

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

At an Assembly Meeting of West Dunbartonshire Council held in the Council Chambers, Council Offices, Garshake Road, Dumbarton on Wednesday 12 February 2003 at 7.00 p.m.

- Present:** Provost Alistair Macdonald and Councillors James Bolla, Mary Campbell, Mary Collins, James Flynn, Daniel McCafferty, James McCallum, Linda McColl, Ronnie McColl, John McCutcheon, Duncan McDonald, Ian McDonald, James McElhill, Margaret McGregor, Craig McLaughlin, Connie O'Sullivan, Iain Robertson, John Syme and Andrew White.
- Attending:** Tim Huntingford, Chief Executive; Eric Walker, Director of Corporate Services; Alexis Jay, Director of Social Work and Housing Services; Dan Henderson, Director of Economic, Planning and Environmental Services; Stephen B. Brown, Head of Legal and Administrative Services; and Julie Herrity, Senior Administrative Officer.
- Apologies:** Apologies were intimated on behalf of Councillors Geoffrey Calvert and Anthony Devine.

Provost Alistair Macdonald in the Chair

OPEN FORUM

The following questions were submitted in accordance with Standing Order 2(b):-

(a) Mr Sam Gibson, Chairman, Clydebank Local History Society, Glasgow Road, Hardgate

The Local History Society consider we have an asset which could be easily promoted to help tourism, encourage more public use of the park and to enlighten the locals as to their Roman heritage.

Recognising the importance of the Roman Fort, Goldenhill Park, would the Council agree to the following:-

- Direction signposting from Hardgate Roundabout and Glasgow Road, Duntocher
- New interpretation board, possibly at the exposed wall base
- Cleaning up and maintaining the exposed wall base
- Raising small earth 'mounds' over the site of wall and fort bases at some locations to indicate the extent of the fort

- Similar 'ditches' or markers to indicate the position of the ditches
- Publication of a leaflet or leaflets on the Roman occupation in West Dunbartonshire and details of the two Roman Forts. These to be available in libraries etc.

Our society would be willing to assist, if possible, with leaflets or trying to access funding.

Councillor Ian McDonald was heard in answer to this question as follows:-

This matter was considered at the meeting of the North Clydebank Area Committee on 6 February 2003.

At that meeting the Area Committee considered a report by the Director of Economic Planning and Environmental Services. The Committee agreed that appropriate officers of the Council, including officers with responsibility for Goldenhill Park, would arrange to meet with representatives of Clydebank Local History Society and representatives of Historic Scotland and Greenspace to explore the proposals in more detail.

Speaking personally, I do recognise the historical significance of the Roman Fort in Goldenhill Park and the importance of promoting it to bring employment through tourism to the area.

I also recognise the excellent work done by the Clydebank Historical Society and I will be following the progress of this development with heightened interest.

Thereafter, Mr Gibson made further reference to raising earth mounds over such sites to indicate the locations of the former fort and referred also to an identical site in Bearsden which could be used as an example of what could be achieved.

In response the Director of Economic, Planning and Environmental Services advised that any such matters could be taken into account in the further meetings to be held between the Council, the Clydebank Local History Society, Historic Scotland and Greenspace.

(b) Mr Peter O'Neill, Westcliff, Dumbarton

If tenants with a history of anti-social behaviour and behaving disgustingly, without having been granted the tenancy, are allowed to move in with the person granted the tenancy, thereby avoiding the criteria and rules, is this a loophole in administration or is it incompetence?

Councillor McCafferty was heard in answer to this question as follows:-

The new Scottish Secure Tenancy Agreement states that 'You are entitled to have members of your family occupying the house with you, as long as it doesn't lead to overcrowding. If we ask, you must tell us who is living in the house'. The legislation also states who should be considered to be a family member.

This means that there is no requirement for a tenant to seek a landlord's permission to have family members living with them.

However, tenants are responsible for the behaviour of anyone living with, or visiting them, and this is stated clearly in the Council's tenancy agreement.

The Agreement also lists particular examples of what is prohibited. This includes making excessive noise, allowing visitors to be disruptive, loitering and causing nuisance, vandalising Council property, failing to exercise reasonable control over children. The list is extensive.

Our tenancy agreement also makes it very clear that the tenant is the one responsible for anyone they choose to let into their house.

If a tenant breaks his/her tenancy agreement the Council can take legal action, but it would have to hold sound evidence of anti-social behaviour.

In response to the specific question raised by Mr O'Neill, I do not believe that there is an issue of incompetence, since tenants are entitled to have family members living with them.

Mr O'Neill took the opportunity of reiterating his point and enquired whether extended family was covered by the definition of family in the legislation.

Councillor McCafferty replied that that the new Scottish Secure Tenancy Agreement defines family as 'spouse, co-habitee, parent, grandparent, child, grandchild, brother, sister, uncle, aunt, niece, nephew; and any of those of your spouse'. If the person is a family member, the tenant does not need the Council's permission, but if that family member is an anti-social tenant, then it is the Council's tenant who is pursued and it would be open to the Council to do so.

