

## **COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION COMMITTEE**

At a Meeting of the Community Participation Committee held in Committee Room 3, Council Offices, Garshake Road, Dumbarton on Wednesday, 28 November 2012 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; Murdoch Cameron, MBE, Community Councils' Forum; Francis McNeill, Community Councils' Forum; Justeen Peacock, West Dunbartonshire Access Panel; Rhona Young, Clydebank Seniors Forum; Barbara Barnes, West Dunbartonshire Community Care Forum; Tom Woodbridge, Dumbarton Community Forum; Neil Etherington, Clydebank Community Forum; Hope Robertson, Clydebank Asbestos Group and Brenda Pasquire, West Dunbartonshire Citizens Advice Service.

**Attending:** Angela Wilson, Executive Director of Corporate Services; Andrew Fraser, Head of Legal, Democratic & Regulatory Services; Peter Barry, Head of Customer and Community Services; Joanne Martin, Tenant Participation Officer (in attendance for the item 'Presentation – Review of Tenant Participation Strategy'); Sarah Ward, Policy Officer, Housing, Environment and Economic Development (in attendance for the item 'Prioritisation of Surplus Stock and Timetable for Demolition' only) and Craig Stewart, Committee Officer, Legal, Democratic and Regulatory Services.

**Apology:** An apology was intimated on behalf of Gillian Kirkwood, YSort-It.

**Councillor John Millar in the Chair**

### **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

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

### **PRESENTATION – REVIEW OF TENANT PARTICIPATION STRATEGY**

Joanne Martin, Tenant Participation Officer, gave a presentation on the Review of the Council's Tenant Participation Strategy. In this regard, Ms Martin illustrated the work which had been undertaken on this key area of Tenant Participation and future and planned proposals for the Strategy in West Dunbartonshire.

Following a question and answer session, Councillor Millar, Chair, thanked Ms Martin for her interesting and informative presentation. Ms Martin then left the meeting.

### **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The Minutes of Meeting of the Community Participation Committee (CPC) held on 29 August 2012 were submitted and approved as a correct record, subject to the following correction to the sederunt:-

Remove John Hainey (sub) as present at the meeting and replace with Theresa Doherty (Clydebank Community Forum substitute).

At this point in the meeting, the Head of Legal, Democratic and Regulatory Services was heard in relation to the Open Forum Item in the previous Minutes. It was noted that the issues involved had been considered by Council at its meeting on 26 September 2012, and it had been agreed, amongst other things, that in light of the confusion surrounding the recommendation, as detailed in the note at the end of the Minutes, the Council invites the CPC to fully consider the venue of its meetings at its next meeting.

Following discussion and having heard the Legal Officer and the Committee Officer in clarification of what had been recorded in relation to this item, the Committee agreed that the Minute be amended to read as follows:-

That the Committee recommends to Council that it reconsiders its previous decision and the Community Participation Committee and other Council Committees alternates their meetings between Clydebank, Dumbarton and Alexandria.

### **PRIORITISATION OF SURPLUS STOCK AND TIMETABLE FOR DEMOLITION**

A report was submitted by the Executive Director of Housing, Environmental and Economic Development providing information about the programme of demolitions approved by the Housing, Environment and Economic Development Committee in August 2012.

After discussion and having heard the Policy Officer in further explanation and in answer to Members' questions, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to note that the report contained a typographical error at paragraph 4.4 and that this paragraph should read "January 2013 – start on site";
- (2) that a copy of a revised Appendix showing the timetable for the proposed demolitions would be circulated to Members via email; and
- (3) otherwise to note the contents of the report.

## **STANDING ORDERS AND COUNCILLOR'S CODE OF CONDUCT**

A report was submitted by the Executive Director of Corporate Services:-

- (a) advising the Community Participation Committee (CPC) of key provisions of Council Standing Orders which are applicable to its work; and
- (b) advising of key provisions contained in the Councillor's Code of Conduct which are applicable to the conduct of those serving on a Committee.

After discussion and having heard the Head of Legal, Democratic and Regulatory Services in elaboration and in answer to Members' questions, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to note the terms of the discussion that had taken place in respect of this matter; and
- (2) otherwise to note the contents of the report.

## **MEETINGS VENUES**

A report was submitted by the Executive Director of Corporate Services informing of the decision made by the Council at its meeting on 26 September 2012 in relation to the issue of the venue for meetings of the CPC.

After discussion and having heard the Head of Customer and Community Services in further explanation and the Head of Legal, Democratic and Regulatory Services clarify certain matters, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to recommend to the Council Meeting in June 2013, that meetings of the CPC alternate between Clydebank, Dumbarton and Alexandria;
- (2) to note that a proposed venue for meetings of the Committee in Alexandria would be the Alexandria Community Centre;
- (3) that a survey of views of community members would be carried out to feed into the review of Council meetings, to be reported to Council in June 2013; and
- (4) otherwise to note the terms of the discussion that had taken place and the contents of the report.

## **PROGRESS ON DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS OF FORMER MEMBERS ADVISORY COMMITTEES (MACs)**

A report was submitted by the Executive Director of Corporate Services providing an update on progress on distribution of the former MAC funds.

Having heard the Head of Customer and Community Services in further explanation of the report, the Committee agreed to note the contents of the report.

## **COMMUNITY NEWS**

Committee members were invited to provide information for the Community News item in advance of meetings on an on-going basis.

In this respect, it was noted that none have been notified at this moment in time.

After discussion, it was noted that it would be useful for the CPC Newsletter to be emailed rather than printed as a number of items of community interest were date conscious and some of the items contained in the publication, particularly notification of meetings, had already taken place prior to delivery of the Newsletter.

## **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS FROM COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES**

Councillor Millar, Chair, invited community representatives to raise topics for inclusion on future Agendas. It was noted that the following topics were also suggested for future meetings of the Committee:- Budget Consultation, Key Strategic Priorities for the Council; and CPP Development.

### Wed 27 February, 2013

#### Presentation/Reports

- Council Tax (Annual Update) including Update on Universal Credit
- Pub Watch Scheme (Licensing)
- Discussion with Transport Scotland regarding roundabouts and ancillary roads issues
- 2012 Social & Economic Report (published in January 2013)

### Wed 22 May, 2013

#### Presentation/Reports

- Regular update on Recycling and Waste Minimisation
- Update on Council Tax position

### Additional Proposed Workshop

How do we improve participation from our Communities?

It was agreed to add Educational Estates to the list, along with an update on the issue of Vale of Leven Academy – traffic congestion.

### **QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC GALLERY**

Mr John Hainey asked for clarification on the decision previously made with regard to meeting venues for the CPC, and it was confirmed that the recommendation would go to the June 2013 meeting of Council.

The meeting closed at 3.45 p.m.