

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION COMMITTEE

At a Meeting of the Community Participation Committee held in the Council Chambers, Clydebank Town Hall, Dumbarton Road, Clydebank on Wednesday, 19 November 2008 at 2.00 p.m.

Present: Councillors George Black, Jim Brown, Jim McElhill, Jonathan McColl, John Millar, Martin Rooney and May Smillie. Murdoch Cameron and Francis McNeill, Community Councils Forum; Megan Harrison and Mary Theresa Doherty, Faifley Neighbourhood Forum; John Diamond, Bellsmyre Neighbourhood Forum; Rhona Young, West Dunbartonshire Seniors; Kathleen Siddle, West Dunbartonshire Citizens Advice Service and Brenda Pasquire, Dumbarton Credit Union Ltd.

Attending: Liz Cochrane, Head of Service – Policy & Performance; Anne Clegg, Policy Officer – Community and Consultation; and Fiona Anderson, Committee Officer, Legal, Administrative and Regulatory Services.

Also Attending: Rodney Thornton, Section Head, Waste and Transport Services; Robert Robb, Senior Officer, Waste and Transport Services; Tom Jackson, Joint Manager Addiction Services; Helen Weir, Strategy Officer, Addiction Services; and David Hay, Litter Control Officer.

Apologies: Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillors Margaret Bootland, Patrick McGlinchey and Iain Robertson. Tom Nimmo, West Dunbartonshire Community Care Forum and Joe McCormack, West Dunbartonshire Citizens Advice Service.

Councillor Jim Brown in the Chair

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of Meeting of the Committee held on 17 September 2008 were submitted and approved as a correct record subject to the following amendments:-

- (a) It was noted that Councillor McElhill's name should be removed from the list of apologies and that Councillor Rooney's name should be included on the list of those present; and

- (b) it was noted that, during discussion of the West Dunbartonshire Homelessness Strategy, it had been requested that the withdrawal of funding for the post of Health and Homeless Nurse be raised with the Community Health Partnership.

Having heard from the Chair, Councillor Brown, the Committee noted that until such times as the review of the membership of the Community Participation Committee was concluded, Mrs Rhona Young would remain as a representative of Seniors and that officers would write to the Seniors Forums to inform them of the interim arrangements.

PROGRESS ON RECYCLING AND WASTE MINIMISATION

A report was submitted by the Executive Director of Housing, Environmental and Economic Development updating the Committee on the progress made in waste minimisation, recycling and waste diversion since a previous report to the Committee in March 2007.

The Section Head, Waste and Transport Services, gave a presentation on recycling and waste minimisation and further explanation of the details contained within the report.

Following discussion and having heard the Section Head, Waste and Transport Services and the Senior Officer, Waste and Transport Services, in answer to members' questions, the Committee agreed to note:-

- (1) that the present landfill tax is £32 per tonne and that this will rise to £38 per tonne next year;
- (2) that the Council does not generate income from the disposal of household waste products;
- (3) that special uplifts of unwanted household goods are free but that a standard charge of £41 (which is invoiced and paid in advance of the collection) is applied for special uplifts of items associated with home improvements and internal repairs;
- (4) that West Dunbartonshire Council is presently working with two neighbouring Councils to investigate the possibility of aggregating landfill targets and developing energy from waste and/or treatment of waste;
- (5) that Barr and Stroud Landfill at Auchencarroch Road in Jamestown is already producing methane gas from waste;
- (6) that a request had been received on behalf of senior citizens that consideration should be given to kerbside recycling of glass at the earliest possible opportunity as glass is too heavy for older people to carry to recycling points and it also presents a hazard for the cleansing operatives if it becomes broken in the normal household waste blue bin;

- (7) that the Committee congratulates the Waste and Transport Services Section for their year on year improvements in recycling and waste minimisation;
- (8) that the Committee continues to support the Recycling and Waste Minimisation Programme;
- (9) that the Committee requests that the details of any planned changes to collection times or increases in charging be presented to the Community Participation Committee prior to Council decision and implementation; and
- (10) that a further presentation on the progress on recycling and waste minimisation should feature on a future Agenda.

The Chair, Councillor Brown, thanked the officers for a most interesting and informative presentation and invited them to make a return visit at some point in the future to update the Committee on developments.

