

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION COMMITTEE

At a Meeting of the Community Participation Committee held in Meeting Room 3, Council Offices, Garshake Road, Dumbarton on Wednesday, 17 February 2010 at 2.00 p.m.

Present: Councillors Jim Brown, George Black, Jonathan McColl, Jim McElhill, John Millar, Iain Robertson and Martin Rooney; Ann Aire, Clydebank Women's Aid (Sub); Murdoch Cameron, MBE, and Francis McNeill, Community Councils Forum; Tony Oliver, Bellsmyre Neighbourhood Forum; Megan Harrison, Faifley Neighbourhood Forum; Anne MacDougall, Clydebank Crime Prevention Panel; Justeen Peacock, West Dunbartonshire Access Panel; June Todd, Clydebank Community Forum; Tom Wilmshurst, Association of Clydebank Residents Groups; Rhona Young, Clydebank Seniors Forum and Brenda Pasquire, West Dunbartonshire Citizens Advice Service.

Attending: Liz Cochrane, Head of Service - Policy and Performance; Anne Clegg, Policy Officer - Community and Consultation; Helen Weir, Strategy Manager - Addiction Services; Calum Fulton, Licensing Sergeant, Strathclyde Police "L" Division; Bobby Jones, Lead Officer - Public Health and Fiona Anderson, Committee Officer, Legal, Administrative and Regulatory Services.

Apologies: Apologies were intimated on behalf of Councillors Margaret Bootland, Marie McNair and May Smillie; John Diamond, Bellsmyre Neighbourhood Forum; Mary Theresa Doherty, Faifley Neighbourhood Forum (Sub); Lily Kennedy, MBE, West Dunbartonshire Community Care Forum (Sub); Haji Munir, West Dunbartonshire Minority Ethnic Association,

Councillor Jim Brown in the Chair

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 16 December 2009 were submitted and approved as a correct record, subject to the undernoted corrections:-

(i) Apologies

With reference to the item under the heading "Apologies", it was noted that apologies had been received from Carole Donkin and Ann Aire (Sub), Clydebank Women's Aid; Murdoch Cameron, MBE, Community Councils Forum and Rhona Young, Clydebank Seniors Forum; and

(ii) Open Forum

With reference to the item under the heading "Open Forum", it was noted that the Minutes should have read "Mr John Hainey".

ALCOHOL AND DRUG PARTNERSHIP

A report was submitted by the Interim Executive Director of Social Work and Health providing information on addiction related initiatives, specifically in relation to alcohol, developed and delivered via local partnerships.

Helen Weir, Strategy Manager – Addiction Services and Calum Fulton, Licensing Sergeant, Strathclyde Police "L" Division, were in attendance and gave a presentation on some of the initiatives currently being taken forward in partnership at a local level by the West Dunbartonshire Licensing Forum including the "Wrecked Campaign".

Some of the main points covered in the presentation were:-

- Alcohol and Drugs: The Scale of the Problem in Scotland.
- Alcohol and Drugs: National Delivery Reforms.
- Joint Addiction Services: A Tiered Approach.
- Alcohol and Drugs: The Scale of the Problem in West Dunbartonshire.
- Alcohol and Drug Partnership: A Needs Led Approach.
- Alcohol and Drug Partnership: Addiction Prevention and Education Group.
- Alcohol and Drug Partnership: Wrecked Steering Group.
- Alcohol Awareness Week 2009.
- Dumbarton Pub Watch.

It was noted that some of the local initiatives, using partnership approaches, were aimed at:-

- raising awareness of the dangers associated with binge drinking;
- raising awareness of unit measures and the recommended safe levels of alcohol consumption;

- encouraging informed and responsible choices in the sale, purchase and consumption of alcohol;
- supporting local licence holders to request proof of age prior to selling alcohol to anyone who may be under 21 years of age;
- supporting local licence holders in ensuring that the legislative impacts of purchasing alcohol for someone under the age of 18 are known to staff, potential customers and the wider community in general; and
- supporting the Licensing Board/Forum in the delivery of public health responsibilities as detailed within the Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005.

After hearing the Strategy Manager - Addiction Services and the Licensing Sergeant in response to Members' questions and following discussion, the Committee agreed to note the contents of the report.

