

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION COMMITTEE

At a Meeting of the Community Participation Committee held in the Council Chambers, Clydebank Town Hall, Dumbarton Road, Clydebank on Wednesday, 15 February 2006 at 10.00 a.m.

Present: Councillors Gail Casey, George Black, Margaret Bootland, Dennis Brogan, Marie McNair, Connie O'Sullivan, Martin Rooney and Andy White*. Murdoch Cameron MBE, West Dunbartonshire Community Councils Forum; Francis McNeill, West Dunbartonshire Community Councils Forum; Robert Cochrane, Faifley Neighbourhood Forum; Bill Rankin, West Dunbartonshire Access Panel; Abdul Ghani, West Dunbartonshire Minority Ethnic Association*; Bernard Bell, Feis Dhun Breatainn An Iar; Rhona Young, West Dunbartonshire Seniors Association; Robert Kyle, Dumbarton Community and Commercial Association and Tom Nimmo, West Dunbartonshire Community Care Forum.

*Arrived later in the meeting.

Attending: Liz Cochrane, Policy Manager; Anne Clegg, Policy Officer – Community and Consultation; Anne Laird, Manager of Administrative Services; Kevin Neeson, Development Services Manager, Department of Development and Environmental Services; Billy McCabe, Section Head – Events and Halls, Department of Development and Environmental Services; Valerie McIlhatton, Policy Officer; and Fiona Anderson, Administrative Assistant, Legal and Administrative Services.

Also

Attending: Keith Redpath, Director, West Dunbartonshire Community Health Partnership; and James Fraser, Visit Scotland.

Apologies: Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillors Jackie Maceira and Joe Pilkington; John Diamond, Bellsmyre Neighbourhood Forum; and Mary Theresa Doherty, Clydebank Community Forum.

Councillor Gail Casey in the Chair

8153 Before commencing with the business of the meeting, Councillor Casey welcomed everyone to the first meeting of the Committee in 2006.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

- 8154 The Minutes of Meeting of the Committee held on 7 December 2005 were submitted and approved as a correct record.

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COMMUNITY HEALTH PARTNERSHIP

- 8155 Mr Keith Redpath, Director, West Dunbartonshire Community Health Partnership, gave a short presentation on the current status of the Argyll and Clyde Health Board and changes to the Health Board boundaries.
- 8156 In particular, the Committee noted:-
- (1) that arrangements were in place to dissolve Argyll and Clyde Health Board by 31 March 2006;
 - (2) that Argyll and Clyde Health Board's historical deficit would be written off;
 - (3) that all of the West Dunbartonshire Council area will be covered by a single Health Authority;
 - (4) that by the end of 2007 the Golden Jubilee Hospital in Clydebank would be a Cardio Thoracic Centre;
 - (5) that Argyll and Bute Council area would become part of NHS Highland;
 - (6) that an Integrated Care Service was available twenty-four hours a day at Vale of Leven Hospital;
 - (7) that, at the moment, Glasgow hospitals do not have the capacity to take on all those patients who go to the Royal Alexandra Hospital in Paisley; and
 - (8) that consultation on a name for the new Health Authority is currently taking place.
- 8157 Having heard Mr Redpath in answer to Members' questions, the Convener, on behalf of the Committee, thanked him for his very interesting and informative presentation.

Note: At this point, Mr Redpath left the meeting.

PRESENTATION ON TOURISM

- 8158 Kevin Neeson, Development Services Manager, Department of Development and Environmental Services, gave a joint presentation on tourism in conjunction with James Fraser, Area Director, Visit Scotland.
- 8159 Billy McCabe, Section Head – Events and Halls, was also in attendance to respond to any questions about events.

8160 Following discussion, it was noted:-

- (1) that a What's On Guide for local attractions was available on the West Dunbartonshire Council website;
- (2) that information relating to attractions Scotland-wide was also accessible on the web on sites such as www.visitscotland.com and www.visitscottishheartlands.com; and
- (3) that the recent reduction in tourist numbers had been due to some direct flight routes into Scotland no longer operating.