REVIEW OF COMMUNITY COUNCILS

A report was submitted by the Executive Director of Corporate Services advising of the timing for the review of community councils.

Having heard the Policy Officer, Community and Consultation, in further explanation and in answer to members' questions, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to note that the results of the consultation and the findings and recommendations of the Scottish Government be reported to the first meeting of the CPC after their publication;
- (2) to note that the report should have an attachment detailing the areas presently represented by Community Councils in West Dunbartonshire and detailing those areas not currently covered;
- (3) to note that a review of the operation of community councils would be undertaken at an appropriate time thereafter, taking into account the nature of those recommendations;
- (4) to note that a Community Councils' Forum representative present expressed satisfaction with the current Scheme for the Establishment of Community Councils and Code of Practice; and
- (5) to note that the West Dunbartonshire Community Councils Forum had expressed displeasure at having been excluded from direct representation on the Community Planning Board.

SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT CONSTITUENCY BOUNDARIES

A report was submitted by the Executive Director of Corporate Services detailing background information in relation to the current proposals to amend the constituency boundaries for the Scottish Parliament.

Having heard the Policy Officer, Community and Consultation, in further explanation and following discussion, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to note that the Committee would be advised of the results of the Inquiry when these were known;
- (2) to note the comments that all the political parties in the area are opposed to the proposed boundary changes; and
- (3) otherwise to note the contents of the report.

FAST SERVICE USERS EVENT

A report was submitted by the Executive Director of Social Work and Health informing of the development of service user involvement mechanisms within West Dunbartonshire Council Addiction Services.

The Joint Manager Addiction Services and the Strategy Officer, Addiction Services, were heard in further elaboration of the report and in response to members' questions.

Following discussion, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to note the interim report of the First Scottish Service User Involvement Conference held on 17 September 2008;
- (2) to note the success of the Civic Reception held on 16 September 2008 in Clydebank Town Hall, which was hosted by Provost Agnew;
- (3) to note that a copy of the detailed report, including recommendations, would be submitted to a future meeting of the Committee;
- (4) to support the distribution of that report throughout West Dunbartonshire and across Scotland;
- (5) to support the development of a Scottish Service User Involvement Network and where possible to encourage colleagues from other areas to assist;
- (6) to encourage, where possible, debate around the possible resourcing of the long term delivery of the Scottish Service User Involvement Network;
- (7) to note with disappointment the recent announcement that West Dunbartonshire has a high rate of drug-related deaths;

- (8) to note that an Out of Hours Telephone Support Service would be introduced as a pilot scheme in West Dunbartonshire in December 2008;
- (9) to note that West Dunbartonshire introduced the SNIPS (Special Needs in Pregnancy) Project which is the envy of Councils across Scotland; and
- (10) to congratulate West Dunbartonshire Council as an authority for the services it provides to support addicts.

RACE EQUALITY SCHEME 2008-11

A report was submitted by the Chief Executive advising on the Draft Race Equality Scheme 2008-11 (RES) which had been presented to the Corporate and Efficient Governance Committee for approval on 29 October 2008.

The Policy Officer, Community and Consultation, was heard on behalf of the Policy and Development Officer Diversity, in further explanation of the report.

Councillor McColl, Chair of the Equality and Diversity Working Group, was heard in elaboration and in response to members' questions.

Following discussion, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to note that the Draft Race Equality Scheme 2008-11 (RES) had been approved at the meeting of the Corporate and Efficient Governance Committee held on 29 October 2008;
- (2) to note the contents of the report and the Race Equality Scheme 2008-11 (RES);
- (3) to note the Council's ongoing work towards the elimination of racial discrimination and harassment and the promotion of equal opportunity and good relations between people from different racial groups; and
- (4) to note that, where possible, such reports should be presented to the CPC in advance of Council or Committee agreement in future.

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL – MANAGEMENT RULES FOR ADMINISTRATION OF PUBLIC PARKS AND OPEN SPACES

A report was submitted by the Executive Director of Housing, Environmental and Economic Development updating on the Management Rules for Administration of Public Parks and Open Spaces specifically with regard to dog fouling and litter.

The Litter Control Officer was heard in further elaboration of the report and in response to members' questions.

