

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION COMMITTEE

At a Meeting of the Community Participation Committee held in the Council Chambers, Clydebank Town Hall, Dumbarton Road, Clydebank on Wednesday, 18 June 2008 at 2.00 p.m.

Present: Councillors George Black, Margaret Bootland, Jim Brown, John Millar, Jim McElhill, Patrick McGlinchey, Iain Robertson and May Smillie. Murdoch Cameron and Francis McNeill, Community Councils Forum; Megan Harrison and Mary Theresa Doherty, Faifley Neighbourhood Forum; Rhona Young, West Dunbartonshire Seniors Association; Frances McGonagle, Gingerbread Scotland and Brenda Pasquire, Dumbarton Credit Union Ltd.

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

Also

Attending: Phil White, Manager – Community Planning Partnership.

Apologies: Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillor Jonathan McColl, John Diamond, Bellsmyre Neighbourhood Forum; and Joe McCormack, Dumbarton and District Citizens Advice Bureau.

Councillor Jim Brown in the Chair

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Having heard from the Chair, Councillor Brown, the Committee noted that Councillor Patrick McGlinchey would replace Councillor Gail Casey who had resigned from membership of the Committee and that Councillor Martin Rooney would replace Councillor Geoff Calvert.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of Meeting of the Committee held on 23 April 2008 were submitted and approved as a correct record.

REGENERATION OF CLYDEBANK

Eleanor McAllister, Clydebank Re-built, gave a presentation on the work being undertaken through Clydebank Re-built, in particular the achievements to date which included:-

- the Titan Crane;
- the Titan Enterprise Centre;
- the Queens Quay Enterprise and Learning District which houses the new Clydebank College;
- the Hospital Gate project;
- the John Knox Street workshops;
- the feature lighting of the steeple of the Abbotsford Church on the banks of the canal; and
- the major programme of landscaping and improvement works which is nearing completion on the north bank of the canal at the Clyde Shopping Centre.

The Committee noted:-

- (1) that Clydebank Re-built, wherever possible, promotes the use of local sub-contractors and services and encourages the employment of local people when new jobs are created as a result of their projects;
- (2) that Clydebank Re-built produce a twice-yearly Newsletter and distribute it to every house and business in Clydebank; and
- (3) that a Tall Ship would be calling at the Queens Quay on the morning of Friday, 18 July prior to sailing on to the Scottish Exhibition and Conference Centre.

Having heard Ms McAllister in response to members' questions, the Chair, on behalf of the Committee, thanked her for the interesting and informative presentation and invited her to return at a future date to provide an update on the projects.

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COMMUNITY DAY

A report was submitted by the Chief Executive providing information on West Dunbartonshire Community Day 2008 and detailing proposals for future arrangements.

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

- (1) to note the success of Community Day and record their thanks to Anne Clegg for all her hard work in facilitating this annual event;

- (2) to note that the Policy Officer – Community and Consultation would investigate the possibility of changing the date of the event to the first Saturday in June 2009 with a view to maximising the use of outdoor displays and increasing the attendance of the public;
- (3) to note that the Policy Officer – Community and Consultation would seek costings to provide more formal arrangements for the setting up process and factor this in for future events; and
- (4) otherwise to note the contents of the report.

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE CITIZENS' PANEL

A report was submitted by the Chief Executive providing information on the operation of the West Dunbartonshire Citizens' Panel during 2007/08.

The Policy Officer - Community and Consultation was heard in further explanation and in answer to members' questions.

Following discussion the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to note the arrangements made to refresh the membership of the Citizens' Panel;
- (2) to note that the Citizens' Panel is one of a range of mechanisms used for consultation purposes;
- (3) to recommend to Council using the November 2008 survey slot for budget consultation in addition to the public meetings;
- (4) to recommend to Council the continued future funding of the Panel (inflation linked); and
- (5) otherwise to note the contents of the report.

THE RELATIVE ALLOCATION OF REGENERATION RELATED FUNDING IN SCOTLAND

With reference to the Minutes of Meeting of the Committee held on 23 April 2008 (Page 1077 refers), a report was submitted by the Chief Executive setting out the issues relating to the distribution of Fairer Scotland Funding and, in particular, how West Dunbartonshire fared in terms of its allocation.

The Community Planning Manager was heard in further explanation and in answer to members' questions.

Following discussion, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to note that the revised formula for the new distribution of this funding was not solely based on the concentration of “area multiple deprivation” but also on individual deprivation;
- (2) to note that West Dunbartonshire continued to feature in the top nine in the list of recipients receiving funding;
- (3) to note that the level of funding would reduce over the next 3 years;
- (4) to note that the Council should not require the same level of funding year on year in the long term if deprivation is being properly targeted;
- (5) to note that Councillor Robertson had met with the Minister of Communities and Sport to discuss the matter;
- (6) to consider the report on the Single Outcome Agreement (SOA); and
- (7) otherwise to note the contents of the report.

