

## COMMUNITY INITIATIVES COMMITTEE

At a meeting of the Community Initiatives Committee held in Dalmuir C.E. Centre, Duntocher Road, Clydebank on Friday, 10th March, 2000 at 2.00 p.m.

**Present:** Councillors Linda McColl (LAB), John Syme (LAB), Daniel McCafferty (LAB) and Tony Devine (LAB)(substituting for Councillor Andrew White (LAB)).

**Also Present:** Jack Duffy and Murdoch Cameron, West Dunbartonshire Community Council Forum, Margaret Morrison, Disability Forum, Frances McGonagle, Lone Parent Group and Brian Rocks, Faifley Neighbourhood Forum.

**Attending:** Mary Cullen, Head of Corporate Policy and Public Relations, Anne Laird, Chief Administrative Officer, Morag Dalziel, Solicitor and Inspector Kenny Boyter, Strathclyde Police.

**Apologies for Absence:** Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillors Iain Robertson (SNP), Mary Collins (LAB) and John Trainer (LAB) and George Cochrane, Voluntary Forum.

**Public Gallery:** 130 members of the public present.

### Councillor Linda McColl in the Chair

#### PRESENTATION STRATHCLYDE PASSENGER TRANSPORT

Councillor McColl introduced Mr. George Heaney, Head of Operations of Strathclyde Passenger Transport (SPT) to those present, advising that Mr. Heaney would be speaking about the role of the SPT, and thereafter would answer questions from the public gallery.

Mr. Heaney explained that a responsibility of Strathclyde Passenger Transport was to monitor bus services provided by commercial bus companies in terms of the Transport Act, 1985. Strathclyde Passenger Transport could also provide finance to areas where there was under-provision of bus services

He advised that SPT did not operate the bus services provided in this Council area, the First Glasgow services being operated by the company First Group. He stated that as companies worked to commercial advantage, profit dictated whether a bus route was viable and should continue.

Mr. Heaney also stated that SPT had the dilemma of dealing with many conflicting problems, such as rural areas with no bus provision, to that of areas where customers considered services were inadequate.

He explained that if SPT intervened and increased the provision in an area where it was considered there were adequate services, this intervention could be challenged in Court in terms of the Transport Act.

He also advised that the Scottish Parliament was currently considering an Integrated Transport Bill, and that comments were invited by 24th March, 2000.

Following questions from the public gallery, Councillor McCafferty, seconded by Councillor Syme, moved:-

That West Dunbartonshire Council calls upon Strathclyde Passenger Transport Executive to intervene and vigorously oppose the diminution of services to the Clydebank community. Such intervention should, if necessary, be to the extent of taking out a test case which may or may not result in court action.

That West Dunbartonshire Council should make representations to the Scottish Parliament to include regulation of public transport within the Transport Bill in order that social need is recognised rather than simply profit.

The aforementioned motion was unanimously approved, and it was further agreed that it be put before the most appropriate Committee to allow representations to be made by the end of the consultation period on 24th March, 2000.

Councillor McColl then thanked Mr. Heaney for attending the meeting and explaining the role of the SPT. Prior to leaving the meeting, Mr. Heaney confirmed that he would take the community's concerns about the bus services in the Clydebank area to the next meeting of the SPT's Services Committee.

## **OUTCOME OF THE 2000/01 BUDGET CONSULTATIONS**

There was submitted a joint report by the Head of Corporate Policy and Public Relations and Head of Information Services detailing the outcome of the 2000/01 budget consultation exercise. Copies of the results of the Priority Search Questionnaires were appended to the report.

Councillor Devine explained that the Council, as in previous years, had held an extensive budget consultation exercise to allow members of the public to prioritise Council services prior to the Council's budget setting day of 9th March, 2000.

Public meetings were held and Priority Search Questionnaires were sent to the Citizens' Panel and community groups for completion. Completed questionnaires were received from 481 of the possible 700 Citizens' Panel members and 99 members of the public. Both sources showed the same top priorities:- bringing jobs into the area, winter gritting of roads and pavements, education for children with special needs, residential homes for elderly and disabled people and children's care and protection.

The Committee noted the contents of the report.

## **INTERIM REVIEW OF THE SCHEME FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMUNITY COUNCILS**

There was submitted report by the Head of Corporate Policy and Public Relations on the outcome of the Interim Review of the Scheme for Establishment of Community Councils. Printed copies of the updated Scheme for Establishment of Community Councils were available at the meeting.

Having heard the Head of Corporate Policy and Public Relations, the Committee formally agreed to adopt the revised Scheme for Establishment of Community Councils.

### **OPEN FORUM: 2ND DECEMBER, 1999 - RESPONSES**

There was submitted report by the Director of Corporate Services providing an update on issues raised by members of the public during the Open Forum of 2nd December, 1999.

The following responses were noted:-

(a) Gruggies Burn, Dumbarton

A contract has been awarded to allow the inspection and assessment of Gruggies Burn and Knowle Burn, Dumbarton. Once the assessment has been completed it is anticipated that a report will be forwarded to Council which will detail potential improvements and costings.

(b) Castle Road, Dumbarton

West of Scotland Water is presently installing a new sewage pipe connecting the Havoc and Castle Green Sewage Treatment plants which is resulting in substantial construction and earthworks adjacent to Castle Road, Dumbarton. The muddy condition of Castle Road has been raised with West of Scotland Water and the situation is being monitored.

(c) Bus Services

Dumbarton East to Glasgow service - First Glasgow have approached Strathclyde Passenger Transport with a view to providing through bus to rail tickets in the Dumbarton area, should this proposal come to fruition, passengers would be able to travel from the Dumbarton East area by bus to Dumbarton Central and make an onward train connection with one ticket. Councillor McColl advised that she is currently investigated the '10 mile rule' and is awaiting a response from the SPT.

No. 205 Bus Service - the reintroduction of this service will be considered by the next meeting of Strathclyde Passenger Transport's Services Committee.

### **OPEN FORUM**

The Committee considered various issues raised during the Open Forum session as shown in the Appendix to these Minutes.



**OPEN FORUM**

**Members of the public present - 2**

**Community Council Forum Office, Rosebery Place, Clydebank**

Following a request by a member of the Community Council Forum, it was agreed that an officer from Information Services be requested to install the PCs in the Forum's office in Rosebery Place, Clydebank.

**Concessionary Travel - 10 mile limit**

It was agreed that representations be made to the Transport Minister recommending that the 10 mile limit rule be substituted by a universal journey.

It was agreed that the letter should be copied to the chairperson of the Scottish Parliament's Transport and Environment Committee and to local MSPs, Jackie Baillie and Des McNulty.

The meeting closed at 3.40 p.m.