

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION COMMITTEE

At a Meeting of the Community Participation Committee held in Committee Room 3, Council Offices, Garshake Road, Dumbarton on Wednesday, 22 May 2013 at 2.00 p.m.

Present: Councillors George Black, Jim Brown, Jonathan McColl, John Millar, Ian Murray, Gail Robertson, Martin Rooney, Kath Ryall and Hazel Sorrell; Murdoch Cameron and Francis McNeill, Community Councils' Forum; Rhona Young, Clydebank Seniors Forum; Barbara Barnes, West Dunbartonshire Community Care Forum; Tom Wilmshurst, Association of Clydebank Residents Groups; Anne MacDougall, CHCP Public Partnership Forum; Hope Robertson, Clydebank Asbestos Group and Gillian Kirkwood, Ysort-it.

Attending: Angela Wilson, Executive Director of Corporate Services; Peter Barry, Head of Customer and Community Services; Amanda Coulthard, Corporate and Community Planning Manager; Anne Clegg, Policy Officer – Community and Consultation and Craig Stewart, Committee Officer, Legal, Democratic and Regulatory Services.

Also Attending: Mr Phil Hinchliff, Area Manager South, Transport Scotland and Evan Ferguson, Scotland Transerv.

Apologies: Apologies were intimated on behalf of Councillor Tommy Rainey, Mary McAleer, Seniors Forum and Haji Munir, West Dunbartonshire Minority Ethnic Association.

Councillor John Millar in the Chair

CHAIR'S REMARKS

Prior to commencing with the business of the meeting, Councillor Millar, Chair, made reference to the recent decision of the three Community Forums in West Dunbartonshire to disband. In this respect, Councillor Millar thanked the Members and office-bearers of the Community Forums for their hard work and commitment.

Accordingly, it was agreed that the Chair would write to the Chairs of the Clydebank, Dumbarton and Alexandria Forums to pass on the Committee's thanks and appreciation to them.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

PRESENTATION ON COMMUNITY PLANNING AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT REVIEW

Peter Barry, Head of Customer and Community Services gave a presentation on the review of Community Planning and Community Engagement. Amanda Coulthard, Corporate and Community Planning Manager, and Peter Barry then answered a series of questions in relation to the review and what was planned and anticipated to happen on the key issue of Community Planning and Community Engagement in the near future.

The information gathered from this discussion, along with feedback from other discussions, will be used to inform a facilitated session on the new framework for community engagement. Officers, elected members and community representatives will be invited to participate in this session.

The Chair, Councillor Millar, thanked Mr Barry and Mrs Coulthard for the interesting and informative nature of their presentation.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of Meeting of the Community Participation Committee held on 27 February 2013 were submitted and approved as a correct record, subject to the sederunt being amended to include Murdoch Cameron in the list of apologies for the meeting.

BRIEFING FROM TRANSPORT SCOTLAND CONCERNING ROUNDABOUTS AND ANCILLARY ROADS ISSUES

It was noted that this item had previously been requested by a Community Representative. Mr Phil Hinchcliff, Area Manager South, Transport Scotland and Evan Ferguson from the new Operating Company, Scotland Transerv, were in attendance to give a briefing on local transport issues.

Messrs Hinchcliff and Ferguson were heard in relation to the current position with regard to traffic related issues in the local area and also answered questions from Members in this respect.

The Chair, Councillor Millar, thanked Mr Hinchcliff and Mr Ferguson for coming along to the meeting and for the helpful and informative briefing, and both left at this point in the proceedings. It was agreed that future updates would be requested as required.

UPDATE ON VALE OF LEVEN ACADEMY – TRAFFIC CONGESTION

It was noted that this item had previously been requested by a Community Representative. Members noted that the traffic section of Housing, Environment and Economic Development (HEED) was unaware of previous representations on this issue and that the location in question benefited from an improved junction with Main Street, increased capacity on the school leg, internal parking, internal pick up and drop – off and bus drop off.

A segregated pedestrian entrance, two controlled crossings and a school crossing patroller are also provided.

In common with any school or similar premises, during peak hours traffic is heavier and journeys may take longer. An officer from the traffic section of the Housing, Environment and Economic Development Department had observed that there can be a small queue of exiting traffic from the school, but this has not resulted in any significant problems or delays.

As part of the recent exercise instructed by both Council and HEED Committee, a review was undertaken in and around the schools estate and no issues had been identified at this school that required action.

The Committee agreed to note the position in relation thereto.

CONSULTATION/ENGAGEMENT TRAINING 2012-13

A report was submitted by the Executive Director of Corporate Services informing on the consultation training carried out for employees during 2012-13.

The Committee agreed to note the contents of the report.

UPDATE ON PROGRESS TOWARDS FAIRTRADE ZONE STATUS IN WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE

Submit report by the Executive Director of Corporate Services advising on further actions needed to progress West Dunbartonshire Council towards Fairtrade status in the context of Scotland achieving Fairtrade nation status in February 2013. In this respect, a Fairtrade Networking Group has been set up to co-ordinate the campaign, which builds on activities taking place in schools, churches and local communities.

After discussion, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to continue to raise awareness of Fairtrade Zone Status amongst companies in West Dunbartonshire through the appropriate channels;
- (2) to contact the Community Councils' Forum regarding community involvement in Fairtrade; and

- (3) otherwise to note the contents of the report.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS FROM COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES

It was agreed to note the following items for future meetings of the Community Participation Committee.

Standing Item

- Development of the CPC

Additional Proposed Workshop

- How do we improve participation from our Communities?

Presentation/Reports

- Presentation on Pub Watch Scheme (Licensing)
- Regular update on Recycling and Waste Minimisation
- Update on Council Tax position
- 2012 Social & Economic Report (published in January 2013)

Other proposed Items:

- Update on Educational Estates.

QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC GALLERY

John Hainey referred back to the presentation on Community Planning and Community Engagement and raised the issue of the winding up of the three Community Forums in West Dunbartonshire, along with the future of the Community Participation Committee. Peter Barry and Amanda Coulthard were heard in response. It was agreed that the points raised about levels of community representation and communication between structures (e.g. neighbourhood groups to delivery and improvement groups) would be taken into account in future developments.

The meeting closed at 3.58 p.m.