

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION COMMITTEE

At a Meeting of the Community Participation Committee held Meeting Room 3, Council Offices, Garshake Road, Dumbarton on Wednesday, 23 April 2008 at 2.00 p.m.

Present: Councillors George Black, Jim Brown, John Millar, Jonathan McColl, Iain Robertson and May Smillie. Murdoch Cameron and Francis McNeill, Community Councils Forum; Megan Harrison and Mary Theresa Doherty, Faifley Neighbourhood Forum; Bill Rankin, West Dunbartonshire Access Panel; John Diamond, Bellsmyre Neighbourhood Forum; Rhona Young, West Dunbartonshire Seniors Association; Tom Nimmo, West Dunbartonshire Community Care Forum; Brenda Pasquire, Dumbarton Credit Union Ltd and Joe McCormack, West Dunbartonshire Citizens Advice Bureau.

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

Also Attending: Angus Bodie, Manager of Roads, Waste and Transport; Jamie McCracken, Projects Officer – Forward Planning and Regeneration; Janice Rainey, Section Head (Grants); Joanne Ross, Projects Officer and Phil White, Manager – Community Planning Partnership.

Apologies: Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillors Geoff Calvert and Jim McElhill.

Councillor Jim Brown in the Chair

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Having heard from the Convener, Councillor Brown, the Committee noted:-

- (a) that Councillor Gail Casey had resigned from membership of the Committee; and
- (b) that Councillor Jim McElhill would replace Councillor William Hendrie on the Committee.

The Convener expressed his appreciation of the work done on behalf of the Committee by both Councillors.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of Meeting of the Committee held on 20 February 2008 were submitted and approved as a correct record.

CONSULTATION ON ALEXANDRIA TOWN CENTRE MASTERPLAN

The Committee noted that, prior to the Meeting commencing, members had been given the opportunity to inspect Alexandria Town Centre Masterplan exhibition boards on display in the Council Offices and that copies of supporting information had been circulated at the meeting.

The Projects Officer – Forward Planning and Regeneration gave an update to the Committee on the progress of the Alexandria Town Centre Masterplan and responded to members' questions, particularly with relation to:-

- (a) the location of Alexandria Health Centre;
- (b) the importance of a major supermarket locating in the town centre locale;
- (c) the flexibility of freeing up retail space if not required for use as office accommodation;
- (d) the need for additional social housing to be provided for the area; and
- (e) that enhanced landscaping would be welcomed.

Rhona Young, Community Representative, left the meeting during consideration of this item.

UPDATE ON PRESENTATION BY THE POLICE LIAISON OFFICER

With reference to the Minutes of Meeting of the Committee held on 20 February 2008 (Page 875 refers), the Committee agreed to note the following response from Angus Bodie, Manager of Roads, Waste and Transport, to a question raised by Councillor Black regarding the colour of zig zag lines:-

Zig zag markings outside schools are always yellow, irrespective of whether they are mandatory (legally enforceable) or not. When they are covered by a Traffic Regulation Order, a roadside sign is required to show restriction timings etc. but the colour and layout of the markings themselves stays the same.

Traffic signal crossings and zebra crossings have white zig zags.

Each school site will be visited and consideration given to the impact that mandatory restrictions will have on the local community. It is likely that in some places, the location/extent of zig zags may change.

Following discussion, and having heard the Manager of Roads, Waste and Transport, in answer to members' questions, the Convener noted the progress which had been made following this worthwhile topic being raised at the Community Participation Committee.

UPDATE ON FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS FROM COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES: RIVER LEVEN

With reference to the Minutes of Meeting of the Committee held on 20 February 2008 (Page 881 refers), the Committee noted that, with the agreement of the Convener, this item had been withdrawn from the Agenda.

UPDATE ON FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS FROM COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES: REGENERATION OF THE SCHOOLS' ESTATE

With reference to the Minutes of Meeting of the Committee held on 20 February 2008 (Page 881 refers), a report was submitted by the Executive Director of Educational Services providing an update on the progress in the regeneration of the schools' estate.

Following discussion and having heard from Joanne Ross, Projects Officer, the Committee agreed to note:-

- (1) that following complaints regarding the condition of the roads in the vicinity of the new schools in Clydebank, particularly the St. Peter the Apostle site, the contractor would be contacted and asked to remedy the situation;
- (2) that the Head of Service – Resources had arranged a site visit to the school concerned for Councillor Black, and the Convener had asked to accompany him;
- (3) that a Working Group had been set up to look at strategies for regeneration of local schools which would include St. Peter's Primary and Aitkenbar Primary Schools and the first meeting was held on 11 April 2008;
- (4) that a programme would be developed for consulting with communities and that Dumbarton North Community Council would be included as consultees for any proposals; and
- (5) that, in future, updates on the progress in the regeneration of the schools' estate would be provided at every second meeting.

