

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION COMMITTEE

At a Meeting of the Community Participation Committee held in the Reception Hall, Clydebank Town Hall, Dumbarton Road, Clydebank on Wednesday, 18 September 2013 at 2.07 p.m.

Present: Councillors George Black, Jim Brown, Jonathan McColl, John Millar, Ian Murray, Tommy Rainey, Gail Robertson, Martin Rooney, Kath Ryall and Hazel Sorrell; Gilbert Howatson, Community Councils' Forum; Sheila White, Clydebank Seniors Forum; Haji Munir, West Dunbartonshire Minority Ethnic Association; Jackie Maceira and Jim Eadie, West Dunbartonshire Access Panel; Anne MacDougall, CHCP Public Partnership Forum; Hope Robertson, Clydebank Asbestos Group and Gillian Kirkwood, Ysort-it.

Attending: Peter Barry, Head of Customer and Community Services; Amanda Coulthard, Corporate and Community Planning Manager; Anne Clegg, Policy Officer – Community and Consultation; Ricardo Rea, Equalities Policy Officer and Craig Stewart, Committee Officer, Legal, Democratic and Regulatory Services.

Apologies: Apologies were intimated on behalf of Murdoch Cameron and Francis McNeill, Community Councils' Forum; Rhona Young, Clydebank Seniors Forum, Barbara Barnes, West Dunbartonshire Community Care Forum and Tom Wilmshurst, Association of Clydebank Residents Groups. Angela Wilson, Executive Director Corporate Services.

Councillor John Millar in the Chair

CHAIR'S REMARKS

Prior to commencing with the business of the meeting, Councillor Millar, Chair, paid tribute to two long standing community representatives who had sadly passed away, since the previous meeting of the Committee, Sheila Urquhart and John Diamond.

The Committee warmly concurred with the Convener's sentiments.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

It was noted that there were no declarations of interest in any of the items of business on the agenda.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of Meeting of the Community Participation Committee held on 22 May 2013 were submitted and approved as a correct record.

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE CITIZENS' PANEL - EVALUATION

A report was submitted by the Executive Director of Corporate Services informing on the evaluation of the West Dunbartonshire Citizens' Panel on two fronts:-

- (1) Evaluation of panel members' experiences; and
- (2) Evaluation of panel users' experiences (people who commission survey questions and focus groups).

The Committee agreed:-

- (a) to note the continuing high number of panel members who agreed there was evidence of community planning partners listening to and acting on their (Panel Members) feedback; and
- (b) otherwise to note the contents of the report.

QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC GALLERY

No questions were asked by members of the public of officers during the Open Forum Session.

DEVELOPING A COMMUNITY ALLIANCE – COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION COMMITTEE FACILITATED SESSION

Amanda Coulthard, Corporate and Community Planning Manager and Anne Clegg, Policy Officer – Community and Consultation, hosted a facilitated session to develop a new Community Alliance which would involve a broader range of community interests, looking at the big issues for communities across West Dunbartonshire, and offer a more representative voice for the West Dunbartonshire area than was possible through a committee membership.

In this respect, a background paper was submitted. Amanda Coulthard then gave a brief outline of the background to developing the Community Alliance and Anne Clegg provided an outline of the Ketso Session, including an explanation of materials which would be used for obtaining feedback and information to inform on future developments.

At this point in the meeting, some members of the public referred to the Standing Items of Business that were normally continued on each agenda for discussion. The Head of Customer and Community Services explained that with the consent of Councillor Millar, Chair, these had been carried to next meeting in order to allow community representatives and Elected Members a reasonable amount of time to help further develop the Community Alliance, and elicit views and suggestions from them in particular. In addition he referred to the minute of the previous meeting and prior agreement that this meeting would mainly be focused on developing Committee's views on the Community Alliance. Councillor Millar confirmed that the Standing Items of Business would not be missed, but would be continued over to the next meeting of the Committee for consideration. It was requested that the minute reflect the unhappiness of some committee members with this decision but that they were willing to carry on with the session as outlined."

Following the facilitated session, Councillor Millar, Chair, thanked everyone for their attendance and for participating in the further development session that would help formulate the new Community Alliance.

The meeting closed at 4.10 p.m.