

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION COMMITTEE

At a Meeting of the Community Participation Committee held in Meeting Room 3, Council Offices, Garshake Road, Dumbarton on Wednesday, 16 June 2010 at 10.00 a.m.

Present: Councillors Jim Brown, George Black, Jonathan McColl, Ronnie McColl, John Millar, Martin Rooney and May Smillie; Murdoch Cameron, MBE, Community Councils Forum; John Diamond and Tony Oliver (Sub), Bellsmyre Neighbourhood Forum; Mary Theresa Doherty, Faifley Neighbourhood Forum (Sub); Anna Hemphill, (Sub) Dumbarton Community Forum; June Todd, MBE, Clydebank Community Forum and Rhona Young, Clydebank Seniors Forum.

Attending: Anne Clegg, Policy Officer - Community and Consultation; Anne Laird, Manager of Administrative Services; Finian McElhinney, Stock Transfer Manager; Rodney Thornton, Section Head - Waste and Transport Services; Keith Redpath, Director of West Dunbartonshire Community Health Partnership and Fiona Anderson, Committee Officer, Legal, Administrative and Regulatory Services.

Apologies: Apologies were intimated on behalf of Councillors Bootland and McNair; and Carole Donkin and Ann Aire (Sub), Clydebank Women's Aid; Neil Etherington, Clydebank Community Forum (Sub); Megan Harrison, Faifley Neighbourhood Forum; Anne MacDougall, Clydebank Crime Prevention Panel; Francis McNeill, Community Council Forum; Justeen Peacock, West Dunbartonshire Access Panel and Tom Wilmshurst, Association of Clydebank Residents Groups.

Councillor Jim Brown in the Chair

WELCOME

Councillor Brown, Chair, welcomed Councillor R. McColl, new Leader of the Council, to his first meeting as replacement for Councillor Iain Robertson.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of Meeting of the Committee held on 14 April 2010 were submitted and approved as a correct record.

PARTIAL HOUSING STOCK TRANSFER

Finian McElhinney, Stock Transfer Manager, gave a presentation on the proposed partial Housing Stock Transfer and the background relating thereto and was heard in response to Members' questions.

The main points covered in the presentation were:-

- Previous Community Ownership Programme bid;
- Housing Need and Demand Study;
- Scottish Housing Quality Standard set;
- Council's Standard Delivery Plan;
- The transfer of 45% of the Council Housing stock;
- Write off of £54million Housing Revenue Account debt by transferring part of the housing stock;
- The 3 Strategic aims;
- The proposed timelines for the proposal;
- Engagement with tenant and community representatives on the stock transfer process;
- Detailed briefings for potential landlords;
- Indicative valuations for each area package and sharing detailed area information with potential new landlords; and
- The aim to transfer the stock by 2012.

Following discussion, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to note that the proposed housing stock transfer would have no immediate impact on existing related Council services;
- (2) to note that any transfer of stock would not affect a tenant's "Right To Buy";
- (3) to note that all but one of the 14 local housing associations operating within West Dunbartonshire had indicated their interest in principle;
- (4) to note that John Diamond, supported by Tony Oliver, Bellsmyre Neighbourhood Forum (BNF), would raise with officers the fact that BNF had not been consulted on this matter;
- (5) that the cost of the housing stock transfer, if the proposal was implemented, would be met from the Housing Revenue Account as there was no additional funding available;

- (6) to note that proposals would be invited around November 2010 from prospective landlords covering one or more area packages;
- (7) to note that Council would be asked to approve final area boundaries and stock for transfer in November 2010;
- (8) to note that in January 2011 proposals would be received from potential landlords and assessed;
- (9) to note that formal tenant consultation would be carried out in October 2011;
- (10) to note that separate ballots for each stock transfer area would be held in January 2012;
- (11) to note that around 5,000 houses would still remain in Council ownership;
- (12) to note the comment by June Todd, Clydebank Community Forum (CCF), that despite individual tenants having requested to be kept abreast of development, no information had been received;
- (13) to note that the Stock Transfer Manager would publish information on the Council's website, together with the answers to some frequently asked questions, and also would hold "Open Sessions" for members of the public in each of the three main areas and provide details of how to contact the Independent Tenant Advisor; and
- (14) to note that the Stock Transfer Manager would respond directly to Councillor Rooney's request for additional information relating to residual debt and the number of Council jobs likely to be affected as a result of any stock transfer.

