

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION COMMITTEE

At a Meeting of the Community Participation Committee held in the Lesser Town Hall, Clydebank Town Hall, Dumbarton Road, Clydebank on Wednesday, 15 September 2004 at 10.00 a.m.

Present: Councillors Gail Casey, Dennis Brogan, Jackie Maceira, Margaret McGregor, Marie McNair and Connie O'Sullivan. Jim Biddulph, West Dunbartonshire Community Councils Forum; Jeanette Jennings, Faifley Neighbourhood Forum; Brian Rocks, Faifley Neighbourhood Forum; Frances McGonagle, Gingerbread Scotland; John Diamond, Bellsmyre Neighbourhood, Forum; Patricia Rice, Clydebank Community Forum; Mary Theresa Doherty, Clydebank Community Forum; Bernard Bell, Feis Dhun Breatainn An Iar; Donnie McGilveray, Alternatives; Ian Campbell, Dumbarton Community Forum; Marjorie Muir, Dumbarton Community Forum; Jim Foulis, Safe Bonhill and Bill Rankin, West Dunbartonshire Access Panel.

Attending: Liz Cochrane, Policy Manager; Anne Clegg, Policy Officer – Community and Consultation and Fiona Anderson, Administrative Assistant, Legal and Administrative Services.

Apologies: Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillors Jim Bollan, Margaret Bootland, Jack Duffy and Andy White. Murdoch Cameron, West Dunbartonshire Community Councils Forum; Francis McNeill, West Dunbartonshire Community Councils Forum; Iain Robertson, West Dunbartonshire Community Councils Forum; Hope Robertson, Association of Clydebank Residents Groups and Margaret Gilroy, West Dunbartonshire Access Panel.

Councillor Gail Casey in the Chair

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

3540 The Minutes of Meeting of the Committee held on 29 June 2004 were submitted and approved as a correct record.

3541 With reference to the item headed "Open Forum" (Page 972, paragraph 3220 refers), the Committee noted the following:-

(a) Public Toilets

In response to a question by Jim Biddulph, West Dunbartonshire Community Councils Forum, the Policy Officer, Community and

Consultation, advised that a report by the Director of Housing and Technical Services is going to the next meeting of the Tendering Committee on 22 September, and it could be made available to the members of the Community Participation Committee.

The Committee requested that the Director of Housing and Technical Services be invited to attend the next meeting of the Community Participation Committee to provide an update on plans, including when the final decision will be made about where the toilets will be sited and, in particular, the provision of public toilets in Balloch.

(b) Disabled Friendly Surfaces

Following further discussion regarding the disabled friendly surfaces which had been installed in the Council Offices in Garshake Road, it was noted that there would be no further installation of the current materials until agreement had been reached on how to proceed. It was also noted the matter had been referred back to the Disability Working Group and that there were no plans to remove the materials already installed.

(c) Post of Director of Education and Cultural Services

Patricia Rice requested clarification as to whether Bob Cook is Director of Education and Cultural Services for a time-limited period or the Acting Director for that period.

3542 With reference to the item headed "Community Participation Committee - Community Membership of the Committee" (Page 973, paragraph 3222, refers), it was suggested that the CPC should include representation on health issues.

3543 After hearing the Policy Manager and following discussion, it was agreed that the Committee could revisit this proposal in the future, if Members felt it was appropriate.

PRIVATISATION OF THE SCHOOL'S ESTATE – PPP – PUBLIC CONSULTATION

3544 With reference to the Minutes of Meeting of the Committee on 29 June 2004 (Page 969, paragraph 3202 refers), when it had been agreed that the Community Participation Committee should await receipt of the Chief Executive's report before making a decision, the Committee agreed to note that there was still further work to be done in the preparation of the report and it was intended that the report would now be submitted to the September meeting of the Council.

3545 The Committee, having expressed dissatisfaction, noted that the report would be submitted to the next meeting of this Committee for consideration.

PRESENTATION OF NEW COUNCIL STRUCTURE

3546 Liz Cochrane, Policy Manager, and Anne Clegg, Policy Officer, Community and Consultation, gave a presentation on the new Council Structure.

