

COMMUNITY INITIATIVES COMMITTEE

At a meeting of the Community Initiatives Committee held in the Concord C.E. Centre, Dumbarton on Friday, 28th January, 2000 at 2.00 p.m.

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

Also Present: Jack Duffy and Murdoch Cameron, West Dunbartonshire Community Council Forum, Hugh Coll, Alliance of Elderly Forum, George Cochrane, Voluntary Forum, Margaret Morrison, Forum on Disability, Frances McGonagle, Lone Parent Group and Brian Rocks, Faifley Neighbourhood Forum.

Attending: Mary Cullen, Head of Corporate Policy and Public Relations, Crawford Howat, Manager of Accounting and Inspector Kenny Boyter, Strathclyde Police.

Apologies for absence: Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillors Mary Collins (LAB), Iain Robertson (SNP), James Bollan (IND) and Ronnie McColl (SNP).

Public Gallery: No members of the public present.

Councillor Linda McColl in the Chair

ORDER OF BUSINESS

The Convener, in terms of Standing Order 6, determined that the item relating to Community Council Funding should be taken at this point in the meeting as the Manager of Accounting had another engagement to attend.

COMMUNITY COUNCIL FUNDING

There was submitted report by the Director of Corporate Services on proposals for funding of Community Councils.

Having heard the Head of Corporate Policy and Public Relations advise that this item was to be discussed at a meeting of West Dunbartonshire Community Council Forum on Thursday, 17th February, 2000, the Committee noted the report.

PRESENTATION ADDICTION SERVICES IN WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE

Councillor McColl introduced Mr. Bill Rogerson, Assistant Principal Officer - Addiction, Social Work and Housing Services to those present, advising that Mr. Rogerson had been invited along to give a presentation on addition services within West Dunbartonshire.

Mr. Rogerson explained that West Dunbartonshire Council tackled the problem of addiction in partnership with other agencies, such as Health Boards and voluntary groups.

He highlighted some of the services available to addicts, namely 'Alternatives' (previously known as Dumbarton Area Drugs Initiatives) which had recently expanded to the community based drugs initiative in Clydebank and the Dumbarton Area Council on Alcohol which operates in Clydebank and Dumbarton. He also referred to the community role in supporting rehabilitating individuals.

Following questions from members of the Committee, Councillor McColl thanked Mr. Rogerson for his informative presentation.

COMMUNITY INITIATIVES COMMITTEE PROGRAMME FOR 2000

There was submitted report by the Head of Corporate Policy and Public Relations seeking suggestions for the programme of business for the Community Initiatives Committee in 2000.

The Head of Corporate Policy and Public Relations advised that the Scheme of Decentralisation 1999-2002 contained a number of targets relating to the Committee, and it was hoped that by developing an interesting and relevant programme of business for the Committee these targets would be met. She also advised that presentations were planned on the Council's budget, the work of Argyll and Clyde Health Board and consultation on the Community Plan for West Dunbartonshire.

Following consideration, the Committee agreed:-

- (a) that community groups be consulted and suggestions for future items of business passed to the Head of Corporate Policy and Public Relations; and
- (b) otherwise to note the contents of the report.

COMMUNITY PLAN

There was submitted report by the Head of Corporate Policy and Public Relations advising of progress made in the development of the West Dunbartonshire Community Plan. The report of the Staff Seminar held on 25th November, 1999 was appended to the report.

Having heard the Head of Corporate Policy and Public Relations, the Committee agreed to note:-

- (a) that the Community Plan was being prepared as a draft for consultation;

- (b) that the consultation period will be April to June, 2000; and
- (c) that ideas on how best to consult on the draft Community Plan were welcome from members of the Committee.

COMMUNITY POLICING IN WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE

With reference to the minutes of meeting of the Community Initiatives Committee held on 29th October, 1999 (**volume page 5223 refers**), there was submitted report by the Head of Corporate Policy and Public Relations outlining the position of community policing in West Dunbartonshire. In addition, there was circulated a copy of a reply received from Jim Wallace, MSP on community policing and the funding of the Police. A leaflet entitled "Safer Communities through Partnerships - A Strategy for Action" was appended thereto.

Following discussion, the Committee agreed:-

- (a) to note that the next edition of the Community Bulletin will include an article on community policing in West Dunbartonshire;
- (b) that guidance on the reporting of abandoned vehicles be publicised in the Council Newpage; and
- (c) otherwise to note the contents of the report.

OPEN FORUM: 29TH OCTOBER AND 2ND DECEMBER 1999 - RESPONSES

There was submitted report by the Chief Executive giving an update on issues raised by members of the public during the Open Forum held on 29th October and 2nd December, 1999.

Following discussion, the Committee agreed:-

- (a) that with regard to paragraph 2.2 of the report, a letter be sent to Sarah Boyack MSP, the Minister for Transport and the Environment inviting her to provide dates when she would be able to attend a meeting of the Community Initiatives Committee to discuss transport issues in the area, failing which the Chairman of the Scottish Executive's Transport Committee be invited to attend in her absence;
- (b) that the Community Initiatives Committee be kept informed of the passage of the Transport Bill and advised whether the Committee could comment on same;
- (c) to note that a representative of Argyll and Clyde Health Board will attend the meeting of the Committee to be held on 28th April, 2000 in Alexandria to discuss issues relevant to the Vale of Leven Hospital; and
- (d) otherwise to note the contents of the report.

OPEN FORUM

No items of business were raised under the Open Forum, due to the absence of members of the public.

The meeting closed at 3.45 p.m.