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP – KEY DEVELOPMENTS

With reference to the Minutes of Meeting of the Committee held on 23 April 2008 (Page 1077 refers), a report was submitted by the Chief Executive providing an update on key developments within West Dunbartonshire Community Planning Partnership (CPP)

The Principal Policy Officer and the Community Planning Partnership Manager were heard in further explanation and in answer to members’ questions.

Following discussion the Committee agreed:-

- (a) to note the concerns expressed regarding the many community groups in the area which might have to seek alternative accommodation to meet if the community resource bases were to close following the review of community support needs;
- (b) to note in particular the concerns expressed regarding finding alternative accommodation in Central Alexandria to house Geared Up West Dunbartonshire if the group was forced to relocate following the change in opening arrangements of the Alexandria community resource base. It was further noted that the central location was important to support the Group’s aim to combat territorialism and that this would be followed up by the appropriate officers; and

- (c) to note the assurances given that the 2 main community resource bases would each remain open two days per week, with temporary cover provided by the Community and Volunteering Services (CVS), until such times as the Review is completed and a decision has been made by the Community Planning Partnership Board.

Following considerable discussion regarding the revised arrangements for the operation of the Community Resource Bases, Councillor McGlinchey, seconded by Councillor Millar, moved:-

That this Committee notes with concern the threat to community groups from the 2007-17 Community Plan, particularly the possible threat to community resource centres. Furthermore this Committee requests that the Chair progress the concern of the Committee with the view to maintaining the existing facilities.

Declarations of Interest

Having heard the Principal Policy Officer, Councillors Robertson, McElhill and Smillie declared a non-financial interest in this item and remained within the meeting. It was noted that they were all Members of the West Dunbartonshire Community Planning Partnership Board.

There being no amendment, the above motion was approved.

Thereafter, the Committee agreed to note the contents of the report.

SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT CONSULTATION ON COMMUNITY COUNCILS

A report was submitted by the Executive Director of Corporate Services informing of the Scottish Government Consultation on a Draft Model Scheme of Establishment of Community Councils and Draft Code of Conduct for Community Councillors and proposing a response on behalf of the Council.

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

- (1) to note that Community Council Forum representatives largely endorsed the content but wished to comment in relation to point 7.2 that many community councils work in partnership very effectively with other groupings and organisations in their communities;
- (2) to note that community councils are encouraged to respond directly to the consultation;

- (3) that officers should emphasise the importance of the Scottish Government adequately resourcing its proposals so that they can be implemented in full by local authorities and in the context of local community integration strategies and initiatives;
- (4) to note that these comments would be reflected in the report going to Council; and
- (5) otherwise to note the contents of the report.

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION COMMITTEE (CPC) – INVOLVING YOUNG PEOPLE EVENT

The Chair was heard in further explanation of the recent event involving young people and the Community Participation Committee.

The Committee noted that four community representatives, the Leader of the Council and the Chair of this Committee had met with eleven young people from the West Dunbartonshire Youth Forums for a very successful evening.

The Chair expressed disappointment at the lack of Elected Members who had attended the event despite the arrangements having been notified well in advance.

The Committee noted that a full report with recommendations would be made to the September meeting of the Committee.

COMMUNITY NEWS

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

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS FROM COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES

Community Representatives were reminded to raise topics for inclusion on future Agendas.

One of the suggestions for a future meeting was an explanation of the bye-law relating to the Management Rules for the Administration of Public Park and Open Spaces specifically with regard to dealing with dog fouling.

OPEN FORUM

Mr Neil Etherington of Parkhall and North Kilbowie Community Council raised several issues during the Open Forum, namely:-

- (1) the poor attendance of community representatives at the meeting despite most of the absent organisations having appointed substitute members for such instances;
- (2) vehicular access issues in Agamemnon Street, Clydebank, for “blue light vehicles” caused by vehicles double parking on the yellow lines; and
- (3) problems relating to the enforcement of the yellow lines on Agamemnon Street due to the traffic regulation order having lapsed.

Having heard the Chair, Councillor Brown, the Committee noted:-

- (1) that the issue of the yellow lines would be reported to the Manager of Roads, Waste and Transportation, for action;
- (2) that complaints regarding non-enforcement of parking restrictions should be referred direct to the police;
- (3) that Councillors Black and McElhill had also voiced their disappointment at the lack of community representation; and
- (4) that one of the community representatives present had disagreed with Mr Etherington’s comments concerning community representatives.

Councillor Brown, Chair, thanked Mr Etherington for his attendance and input to the meeting.

The meeting closed at 4.05 p.m.