The Chair, Councillor Brown, thanked the Stock Transfer Manager for his interesting and informative presentation and invited him to return at a future date to update the Committee with the progress of the proposals to transfer part of the housing stock.

REPORT ON ALEXANDRIA HEALTH CENTRE

With reference to the Minutes of Meeting of the Community Participation Committee held on 14 April 2010 (page xxx refers), a report was submitted by the Chief Executive attaching an update from West Dunbartonshire Community Health Partnership on Alexandria Health Centre developments.

Having heard from the Director of West Dunbartonshire Community Health Partnership in further explanation and in response to Members' questions, the Committee agreed to note:-

- (1) that the final Business Case for Alexandria Health and Care Centre should be available in the first half of 2011;

- (2) that it is anticipated the Centre would be completed approximately 21 months from the acceptance of the Business Case; and
- (3) that the anticipated earliest possible date the Centre could be operational would be the summer of 2013.

The Chair thanked the Director for attending the meeting and invited him to return with an update on the progress of the Alexandria Health and Care Centre when there were developments to report.

TENDER FOR DELIVERY OF COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT SUPPORT

Having heard the Chair, Councillor Brown, regarding a previous request for information, the Committee agreed to note:-

- (1) that the tender process for the delivery of Community Planning Partnership Community Engagement Support was in the final stages;
- (2) that four tenders had been scored and the final recommendation had been submitted to the Tendering Committee for approval on 26 May 2010; and
- (3) that an update would be provided to the September meeting of the CPC.

FEEDBACK ON COSTS INCURRED AS A RESULT OF FLY-TIPPING

With reference to the Minutes of Meetings of the Community Participation Committee held on 17 February 2010 (page xxx refers) and 14 April 2010 (page xxx refers), submit report by the Executive Director of Housing, Environmental and Economic Development, providing information relating to the additional requests to the Council to deal with fly tipped material since the introduction of charging for special uplifts.

Having heard from the Section Head - Waste and Transport Services, in further explanation and in response to Members' questions, the Committee agreed:-

- (a) to note that Murdoch Cameron, West Dunbartonshire Community Councils' Forum (WDCCF), had previously expressed concern regarding the introduction of the £15 charge for special uplifts;
- (b) to note that Murdoch Cameron, WDCCF, and Councillor Smillie had paid tribute to the friendly and helpful staff at Dalmoak Recycling Centre;
- (c) to note that June Todd, CCF, and John Diamond, BNF, had expressed concern regarding rubbish accumulating in back gardens and common areas and requested guidance on what jurisdiction the Council and Environmental Health had in such cases;

- (d) to note that when such instances were deemed to pose a genuine potential fire risk, the items would be uplifted by the Direct Labour Organisation (DLO) within 2 hours of being reported and assessed;
- (e) to note that Councillor Millar expressed concern regarding fridges and fridge/freezers being left in back courts of Housing Association properties and asked what steps could be taken to force Housing Associations to take responsibility, where relevant, to remove the goods;
- (f) to note the suggestion by Councillor Black that the system of collecting payment via bank cards in advance of any special uplift should be re-examined and the introduction of issuing invoices considered; and
- (g) to note the opinion expressed by John Diamond, BNF, that charging for special uplifts was an imposition on those people who can least afford it and suggested a fairer system would be to increase council tax to fund the cost of additional services such as this.

Following discussion and having heard the Section Head - Waste and Transport Services in confirmation that 44 fixed penalties had been issued since 2006 including 5 since January 2010, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to note that when comparing the period 1 January - 30 April 2009, to the same period in 2010, fly tipping reports increased by 30;
- (2) to note that in the period 1 January - 30 April 2010 the Council had received 1150 requests for special uplifts compared to 5354 requests in the same period of 2009;
- (3) to note that the increased use of the Council's recycling centres indicated that householders were making their own arrangements to dispose of bulky items;
- (4) to note that an increase of 30 fly tipping instances in a four month period indicated that the impact of charging had been minimal;
- (5) to note that officers would continue to monitor fly tipping reports in the coming months; and
- (6) otherwise to note the contents of the report.

Note: Rhona Young left the meeting at this point.