UPDATE ON ARRANGEMENTS FOR COUNCIL GRANT FUNDING

With reference to the Minutes of Meeting of the Committee held on 20 February 2008 (Page 879 refers), a report was submitted by the Executive Director of Corporate Services updating on the Grants Working Group proposals for grants administration going forward into 2008/09, which were agreed by the Corporate and Efficient Governance Committee at its meeting on 26 March 2008.

Following discussion and having heard the Convener, the Committee agreed to note:-

- (1) the new process for grants administration going forward into 2008/09;
- (2) the breakdown of the grants budget between strategic partners; cultural projects; contingency budget and those applications due to be administered by the Community Voluntary Service (CVS); and
- (3) the transitional arrangements in place for grant applications received by the working group to date for 2008/09.

DRAFT INTERIM COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY

A report was submitted by the Chief Executive providing a Draft Interim Community Engagement Strategy and outlining a consultation process to determine priorities and draw up actions for 2009-10.

Having heard the Policy Officer - Community and Consultation in further explanation and in answer to members' questions, the Committee agreed to provide views and feedback on the content of Appendix 1 including priorities and gaps and to recommend:-

- (1) that the content of Appendix 1 to the report be approved as the basis for the consultation on the Community Engagement Strategy;
- (2) that a review of support to Community Councils would be carried out as part of the consultation, with particular emphasis on the requirement for developmental support;
- (3) that a review of support to Tenants' and Residents groups be carried out;
- (4) that Council consider options for the general support of community groups by relevant Council staff; and
- (5) that Council reviews the arrangements for support which might be made available to Bellsmyre Neighbourhood Forum to allow them to operate while developing the skills and resources needed to become self sufficient.

Note: Councillor Jonathan McColl left the meeting at this point.

SINGLE OUTCOME AGREEMENTS

A report was submitted by the Chief Executive presenting a first draft of the new Single Outcome Agreement (SOA).

Having heard the Principal Policy Officer in further explanation the Committee agreed to note:-

- (1) that the first draft of the new Single Outcome Agreement had been submitted to the Government at the end of March 2008;
- (2) that all 32 Scottish Councils had submitted their first draft to the Scottish Government and these were now being assessed;
- (3) that the first draft was a weighty document and Committee Members were encouraged to read it in depth before commenting upon it;
- (4) that the final version would be an important document which the Council would be judged on in terms of funding for future years;
- (5) that comments on the draft Single Outcome Agreement and recommendations prioritising actions for the Council and partners to focus on should be submitted by 30 May 2008; and
- (6) that the second draft was due to be submitted to the Scottish Government by the end of June 2008.

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP – KEY DEVELOPMENTS

A report was submitted by the Chief Executive providing an update on key developments within West Dunbartonshire Community Planning Partnership (CPP).

Having heard the Principal Policy Officer in further explanation and in answer to members' questions, the Committee agreed to note:-

- (1) that progress and key issues are reported to West Dunbartonshire Council and the Community Participation Committee (CPC) – following CPP Board Meetings;
- (2) that the most recent Board Meeting took place on 11 February 2008;
- (3) that a special meeting to discuss the budget for 2008/09 took place on 14 January 2008;
- (4) that the last report to the Community Participation Committee (CPC) was in October 2007;

- (5) that a report on proposed changes to the governance and staffing structures was due to be submitted to the next meeting of the Board; and
- (6) that a report comparing West Dunbartonshire with other CPPs in terms of funding by the Scottish Government be submitted to the next meeting of the Community Participation Committee (CPC).

The Manager of the Community Planning Partnership was in attendance and was heard in further explanation and in response to members' questions.

Note: Francis McNeill, Community Representative, left the meeting at this point.

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION COMMITTEE (CPC) – INVOLVING YOUNG PEOPLE EVENT

Members of the Committee were reminded that the event planned between young people from Youth Forums with members of the CPC (community representatives and Elected Members) would take place on the evening of Monday 19 May, 2008 and invitations would be issued in due course.

COMMUNITY NEWS

It was agreed to note that 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 invited to raise topics for inclusion on future Agendas.

Following discussion, the Committee agreed that the undernoted items be included:-

- (a) a regular update on the Schools' estate;
- (b) Clydebank Rebuilt presentation;
- (c) Waste Aware presentation;
- (d) Housing – Strategic Delivery Plans;
- (e) Fairtrade;
- (f) Facilities for Visitors; and
- (g) Gender Equality - Men's Health (Partnership Activity).

Having heard Mary Theresa Doherty, the Committee noted the success of the recent Community Day and thanked Anne Clegg for all her efforts in this regard.

OPEN FORUM

The Committee noted that there were no open forum questions from the member of the public still in attendance.

The meeting closed at 4.05 p.m.