

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION COMMITTEE

At a Meeting of the Community Participation Committee held in the Council Chambers, Municipal Buildings, Station Road, Dumbarton on Wednesday, 24 January 2007 at 2.00 p.m.

Present: Councillors Gail Casey, George Black, Jackie Maceira, Marie McNair and Martin Rooney. Francis McNeill, West Dunbartonshire Community Councils Forum; Megan Harrison, Faifley Neighbourhood Forum; Bill Rankin, West Dunbartonshire Access Panel; Abdul Ghani, West Dunbartonshire Ethnic Association; John Diamond, Bellsmyre Neighbourhood Forum; Mary Theresa Doherty, Clydebank Community Forum; Rhona Young, West Dunbartonshire Seniors' Association; Tom Nimmo, West Dunbartonshire Community Care Forum; Catherine Hannan, Ben View Resource Centre; Joe McCormack, Dumbarton and District Citizens Advice Bureau; and Brenda Pasquire, Dumbarton Credit Union.

Attending: Liz Cochrane, Policy Manager; Anne Clegg, Policy Officer – Community and Consultation; Tom Jackson, Joint Manager – Addiction Services; John Hepburn, Welfare Rights Development Officer; Sergeant Gavin Paterson, Local Authority Liaison Officer; Susan Shannon, Community Waste Officer and Fiona Anderson, Administrative Assistant, Legal and Administrative Services.

Apologies: Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillor Dennis Brogan; Murdoch Cameron MBE, West Dunbartonshire Community Councils Forum; and Catherine Martin, West Dunbartonshire Seniors' Association.

Councillor Gail Casey in the Chair

PRESENTATION ON CITIZENS' ADVICE BUREAU SERVICES

11278 Joe McCormack, Manager of Dumbarton and District Citizens' Advice Bureau and also a member of the Community Participation Committee, gave a presentation on the service provided by the Citizens' Advice Bureau and paid tribute to the volume and quality of work undertaken by both paid staff and the volunteers.

11279 He made particular reference to:-

- (a) the intensive and thorough training undertaken by the volunteers prior to commencing work with members of the public;

- (b) the re-launch of Clydebank CAB in November 2006 and its progress to date;
- (c) the differences between the services provided by the Citizens' Advice Bureau and the Welfare Rights Section;
- (d) the major social problem of the level of debt nationally particularly in the post Christmas period;
- (e) the possibility of introducing "twilight" opening hours over and above 9.00 a.m. – 4.00 p.m. to offer a more flexible service particularly to the working population;
- (f) the feasibility of introducing an "out-reach" service to offer more local advice centres, e.g. within housing estates in addition to the central location in each of the three main towns;
- (g) the need to educate people on how to manage their finances, particularly targeting young people to try to prevent the problem of debt occurring initially; and
- (h) the importance of giving the client a choice, including services which are seen as independent of statutory agencies, about where they seek advice, e.g. from the Welfare Rights Section, the Citizens' Advice Bureau or Credit Unions.

11280 After discussion, it was agreed that a paper copy of the presentation slides be circulated to all members of the Committee for reference purposes.

11281 Having heard the Manager of Dumbarton and District Citizens' Advice Bureau in answer to members' questions, the Convener, on behalf of the Committee, thanked him for his most interesting and informative presentation.

C.C.T.V.

11282 Sergeant Gavin Paterson, Local Authority Liaison Officer (a serving member of Strathclyde Police Force and previously a Crime Prevention Officer based in Clydebank) provided information on C.C.T.V. in the West Dunbartonshire Council area and in particular identified the differences between the installation of C.C.T.V. for domestic use as opposed to for use in public spaces. He also highlighted the difference between installing overt cameras as a preventative measure and using C.C.T.V. to detect crimes which had already taken place.

11283 After discussion, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to note that the Clydebank C.C.T.V. Trust no longer installed cameras but still maintained the monitoring station based in Clydebank Police Station which would be upgraded to digital in the future;

- (2) to note that some members of the Community Participation Committee had expressed an interest in visiting the monitoring station to see the systems in operation;
- (3) to note that West Dunbartonshire Community Safety Partnership was presently looking at the provision of C.C.T.V. in West Dunbartonshire and had now appointed a professional consultant to carry out a review;
- (4) to note that the Local Authority Liaison Officer would investigate the issue of C.C.T.V.provision in Dumbarton High Street and report back to a future meeting of the Committee.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

11284 Following discussion, the Minutes of Meeting of the Committee held on 15 November 2006 were submitted and approved as a correct record, subject to the reference to Mr Joe McCormack of Dumbarton and District Citizens' Advice Bureau (Page 2820, paragraph 10639 refers) being amended to read:-

- (b) that Mr Joe McCormack, Manager of the Dumbarton and District Citizens' Advice Bureau, was a representative of a voluntary organisation.

COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

11285 With reference to the Minutes of the Meeting of the Community Participation Committee on 15 November 2006 (Page 2820, paragraph 10640 refers) regarding the withdrawal from membership of the Dumbarton Community and Commercial Association, the Committee agreed, after discussion, to note that the vacancy would be filled by Ms Brenda Pasquire of Dumbarton Credit Union, as a representative of a voluntary organisation.

DRUG AND ALCOHOL ABUSE SERVICES

11286 With reference to the Minutes of Meeting of the Community Participation Committee on 15 November 2006 (Page 2819, paragraph 10638 refers), a report was submitted by the Director of Social Work Services providing an overview of Addiction budgets across NHS and Council spend.

11287 Having heard the Joint Manager, Addiction Services in further explanation, the Committee agreed to note the contents of the report and ongoing developments and agreed that sourcing additional grant funding should be investigated.

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION COMMITTEE – INVOLVING YOUNG PEOPLE EVENT

- 11288 With reference to the Minutes of Meeting of the Community Participation Committee on 15 November 2006 (Page 2821, paragraph 10647 refers) a report was submitted by the Chief Executive advising of the outcome of the event held on 5 December 2006 involving young people and suggesting future action.
- 11289 Having heard the Policy Officer in elaboration the Committee agreed:-
- (a) to note the contents of the report;
 - (b) to plan a future event around one or more of the positive themes detailed in paragraph 3.4 and Appendix 1 of the report; and
 - (c) to again endeavour to involve young people in attending meetings of the Community Participation Committee.
- 11290 It was also noted that a national concessionary travel scheme for young people aged 16 - 18 years had now been introduced which would make commuting cheaper and easier for that age group.

WELFARE RIGHTS SERVICES – MONEY ADVICE SECTION

- 11291 A report was submitted by the Director of Social Work Services providing information on the services available to West Dunbartonshire Council residents from the Money Advice Section of Welfare Rights Services.
- 11292 Having heard the Welfare Rights Officer in further explanation the Committee agreed to note the contents of the report.

ELECTIONS TO CLYDEBANK EAST COMMUNITY COUNCIL, MARCH 2007

- 11293 A report was submitted by the Chief Executive advising of the arrangements for the Elections to Clydebank East Community Council due in March 2007.
- 11294 The Committee agreed to note:-
- (a) the arrangements as timetabled for the elections to Clydebank East Community Council; and
 - (b) that the Community Council Forum had offered to provide advice and assistance to the new Community Council when formed.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS FROM COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES

11295 Community Representatives were invited:-

- (a) to consider the offer of a presentation on the work of the Community Learning and Development Community Development Team for the March meeting;
- (b) to put forward questions about recycling and highlight any areas of interest for inclusion in a report to the March meeting up-dating the committee on recycling developments; and
- (c) to raise topics for inclusion on future Agendas.

11296 Following discussion, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) that the presentation for the March meeting should be the Single Transferable Voting system;
- (2) that a presentation on the work of the Community Learning and Development Community Development Team be added to the list of items for future meetings; and
- (3) that the Chair of the Access Forum for West Dunbartonshire be invited to make a presentation to a future meeting.

OPEN FORUM

11297 Mr Neil Etherington of Parkhall and North Kilbowie Community Council asked the following questions:-

- (a) Could consideration be given to placing the “Who’s Who” of all the voluntary groups on the West Dunbartonshire Partnership website? He suggested using current information, e.g. a link to the group information on the WDC Portal, and to keeping it current.
- (b) Could the CPC look at the problem of duplication of the structures for involving the community?

11298 Having heard the Principal Policy Officer, the Committee noted:-

- (1) that the Policy Officer, Community and Consultation, would address the problem regarding the location of the “Who’s Who” and of keeping the information current on the website;
- (2) that the community representatives on the CPP Board had rejected the Audit Scotland comments regarding their membership of the Board during discussion at the November 2006 Board meeting;

- (3) that the governance arrangements of the Community Planning Partnership would be debated at the next meeting of the Community Planning Partnership Board in February 2007;
- (4) that the Community Plan should be in place by June 2007; and
- (5) that a report would be submitted to the next meeting of the Community Participation Committee detailing the range of structures that currently exist, identifying their roles, to allow discussion of any potential duplication.

11299 The Convener thanked Mr Etherington for his attendance and input to the meeting.

The meeting closed at 4.15 p.m.