PROPOSAL FOR A PETITIONS COMMITTEE

With reference to the Minutes of Meeting of the Community Participation Committee held on 14 April 2010 (page xxx refers), a report was re-submitted by the Executive Director of Corporate Services seeking the views of the Community Participation Committee on options available to the Council for the handling of petitions.

Following discussion, the Committee agreed:-

- (a) to note that Murdoch Cameron indicated that the Community Council Forum Management Committee had voted 4-3 in favour of establishing a separate Petitions Committee;
- (b) to note that June Todd, CCF, was in favour of maintaining the status quo in the interests of saving costs;
- (c) to note that the consensus of opinion among the Community Representatives present at the meeting was to maintain the status quo for petitions received;
- (d) to note that Councillor Black wished to thank the Community Representatives for their input and confirmed he considered the status quo to be adequate;
- (e) to thank the Manager of Administrative Services for the amount of work put into the report; and
- (f) to note that the next step in the process would be to report the comments received from the CPC back to the Improvement and Efficiency Executive.

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION COMMITTEE – EVALUATION

With reference to the Minutes of Meeting of the Community Participation Committee held on 14 April 2010 (page xxx refers), a report was submitted by the Chief Executive providing evaluation feedback.

Having heard the Policy Officer - Community and Consultation in further explanation and in response to Members' questions, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to note the comments by Murdoch Cameron, WDCCF, regarding the poor response to the evaluation with only 10 representatives responding out of a possible 27;
- (2) to note that June Todd, CCF, had apologised for failing to return a response;
- (3) to note the comments by John Diamond, BNF, regarding the high quality of information provided by the Committee and the service provided by the officers;
- (4) to note the comments from the Chair, Councillor Brown, that feedback received from this evaluation would be used to develop the Committee;
- (5) to note the suggestion that members of new groups attending for the first time be given the opportunity to give a short presentation about their group, should they so wish; and

- (6) to note that Clydebank Women's Aid and Clydebank Crime Prevention Panel had indicated a willingness to give a short presentation and would be invited to provide this at the next two meetings.

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

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE CITIZENS' PANEL – EVALUATION

A report was submitted by the Chief Executive providing information on the Evaluation of the West Dunbartonshire Citizens' Panel.

The Policy Officer - Community and Consultation was heard in further explanation of the evaluation having been conducted in two parts:-

- (1) to evaluate panel users' experiences (people who commission survey questions and focus groups); and
- (2) to evaluate panel members' experiences.

Following discussion and having heard the Policy Officer - Community and Consultation in response to Members' questions, the Committee agreed:-

- (a) to note that the evaluation of both the panel users and panel members indicated a high level of satisfaction in general with how the Panel was working; and
- (b) otherwise to note the contents of the report.

Note: Councillor Smillie left the meeting at this point.

COMMUNITY NEWS

The Chair, Councillor Brown, reminded Committee members that it would be helpful if they could provide information for the Community News item in advance of meetings on an on-going basis.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS FROM COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES

Following discussion, the Committee agreed to note that the undernoted topics would be added to the list of current topics for future agendas.

Current topics include:-

- Clydebank Crime Prevention Panel
- Clydebank Women's Aid

- Integration of Social Work and Health Services
- Clydebank Rebuilt
- Update on Regeneration of the Schools' Estate
- Fairtrade
- Regular update on Recycling and Waste Minimisation
- Future Development on Strathleven Corridor
- Council Tax Presentation (annually)
- How the Council intends to deal with the current credit crunch
- An update on Addiction Services and in particular whether funding is internal or external
- Clyde Valley Community Planning Partnership
- Shopmobility
- Community Planning Partnership/Community Forums

Following discussion, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) that, if sufficient information was available, a report should be submitted to the September meeting of the CPC regarding the effect on the budget of the new PPP schools in their first year; and
- (2) that an update on the integration of Social Work and Health Services should be on the agenda for the September meeting of the CPC.

It was noted that Murdoch Cameron, WDCCF, had asked for clarification on the Clyde Valley Community Planning Partnership (CVCPP) agenda item relating to Shared Services. An explanation was provided of its role around Shared Services over the eight Councils involved in the Partnership.

OPEN FORUM

The Committee noted that there were no Open Forum questions as there were no members of the public present.

The meeting closed at 12.10 p.m.