

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

Report by Chief Executive

Community Participation Committee: Wednesday 24 January, 2007

Subject: Community Participation Committee (CPC)- Involving Young People Event

1. Purpose

- 1.1** To report to the Committee on the above event and suggest future action.

2. Background

- 2.1** The CPC is looking at ways of involving young people in Council decision-making. This event was planned jointly by young people with input from a community representative from the CPC, the Convenor of the CPC and officers of the Council. The purpose is to promote links with young people and help to identify ways of involving them.

3. Main Issues

- 3.1** The event which took place on Tuesday 5 December brought together young people from youth forums in West Dunbartonshire with community representatives and elected members from the Community Participation Committee. The event was structured and led by the young people.
- 3.2** An introductions session heard from one of the young people about his involvement in the local youth forum, from the Convenor of the CPC on why she became a councillor and from the Gingerbread community representative about how she became involved in her community in a range of ways.
- 3.3** The company then broke into two groups (young people in one group and Community Participation Members in another) to discuss the things they liked about their community and the things they would like to change.
- 3.4** Following this, there was open discussion about the things people had identified about their communities, with a number of common areas emerging including:
- Liking for local shops
 - Liking for college
 - Interest in the history and heritage of West Dunbartonshire

- Dislike of drug and alcohol abuse, vandalism, arson and crime in general
- Concerns about groups of young people ‘hanging about’– with different perspectives from the young people and adults present.

The full list of subjects raised is attached as Appendix 1.

There was lively discussion and a good exchange of views and ideas, with contributions from most of the participants.

4. Personnel Issues

4.1 There are no personnel issues.

5. Financial Implications

5.1 The costs of the event were met within existing budgets.

6. Conclusions

6.1 Bringing together young people and members of the CPC raised awareness of the committee’s role. The next steps will be to consider how we can continue to develop links with young people. Some of the issues identified may provide the basis for future events or presentations.

7. Recommendations

7.1 The committee is invited to consider the contents of this report and, in particular, to consider planning a future event around one or more of the themes raised above at 3.4 and in Appendix 1.

David McMillan
Chief Executive
January 2007

Person to Contact: Person to contact: Anne Clegg, Policy Officer,
Community & Consultation, 01389 737177

Background Papers: Community Participation Committee - Wednesday 16th June, 2004, Involving Young People, Community Participation Committee – Wednesday 20 September, 2006, Involving Young People, Community Participation Committee, Wednesday 15 November, 2006, Involving Young People – Up-date on CPC/Involving Young People Event

Wards Affected: All

Appendix 1

Likes (CPC Members)

- Library
- Town Hall
- People
- Allotments
- Community Centre
- Park
- View from high flats
- Skypoint
- Houses
- Countryside
- Loch Lomond
- Balloch Castle
- Dumbarton Castle
- Walking Trails
- Courses/Adult Education
- Close to good shop
- Peace and quiet
- Good neighbours
- River Leven
- River Clyde
- Levensgrove Park
- Resource bases
- Clyde Rebuilt
- Hills
- Trains
- Buses
- Cycle paths
- Good location
- Near water/hills* (no drought)
- Titan Crane
- New College*
- Community Spirit /Involvement
- More opportunities for getting involved
- Volunteering
- Clyde canal
- Community Animators
- Museum*
- Heritage*
- Historic Connection*
- Open spaces
- Town centre access
- Rural life
- St Margaret Hospice
- Working class
- Identity of the natives
- Sheltered Housing

Likes (Young People)

- Shops are close*
- Family together
- Like the young groups
- Some like school
- Good in winter (lots of hills) (sledding)*
- Close college (Clydebank)*
- History (Balloch)*
- Cinema & shopping* centre (Clydebank)
- 24Hr ASDA

Dislikes (CPC Members)

- Smell from the sewage works – Dalmuir
- Anti-social behavior*
- Vandalism*
- Drugs (Very young children (9 -11 drugs/drink)*)
- Alcohol abuse*
- Arson*
- Apathy/Disillusionment
- Town centre – Dumbarton
- Gangs of youths*
- People smoking outside pubs
- Lack of sport facilities
- Traffic jams
- Glue sniffing
- Speeding drivers
- Bad street lighting*
- Litter
- Dog poo

Dislikes (Young People)

- No benches
- No parks in Bonhill
- Older people are scared of young people and can't access places because they are hanging around*
- Police breaking up groups of young people*
- Young people don't get enough freedom of expression
- Attitude towards young people*
- Churches should get more involved
- Nothing to do at night except youth clubs
- Living in a crime filled area*
- Living close to drug dealers*
- No college close by so have to travel far
- Don't have things like cinemas, bowling etc.
- Not enough street lights* & bins
- Price of public transport
- We have to travel far to get decent places
- SCHOOL & Transport
- State of building & streets

Community Participation Committee – Involving Young People Event

This report provides information on the outcome of the event held to promote the involvement of young people in the Council's decision making processes

In particular, it draws members' attention to

- the fact that young people were active in their involvement in this event
- the range of issues which both young people – and the wider community – see as the positives and negatives of living in West Dunbartonshire

Members are invited to consider the information in the report, and to:

- suggest a possible theme – or themes for a follow up session – based on the discussion noted in paragraph 3.4. and in the appendix
- thank the young people involved for their very active participation in this event
- thank the members of the committee who participated in the event