The Chair, Councillor Brown, on behalf of the Committee thanked the Strategy Manager - Addiction Services and the Licensing Sergeant for a most interesting and informative presentation.

GENDER EQUALITY – MEN'S HEALTH

The Lead Officer - Public Health gave a presentation on Gender Equality - Men's Health.

The main points covered in the presentation were:-

- Determinants of Health.
- Gender Equality Duty.
- Sex and Gender – Biology.
- Global Life Expectancy Statistics.
- Women's Health/Issues.
- Men's Health/Issues.
- Incidence Rates and Death Rates for Melanoma.
- Men's Usage of the Health Service.
- Men's Health for Scotland (MHFS).

The Lead Officer - Public Health was heard in further explanation of the application and the background relating thereto.

The Chair, Councillor Brown, on behalf of the Committee thanked the Lead Officer - Public Health for a most interesting and enjoyable presentation which highlighted the main issues affecting men's health and invited him to return at some point in the future to provide the Committee with an update.

CONSULTATION ON THE WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE CORPORATE PARENTING STRATEGY

A report was submitted by the Executive Director of Educational Services, previously submitted to the Education and Lifelong Learning Committee on 14 January 2010, seeking to draw to the attention of Members of the Committee, the draft West Dunbartonshire Corporate Parenting Strategy and seeking the Committee's views on the Strategy.

Having heard from the Head of Service - Policy & Performance, the draft Corporate Parenting Strategy which had been omitted from the Agenda papers, was circulated to all those present.

Following discussion, it was agreed that members of the Committee should submit any responses on the draft Strategy by 8 March 2010 directly to Lynn Townsend, Head of Service (Support), Educational Services or Anne Ritchie, Joint Interim Executive Director of Social Work and Health, whose contact details were contained within the report to Committee.

CONSULTATION TRAINING ARRANGEMENTS

A report was submitted by the Chief Executive on the development and delivery of consultation training for employees (including Senior Managers) and Elected Members.

Having heard from the Policy Officer - Community and Consultation, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to note that a further training session was planned for Elected Members which would focus on good practice and explore the role of Elected Members in relation to consultation and decision-making;
- (2) to note that Elected Members were encouraged to participate in this training which would be facilitated by staff from the Consultation Institute;
- (3) to note that officers should consider offering combined training for officers and Elected Members in future;
- (4) to note that Community Representatives expressed an interest in attending a course on responding to consultations; and
- (5) otherwise to note the contents of the report.

COMMUNITY NEWS

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.

It was noted that current topics included:-

- Update on Regeneration of the Schools' Estate
- Housing – Strategic Delivery Plans
- Fairtrade
- Clydebank Crime Prevention Panel
- Regular update on Recycling and Waste Minimisation
- Clydebank Rebuilt
- 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.
- Alexandria Health Centre (Keith Redpath)

In order to prioritise the list of agenda items already requested, Community Representatives were issued with a list of these items and asked to indicate their first, second and third preference for items to appear on future agendas.

Councillors Black and Millar were heard in further explanation of the situation regarding payment for uplift charges being delayed if payment by debit/credit card was not possible. It was noted that in those circumstances, an invoice for the amount would require to be issued and then paid, prior to any uplift. Councillors Black and Millar requested that those present, cascade this information to Community Groups in the West Dunbartonshire Area.

Councillor J. McColl advised the Committee that the spokesperson for the Housing, Environment and Economic Development Department, Councillor McElhill, should be advised of the full details and thereafter Councillor McElhill indicated that he would raise the matter with the Head of Service, Land and Environment.

The Committee noted that Clydebank Women's Aid had expressed a willingness to give a presentation on domestic abuse and their work in the Clydebank area.

The Committee agreed that the undernoted topics be included on future agendas:-

- Strathleven Corridor.
- The costs incurred as a result of an increased incidence in fly-tipping as a direct consequence of the introduction of a £15.00 charge for uplifts.
- Clyde Valley Community Planning Partnership.

OPEN FORUM

The Committee noted that the member of the public present did not wish to raise any Open Forum questions.

The meeting closed at 4.00 p.m.