

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION COMMITTEE

At a Meeting of the Community Participation Committee held in Meeting Room 3, Council Offices, Garshake Road, Dumbarton on Wednesday, 29 August 2012 at 2.00 p.m.

Present: Councillors George Black, Jim Brown, Jonathan McColl, John Millar, Ian Murray, Tommy Rainey, Gail Robertson, Kath Ryall and Michelle Stewart; Murdoch Cameron, MBE, Community Councils' Forum; Francis McNeill, Community Councils' Forum; Haji Munir, West Dunbartonshire Minority Ethnic Association; John Diamond, Bellsmyre Neighbourhood Forum; Mary McAleer (sub), Clydebank Seniors Forum; Tom Nimmo, West Dunbartonshire Community Care Forum; Lily Kennedy, MBE (sub), West Dunbartonshire Community Care Forum; Tom Woodbridge, Dumbarton Community Forum; Neil Etherington, Clydebank Community Forum; John Hailey (sub), Clydebank Community Forum; Anne McDougall, CHCP Public Partnership Forum; Hope Robertson, Clydebank Asbestos Group; Gillian Kirkwood, YSort-It and Brenda Pasquire, West Dunbartonshire Citizens Advice Service.

Attending: Angela Wilson, Executive Director of Corporate Services; Anne Clegg, Policy Officer – Community and Consultation; Gillian Scholes, Section Head, Economic Development (in attendance for the item 'Presentation – Tourism (Economic Development' only); George Murphy, Public Involvement Officer (in attendance for the item 'Presentation – Community Health and Care Partnership (CHCP) Public Partnership Forum') and Craig Stewart, Committee Officer, Legal, Democratic and Regulatory Services.

Apologies: Apologies were intimated on behalf of Councillor Hazel Sorrell, Justeen Peacock, West Dunbartonshire Access Panel and Rhona Young, Clydebank Seniors Forum.

Councillor John Millar in the Chair

CHAIR'S REMARKS

Prior to commencing with the business of the meeting, Councillor Millar, Chair, thanked the previous Chair, Councillor Jim Brown, for all his hard work and efforts during his time as Convener. Councillor Millar also introduced Angela Wilson, Executive Director of Corporate Services to those present and welcomed the community representatives in attendance.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

PRESENTATION – TOURISM (ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT)

Gillian Scholes, Section Head, Economic Development, gave a presentation on Tourism (Economic Development) and copies of associated literature and handouts were circulated to Members for their interest and information.

The Committee noted the content of the presentation (a copy of which forms Appendix 1 hereto), and which specifically drew attention to an Overview of Tourism and Economic Development in West Dunbartonshire with particular reference to stimulating local economic development activity. In this respect, a Business Support Schemes Information Sheet was circulated for Members' information, which drew attention to a range of discretionary programmes to assist new and established businesses in the West Dunbartonshire area (Appendix 2 hereto).

A short video, which was still in the last stages of final edit, was shown to Members which showcased the high quality of attractions and potential for tourism in the West Dunbartonshire area. Once finalised, the video would be uploaded to the West Dunbartonshire Council website, as well as having links to it from the generic web address www.visitwestdunbartonshire.com which would serve as a central link and pointer to promote tourism in the local area.

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

PRESENTATION – COMMUNITY HEALTH AND CARE PARTNERSHIP (CHCP) PUBLIC PARTNERSHIP FORUM

Ms Anne MacDougall and Mr George Murphy of the CHCP Public Partnership Forum gave a presentation on the work of the Forum.

After discussion and having heard Ms MacDougall and Mr Murphy in elaboration and in answer to Members' questions, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to note the terms of the presentation and the work of the CHCP Public Partnership Forum (PPF) which was essentially networks of patients, carers, community groups, voluntary organisations and individuals who are interested in the development and design of care services which include local health and social care services;
- (2) to note that the principal objectives of the PPF were principally to Engage, Inform and Support.

- (3) that a copy of the presentation slides was available for Members of the Committee for their interest and information; and
- (4) to note the terms of the question and answer session that followed on from the presentation.

At this point, Councillor Millar, Chair, thanked Ms MacDougall and Mr Murphy for the interesting and informative nature of the presentation.

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION COMMITTEE (CPC) EVALUATION

A report was submitted by the Executive Director of Corporate Services providing the Committee with evaluation feedback and making recommendations based on the feedback.

Having heard the Policy Officer (Community and Consultation), in further explanation and in answer to Members' questions, the Committee:-

- (1) agreed to note that Community members should use the regular agenda item 'Future Agenda Items for Community Representatives' to query delays and request changes to the order of scheduling of future agenda items if desired (subject to there being something of relevance to report);
- (2) to note, with satisfaction, the introduction of a brief 'Feedback' section to the CPC Newsletter (to respond to the need to improve dialogue and feedback);
- (3) agreed that the scheduling of agenda items would allow more time for community members to consult their groups wherever possible;
- (4) that Community representatives should include group updates in the CPC Newsletter, whenever possible.
- (5) agreed to note the links to the CPC newsletter on the newly launched West Dunbartonshire Council website, and which could be accessed at <http://www.west-dunbarton.gov.uk/community-and-living/involving-communities/cpc/>;
- (6) agreed to recommend to Council the following:-

Approval is sought for the Policy Officer, Community and Consultation, to contact appropriate groups to invite interest in additional places for Women's Issues, Ethnic Minority Women and LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bi-Sexual and Transgender);

- (7) agreed that Members be requested to contact the Policy Officer (Community and Consultation), with an indication of how they wished to participate in Equalities Awareness Training; and

- (8) agreed to note, having heard Ms Kirkwood, that a future agenda item for the Committee should be awareness raising of LGBT issues.

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE CITIZENS' PANEL - EVALUATION

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

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

Having heard the Policy Officer (Community and Consultation), in further explanation, the Committee agreed to note the contents of the report and in particular the increased number of panel members who agree there was evidence of community planning partners listening to and acting on their (Panel Members) feedback.

COMMUNITY NEWS

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

Having heard Mr Etherington and the Policy Officer (Community and Consultation) in reply, it was noted that the dates of the Community Forum meetings could be included in this item which could assist in bringing items forward for information.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS FROM COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES

Councillor Millar, Chair, invited community representatives to raise topics for inclusion on future Agendas.

Current topics include:-

Wed 28 November, 2012

Presentation/Reports

- Housing Allocation policy
- Presentation on Tourism Strategy – Visit Scotland
- Management Advisory Committee (MAC) Funds Update Report – November Committee

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

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?

After discussion and having heard the Policy Officer (Community and Consultation), the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to note that in future presentations be kept to a maximum of 1 presentation per meeting to enable the Committee to conclude its business, without running out of time; and
- (2) that a future topic for the Committee should include an update on the Council's Education Estate.

OPEN FORUM

At this point in the meeting, Ms Hope Robertson, Clydebank Asbestos Group, raised a concern that meetings of this Committee were not rotating as had been the case previously, and wanted to know the reason for this.

Councillor McColl referred to the previous decision taken at Council for meetings of Committees, including the Community Participation Committee, to be held in the Council Offices, Garshake Road, Dumbarton.

Following upon this, Councillor Black, seconded by Councillor McColl, moved:-

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

Due to some confusion at this point in the meeting and it being unclear as to the choice of venues concerned, it was agreed that clarification be obtained, and the result of this was that as an addendum to the motion, Alexandria should be included as an additional meeting venue. Therefore, the motion was amended to read as follows:-

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

There being no contrary amendment, the above motion was agreed.

The meeting closed at 4.27 p.m.