Training Group and inviting community representatives or members of their groups to take part in the training pilot of their “Standards for Community Engagement” pack and to join the group.

Kate Coleman, Senior Community Education Worker and Julia McCourt, Community Support Worker, gave a presentation on the work of “Inspire” Community Training Group, with particular reference to:-

- (a) the Group being a multi-agency group with a membership of frontline workers and community work managers which had been created to co-ordinate community training with the intention of maximising resources, reducing duplication and undertaking regular community training needs audits and assessments;
- (b) the Group having now developed a number of its own core training packages, devised and piloted by group members;
- (c) the training courses being delivered by cross agency teams based on the most regularly identified community training needs of Committee Skills, Presentation Skills and Problem Solving;
- (d) a range of additional specialist training being offered via group members own agency budgets and a dedicated budget from West Dunbartonshire Partnership (Community Planning Partnership);
- (e) the recent formation of a sub group to produce a West Dunbartonshire “Standards for Community Engagement” training pack to be delivered to individuals/groups within the community; and
- (f) the Group having already piloted the pack within its own membership but was now seeking to pilot it with community representatives before any extensive delivery was undertaken.

Following discussion, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to note the contents of the report;
- (2) to relay the information to their respective groups; and
- (3) to advise any interested persons to contact “Inspire” direct (contact details available on the “Inspire” Information Packs distributed at the meeting).

Having heard the Senior Community Education Worker and the Community Support Worker in answer to Members’ questions, the Chair, on behalf of the Committee thanked the officers for their informative and interesting presentation.

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL – LITTER AWARENESS CAMPAIGN

With reference to the Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 22 August 2007 (Page 234, paragraph (5) refers), the Manager of Commercial Operations submitted the undernoted responses:-

- (a) The Street Cleanliness Index for 2006/07 was 71 which was 4 points above the figure considered “acceptable” by Keep Scotland Beautiful, i.e. 67. It was noted that a copy of a recent press release had been circulated with the Agenda for information.
- (b) Housing, Environmental and Economic Development (H.E.E.D.) staff have advised that:-
 - (i) there were presently 13 lay-bys along the A82 (both carriageways) between Drumry Roundabout in Clydebank and Duck Bay;
 - (ii) there were bins in these lay-bys, most having two per lay-by; and
 - (iii) there were also 5 bus lay-bys which have bin provision;
- (c) The Department of Housing, Environmental and Economic Development (H.E.E.D.) was presently investigating the cost and possible effectiveness of installing signs in these lay-bys, worded to encourage visitors and residents to enjoy West Dunbartonshire but to Keep It Clean and Tidy. It had been noted, however, that there were similar signs in lay-bys on the Stirlingshire stretch of the A811 Balloch – Drymen Road and an inspection of the area showed that the signs appeared to be ineffectual given the level of litter in the area;
- (d) During 2005 an additional 12 bins were installed in the Bellsmyre area and that unfortunately some of these bins became the target of vandals and were either ripped out, set on fire or otherwise damaged. The delivery of steel litter bins was awaited and some of these bins (probably 4 or 5) would be installed at sites which were previously problematic; and
- (e) The Manager of Commercial Operations has reported that available options and their associated costs for methods to promote the proper disposal of chewing gum were currently being explored. It should be noted that any decision to install/implement would obviously need to take account of budget availability.
- (f) The issue of a smell of urine in the Dumbarton Town Centre area has been referred to the Environmental Health Section and it has been requested that the original complainant contact the Section direct to provide more detailed information.

THE PEOPLE'S FUND

The Committee agreed to note the following information about The People's Fund which had been requested at the Open Forum of the previous meeting held on 22 August 2007 (Page 237 refers):-

The People's Fund is a chance for local people to vote for project ideas which have been developed by local people. The projects must aim to benefit local neighbourhoods in West Dunbartonshire, with a significant focus on deprived areas. Following last year's successful event – a "first" in Scotland, there will be another event on Saturday, 3 November 2007.

It was noted that a full report would be made to the December meeting of the CPC, following the event.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Having heard the Policy Officer – Community and Consultation, the Committee agreed:-

- (a) that it might be useful to be provided with information about events and developments relevant to the community, without receiving a full committee report on these;
- (b) that in future the CPC Agenda would include a standing item giving advance notice in writing of relevant events and developments for the attention of Members of the Committee; and
- (c) that Members of the Committee would be invited to provide information for the Community News item in advance of meetings on an on-going basis.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

A report was submitted by the Chief Executive providing information on the consultative draft Sustainable Development Strategy for West Dunbartonshire.

Cheryl Gallacher, Sustainable Development Officer, was heard in further elaboration of the draft report and in response to Members' questions.

Following discussion, the Committee agreed to forward any comments/views direct to the officer within the next two weeks.

THE POST OFFICE NETWORK CHANGE PROGRAMME

A report was submitted by the Chief Executive informing the Committee of the proposed programme of post office closures in West Dunbartonshire.