8161 Following discussion on the availability of public telephone facilities at Balloch Station to enable disabled passengers to telephone a taxi, it was agreed that officers would investigate the matter and report back to a future meeting of the Committee.

8162 Having heard Mr Fraser and Mr Neeson in answer to Members' questions, the Convener, on behalf of the Committee, thanked them for their very interesting and informative presentation.

Note: At this point Mr Fraser left the meeting.

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL: ANTI POVERTY STRATEGY 2005

8163 Valerie McIlhatton, Policy Officer, gave a presentation on West Dunbartonshire Council's Anti Poverty Strategy 2005 and distributed copies of the Anti Poverty Strategy document.

8164 Following discussion and having heard Ms McIlhatton in answer to Members' questions, the Convener, on behalf of the Committee, thanked her for her very interesting and informative presentation.

ARRANGEMENTS FOR PRE-AGENDA MEETINGS FOR COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION COMMITTEE (CPC) COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES

8165 With reference to the meeting of Council held on 21 December 2005 (Page 2125, paragraph 7825 refers), a report was submitted by the Chief Executive:-

- (a) informing of the progress made regarding establishing arrangements for pre-agenda meetings; and
- (b) advising of the outcome of consultations with Community Representatives on the CPC regarding the timing of pre-agenda meetings which indicated a clear preference for Option C, as detailed in the report.

- 8166 Following discussion, the Committee agreed to recommend Option C to Council, that Pre-Agenda meetings take place at 1.00 p.m. with the full meeting commencing at 2.00 p.m., not at 10.00 a.m. as previously agreed by Council.

UPDATE ON WDC DECENTRALISATION SCHEME – “INVOLVING COMMUNITIES” AND ACTION PLAN

- 8167 A report was submitted by the Chief Executive providing an up-date on the activities set out in the Council’s Decentralisation Scheme, to allow the Community Participation Committee to monitor progress.
- 8168 After discussion, and having considered the progress of the Scheme, the Committee agreed to recommend to Council that the term “Decentralisation Scheme” should be replaced with the term “Involving Communities”.

DISCUSSION PAPER BY THE SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE: “WHAT CAN WE DO TO HELP COMMUNITY COUNCILS FULFIL THEIR ROLE?”

- 8169 A report was submitted by the Director of Corporate Services introducing the Discussion Paper by the Scottish Executive – “What Can We Do To Help Community Councils Fulfil Their Role?” It was noted that Mrs Anne Laird, Manager of Administrative Services, was present to respond to any questions on the Report.
- 8170 Following discussion and having considered the issues raised within the Report, the Committee agreed:-
- (1) that the draft response be submitted to the Council meeting on 22 February 2006;
 - (2) that the Director of Corporate Services should write to the Community Councils Forum and to individual Community Councils reminding them of the closing date for comments on the paper and encouraging them to respond; and
 - (3) that the Scottish Executive be advised that the Council would willingly participate in a meeting with other councils and community councils if this was arranged.
- 8171 Following a question from a Community Representative regarding whether Parliament had a legal obligation to consider an issue if raised by fifty people, it was agreed that officers would investigate and report back to a future meeting of the Committee.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS FROM COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES

8172 Community Representatives were invited:-

- (1) to consider an offer from West Dunbartonshire Council Addiction Services to present the Community Participation Committee with an overview of the Corporate Action Plan for Drugs and Alcohol in West Dunbartonshire and outlining priorities and actions;
- (2) to consider having a presentation on:-
 - (a) the West Dunbartonshire Council Race Equality Scheme; and
 - (b) the Joint Health Improvement Plan; and
- (3) to raise topics for inclusion on future Agendas.

8173 Following discussion, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) that a presentation outlining Addiction Services in West Dunbartonshire and giving information about costs, be submitted to the next meeting of the Committee;
- (2) that John Hepburn, Welfare Rights, be invited to make a presentation on Money Advice/Benefits at the next meeting; and
- (3) that the undernoted presentations be made at a future meeting of the Committee:-
 - (a) Care In The Community; and
 - (b) Community Ownership (Stock Transfer)

OPEN FORUM

8174 The Committee noted that there were no open forum questions.

The meeting closed at 12.20 p.m.