Following discussion, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to note that the remit of the Litter Control Team now included responsibility for arranging the cleaning of graffiti and management of fly-tipping;
- (2) to note that it was essential to make the public aware of their responsibilities and that leaflets are available in libraries, public buildings, etc;
- (3) to note that there has been a significant increase in the number of street litter bins and that in excess of 600 are now provided as opposed to 250 bins some 3 or 4 years ago;
- (4) to note that police officers have the same powers to issue Fixed Penalty Tickets for offences in relation to dog fouling and litter;
- (5) to note that specific problem areas of concern which had been mentioned at the meeting should be reported to the appropriate department for action;
- (6) to note that all reports of incidents for the attention of the Litter Control Team should be reported by telephone to 01389 772059;
- (7) to note the continued success of the Binman Project in Primary Schools;
- (8) to note that the Park Ranger helps arrange community events to clean up specific areas;
- (9) to note that the Litter Control Team will provide community clean-ups with litter-picks, gloves and refuse sacks and also arrange for removal of the debris; and
- (10) otherwise to note the application of the Management Rules for Administration of Public Parks and Open Spaces.

The Chair, Councillor Brown, thanked the Litter Control Officer for his attendance at the meeting and for his detailed response to members' questions.

COMMUNITY NEWS

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

(1) **West Dunbartonshire Community Day 2009**

It was noted that Community Day 2009 would now take place on Saturday, 9 May 2009 at the Meadow Centre, Dumbarton and not in June as initially proposed.

(2) **West Dunbartonshire Council:
Budget Forum Public Meetings 2009-2010 Budget**

The Committee agreed to note that dates had been set for the above meetings as follows:-

Tuesday, 13 January 2009	Evening	Clydebank
Thursday, 15 January 2009	Evening	Dumbarton

Venues to be confirmed. The meetings will be publicised during December.

Councillor Rooney proposed that an additional Budget Forum Public Meeting should be held for the Vale of Leven.

The Policy officer, Community and Consultation, provided information about numbers at previous meetings (pointing out that increasing from one to two meetings resulted in no increase in numbers attending but split the number over two meetings).

Having heard the Chair, Councillor Brown, and following discussion, it was agreed by the Committee to recommend that Officers should make provision to organise an additional Budget Forum meeting in Alexandria.

The Community Representative for Seniors intimated her disagreement regarding arranging further meetings in view of the low numbers who have attended in the past and considered this not to be the best use of resources in the present economic climate.

(3) **West Dunbartonshire Access Panel**

It was noted that Officers had contacted West Dunbartonshire Access Panel regarding a replacement community representative on the CPC following the sad death of Bill Rankin and awaited details of their nomination.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS FROM COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES

Community Representatives were reminded to raise topics for inclusion on future Agendas and were asked to give consideration to the current list of topics:-

- Regular update on Regeneration of the Schools' Estate
- Housing – Strategic Delivery Plans
- Fairtrade
- Facilities for Visitors
- Gender Equality – Men's Health (Partnership Activity)

- Grants Update

Following discussion it was agreed:-

- (1) that a report on Christmas Payments to Pensioners should be submitted to the January Meeting of the CPC; and
- (2) that a presentation on the Grants Update from Selina Ross of the West Dunbartonshire Community and Volunteering Services be requested for the January Meeting of the CPC.

OPEN FORUM

Mr Neil Etherington of Parkhall and North Kilbowie Community Council raised several issues during the Open Forum, as noted below.

- (1) In relation to future Agenda items, Mr Etherington suggested a presentation on the Social and Economic Profile 2008/09.
- (2) Mr Etherington again expressed concern at the poor representation of community representatives at the meeting despite most of the absent organisations having appointed substitute members for such instances and commented that it was always the same representatives attending.
- (3) Mr Etherington also suggested that a presentation on Community Forums could also feature on a future Agenda.
- (4) Mr Etherington indicated that the report on the Scottish Parliament Constituency Boundaries had not included the fact that the 10 Community Councils in West Dunbartonshire had also opposed the proposed changes to the boundaries.
- (5) Following discussion regarding Clydebank Crime Prevention Panel, it was agreed that the Chair, Councillor Brown, would speak to Councillor Calvert regarding this issue and that a report updating the Committee would be submitted to the January meeting of the CPC.

The meeting closed at 16.15 p.m.