Valerie McIlhatton, Policy Officer, was heard in further elaboration of the report and in response to Members' questions.

Following discussion, the Committee agreed:-

- (a) to note the content of the report;
- (b) to submit its views on the proposed post office closures to the relevant organisations (details of which were distributed by the Policy Officer); and
- (c) to consider any action which the local community may wish to take.

GENDER EQUALITY SCHEME

A report was submitted by the Chief Executive informing the Committee about the Council's Gender Equality Scheme which was published on 29 June 2007, following on from the introduction of the Gender duty in April 2007.

Suzanne Greer, Policy and Development Officer – Diversity, was heard in further elaboration of the report and in response to Members' questions.

Following discussion, the Policy and Development Officer – Diversity, agreed to arrange for the appropriate officer to respond direct to Councillor Black with figures of financial implications in relation to meeting fully the requirements of the Equal Pay Act.

The Committee noted:-

- (a) the progress made in implementing the gender duty and the development of the Gender Equality Scheme,
- (b) the content of the Gender Equality Action Plan 2007-10 and the ongoing work in departments to implement the scheme involving service users;
- (c) that Councillors Jonathan McColl and Marie McNair were co-Chairs of the Council's Gender and Equality Working Group; and
- (d) that comments and questions on the Scheme to the Working Group would be welcomed.

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP – KEY DEVELOPMENTS

A report was submitted by the Chief Executive providing the committee with an update on key developments within West Dunbartonshire Community Planning Partnership, (CPP).

Having heard the Principal Policy Officer in further elaboration of the report, the Committee noted:-

- (a) that progress and key issues are reported to West Dunbartonshire Council on a quarterly basis – following CPP board meetings;
- (b) that the most recent Board meeting had taken place on 8 October 2007;
- (c) that effective spend would be a major item for the December meeting of the CPP Board; and
- (d) that a summary version of the new Community Plan focusing on what the Community Planning Partnership aims to deliver, would be distributed to all households in West Dunbartonshire along with the Council Newspaper in December.

Following discussion, the Committee agreed to note:-

- (1) that Francis McNeill, Community Councils Forum, was now Chair of the Fairtrade Steering Group;
- (2) that Balloch was now established as the first Fairtrade area in West Dunbartonshire;
- (3) that it was hoped to roll Fairtrade out across West Dunbartonshire in the near future; and
- (4) that Francis McNeill would submit a report on Fair Trade to the next meeting of the Community Participation Committee.

OPERATION OF THE COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION COMMITTEE (CPC)

With reference to the Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 22 August 2007 (Page 232, paragraph (3) refers) the Committee was asked to note that Mary Theresa Doherty now represented Faifley Neighbourhood Forum as the Substitute Member.

A report was submitted by the Chief Executive following up on points raised at the August 2007 meeting about the operation of the CPC.

Having heard the Chair, Councillor Brown, the Committee agreed to continue this item until the next meeting of the Committee.

It was noted that this would allow community representatives the opportunity to raise the issues involved within their own organisations.

LICENSING (SCOTLAND) ACT 2005: STATEMENT OF LICENSING POLICY

The Committee noted that the Community representatives and voluntary sector representatives on the Community Participation Committee had previously been issued with the initial draft of the Statement of Licensing Policy and invited to make any comments.

Having heard from Emma Cuckow, Solicitor, in further elaboration and in response to Members' questions, the Committee noted that any further comments should be submitted verbally by 26 October 2007.

Having heard from Councillors Robertson, Calvert and J. McColl, the Committee noted:-

- (a) that a Test Purchase Scheme would shortly be introduced in West Dunbartonshire in an effort to stop the sale of alcohol to under-age drinkers;
- (b) that there had been a significant reduction in anti-social behaviour as a result of a Test Purchase Scheme which had been piloted in another area;
- (c) that there is a bigger problem of Agent Purchasing, i.e. older people purchasing drink for young people who are under age; and
- (d) the reference which was made to the forthcoming introduction of the new licensing system through the implementation of the Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS FROM COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES

The community representatives were invited to suggest topics for inclusion on future agendas and to reach agreement on the order of priority.

Following discussion, the Committee agreed that the undernoted topics be included:-

- (1) Presentation at the next meeting by the Police Liaison Officer regarding the problems created by people parking on zig zag lines outside schools; and
- (2) a Briefing Note to be submitted to the next meeting detailing the guidelines for domestic recycling, together with a range of the associated literature.

The Committee also agreed that the priority for topics raised at the previous meeting (Page 236 refers), should be dependent on the availability of officers and the dates of meetings. It was nevertheless suggested that school parking should be a priority topic for the next meeting.

OPEN FORUM

The Committee noted that there were no Open Forum questions as no members of the public were present.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The Chair, Councillor Brown, reminded Members that the next meeting would be held on Wednesday, 12 December 2007 at 2.00 p.m. in Meeting Room, Council Offices, Garshake Road, Dumbarton

The Meeting closed at 4.15 p.m.