Provost Macdonald thanked Mr Gibson and Mr O'Neill for their questions and their attendance.

VALE OF LEVEN HOSPITAL

With reference to the minutes of meeting of West Dunbartonshire Council held on 27 November 2002 (**Volume page 1396 refers**), when it was agreed that Representatives of the Argyll and Clyde Health Board be invited to attend a meeting of Council to explain the situation surrounding the Vale of Leven Hospital, along with representatives of the Hospital Staff Unions and the Save Our Services Campaign, Mr Neil Campbell, Chief Executive of the Board was introduced to the meeting. Mr Mullin, the Chairman, had intimated his apologies.

Provost Macdonald welcomed Mr Campbell to the meeting and also Mr John Corcoran of the Save Our Services Campaign and Mr Graham Capstick, Mr Joe McIlwee and Ms Neil of the Partnership Forum.

Thereafter Mr Campbell was heard, and advised that he had been appointed as Interim Chief Executive of NHS Argyll and Clyde until July 2003. He had been tasked with

carrying out works on the financial position of Argyll and Clyde, on developing a single NHS system for Argyll and Clyde and sustainability of clinical services in Argyll and Clyde and principally in the Vale of Leven Hospital.

He referred to the need to develop the services to serve the local community and that this would now require to be provided in a network, if they were to remain sustainable. This network would expand from Argyll and Clyde into neighbouring Health Board areas, including Glasgow and the Highland region. It was emphasised that it was a process of change which would take several years to notice the impact on specific services such as maternity and surgical services but that it was essential to take action now to preserve other parts of the service in the Vale of Leven Hospital.

Provost Macdonald then thanked Mr Campbell and he thereafter invited questions from the floor.

During the question and answer session, reference was made to concerns relating to the diminution of the level of service in the maternity and surgical units and concerns also relating to the retention of the Accident and Emergency facility, particularly given the proximity of the Faslane Nuclear Base. Concern was also expressed about the Ambulance Service and the lack of a fracture clinic at the Vale of Leven Hospital.

Mr Campbell was then heard in respect of these matters and confirmed that he had given a commitment to the Ambulance Service that they would be part of any discussions. He also advised that although he was not clear about the position regarding a Fractures facility in the Vale of Leven Hospital he would investigate this and advise accordingly.

Provost Macdonald thanked Mr Campbell and the other representatives from the Save Our Services Campaign and the Partnership Forum for being in attendance.

ADJOURNMENT

The Council agreed to adjourn at this point and resumed a short time thereafter, those present being as shown on the sederunt, with the exception of Councillor O'Sullivan.

MOTIONS

(a) A motion was submitted by Councillor Bollan in the following terms:-

In recognition of the work being carried out by the Castlehill Community Store (CCS) Management Committee to sustain the local business this Council agrees to write off all rent and rates owed by CCS up to and including 31 March 2003.

The write off to be funded from the Dumbarton Common Good Fund.

Councillor Bollan moved, and was heard in support of, his motion and circulated a financial spreadsheet on the matter.

Councillor O'Sullivan returned to the meeting at this point.

There being no seconder for the motion, it accordingly fell.

Councillor Bollan asked that his dissent be recorded.

Councillor Robertson left and returned to the meeting during the following item of business.

(b) A motion was submitted by Councillor Bollan in the following terms:-

This Council condemns the Labour Party's support for the abolition of Section 19 of the Fire Services Act 1947. Repeal of this section will allow the Labour Government to close Dumbarton Fire Station without any public consultation.

This Council resolves to oppose this measure with all the means at its disposal. Early consultations should take place with the FBU to plan a public campaign to oppose the closure of Dumbarton Fire Station.

Councillor Bollan moved and was heard in support of his motion.

Councillor McCafferty seconded the motion, subject to Councillor Bollan agreeing to accept the undernoted as an addendum thereto:-

As well as Dumbarton, include Clydebank, Balloch, Helensburgh or any other station servicing West Dunbartonshire.

Also Council opposes any reductions in fire service cover, resources or facilities within West Dunbartonshire.

Councillor Bollan agreed to accept this as an addendum to his motion.

As an amendment, Councillor White, seconded by Councillor O'Sullivan, moved:-

This Council supports all three fire stations within its area: Clydebank, Balloch and Dumbarton. We believe that it is highly offensive to play one station off against another and condemn any individual or political organisation that attempts to do so.

This Council fully recognises the extreme danger that fire-fighters place themselves in as they save the lives and property of local people. We reject any attempt to use their collective bravery for party political advantage.

This Council condemns the reckless and dishonourable use of other people's industrial disputes. The SSP has ruthlessly exploited the fire-fighters' dispute in an attempt to curry favour with a unionised group of workers that it has always had little influence with. In doing so their sole representative on this Council has conducted himself in a manner which does not maintain or strengthen the public's trust in him.

Council notes that there is no proposal to shut any fire station in West Dunbartonshire.

On a vote being taken, 7 Members voted for the amendment and 12 for the motion, which was accordingly declared carried.

The meeting concluded at 8.45 pm.