3547 Having heard the Policy Manager and Policy Officer in answer to Members' questions, the Convener, on behalf of the Committee, thanked them for their interesting and informative presentation.

Note: At this point Councillor McNair left the Meeting.

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION COMMITTEE – PUBLICITY AND INFORMATION

3548 A report was submitted by the Chief Executive:-

- (a) outlining ideas for publicising the role and activities of the Committee; and
- (b) examining ways of providing information in an affordable, attractive format to aid communication.

3549 Having heard the Policy Officer, Community and Consultation in further explanation, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to recommend to Council:-
 - (i) that agendas be circulated to a wider audience including groups on the Community Database, key employees in WDC and partner agencies and to members of the Committee as soon as possible in advance of meetings;
 - (ii) that a brief newsletter type sheet be produced after each meeting, summarising the recommendations made by the Committee and the action taken as a result, for the above audience, and that the newsletter should publicise the Open Forum and encourage public participation;
 - (iii) that items for the Agenda be raised within the Committee and at the Open Forum and it may also be possible for the Committee to consider items for the Agenda arising from the newsletter; and
 - (iv) that the Open Forum should have a guaranteed time of 20 minutes.
- (2) that, in order to help people identify with the Committee, logo 3 (as shown in the Appendix to these Minutes) be adopted and used in all future Committee correspondence and the newsletter.

- (3) that a publicity leaflet, which provides information on the community representatives serving on the Committee, be drafted and submitted to the next meeting for consideration. It was noted that, if approved, this leaflet would be funded from the £10,000 allocated to the Committee for publicity.
- (4) to note that several Members of the Committee had not received a copy of the Council Newspaper and that they would provide the Public Relations Team with their details.

Note: At this point Councillor McGregor left the meeting.

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION COMMITTEE – PROMOTING COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT IN WDC

- 3550 A report was submitted by the Chief Executive outlining ideas for events and activities that will help promote community involvement within the Council and inviting comments and suggestions.
- 3551 During discussion it was noted that two areas were highlighted as being of particular interest, namely “Committee structure – how decisions are made in WDC” and “Decision-making structures in Community Planning”.
- 3552 It was agreed that Members of the Committee should indicate their preferences on the Training Needs Audit which had been circulated.

COMMUNITY DAY AND COMMUNITY WEEK 2005

- 3553 A report was submitted by the Chief Executive explaining the purpose of Community Day and Community Week and inviting members of the Committee to put forward suggestions for themes for 2005 for consideration at the next meeting of the Community Day/Week planning Group.
- 3554 The Committee noted that they could attend the next meeting of the Planning Group which will be held on Monday 20 September 2004 in Bowling Hall at 11.30 a.m.

Note: At this point Jim Biddulph left the meeting.

- 3555 Having heard the Policy Officer, Community and Consultation in further explanation and following discussion, it was noted:-
 - (1) that suggestions for themes for Community Day/Week included education, sport and recreation, housing and health and the Policy Officer will take these ideas to the Planning Group; and

- (2) that the majority of people who attended Community Day/Week last year were in favour of using the Concord Community Centre again as it had proved to be a successful venue for such an event.

OPEN FORUM

- 3556 A paper had been submitted detailing Open Forum questions raised previously and the responses received and the contents were noted.

Disclosure Scotland

- 3557 Following confusion surrounding the distribution of letters to Community Groups regarding the necessity for groups renting Council premises to undergo checks by Disclosure Scotland, Members of the Committee asked for the matter to be clarified.
- 3558 A Member of the Committee asked for confirmation if Councillors had to undergo checks by Disclosure Scotland.
- 3559 It was agreed that officers should investigate the matter and report back with additional information to the next meeting.
- 3560 Having heard the Convener, it was noted that Members were invited to attend a luncheon, immediately after this meeting, to launch the West Dunbartonshire Council Scheme of Decentralisation 2004-07 entitled "Involving Communities".

The meeting closed at 12.10 p.m.