

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION COMMITTEE

At a Meeting of the Community Participation Committee held in Meeting Room 3, Council Offices, Garshake Road, Dumbarton on Wednesday, 20 May 2009 at 2.00 p.m.

Present: Councillors George Black, Jim Brown, Jonathan McColl, Jim McElhill, Marie McNair, John Millar, Iain Robertson and May Smillie; Murdoch Cameron, Community Councils Forum; Megan Harrison and Mary Theresa Doherty, Faifley Neighbourhood Forum; Frances McGonagle, Gingerbread Scotland; Haji Munir, West Dunbartonshire Minority Ethnic Association; John Diamond and Tony Oliver, Bellsmyre Neighbourhood Forum; Rhona Young, Seniors Forum; Tom Nimmo, West Dunbartonshire Community Care Forum; Tom Wilmshurst, Association of Clydebank Residents Groups; Anna Hemphill, Dumbarton Community Forum; June Todd and Neil Etherington, Clydebank Community Forum and Brenda Pasquire, Dumbarton Credit Union Ltd.

Attending: Liz Cochrane, Head of Service – Policy & Performance, Anne Clegg, Policy Officer – Community and Consultation, Valerie McIlhatton, Policy Officer – Social Justice; and Fiona Anderson, Committee Officer, Legal, Administrative and Regulatory Services.

Apologies: Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillors Margaret Bootland and Martin Rooney, Francis McNeill, Community Councils Forum and Joe McCormack, West Dunbartonshire Citizens Advice Service.

Councillor Jim Brown in the Chair

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Brown, Neil Etherington, Rhona Young and Tom Wilmshurst declared a non-financial interest in Item 7 “Community Participation Committee – Review of Membership of the Committee” which would incorporate the draw for rota places from a group of interested parties including Clydebank Crime Prevention Panel of which they were all panel Members.

POLITICAL MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMITTEE

With reference to the Minutes of Meeting of West Dunbartonshire Council held on 25 February 2009 (page 1795 refers), when it was agreed that changes to the new political demographic of West Dunbartonshire Council would not take effect until after the meeting of Council on 25 March 2009, the Committee noted that Councillor McGlinchey had been replaced on the Community Participation Committee by Councillor McNair.

Councillor Brown, on behalf of the Committee, wished to record appreciation of Councillor McGlinchey's participation on the Community Participation Committee.

The Convener welcomed new members to the Committee and invited introductions round the table.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of Meeting of the Committee held on 18 March 2009 were submitted and approved as a correct record.

PRESENTATION ON FACILITIES FOR VISITORS

With reference to the Minutes of Meeting of the Committee held on 21 January 2009 (page 1661 refers), David Adams-McGillp, Regional Director of VisitScotland, gave a presentation on facilities for visitors within West Dunbartonshire.

The main points covered in the presentation were:-

- (a) statistics regarding accommodation bookings made through Tourist Information Centres;
- (b) the numbers of visitors at some of the main tourist attractions, such as
 - Antartex - 200,000+;
 - Antonine Wall - 80% of Scots within 30km;
 - Auchentoshan Distillery - 50,000;
 - Balloch Castle Country Park - 50,000+;
 - Clydebank Museum - 5,000;
 - Denny Tank - 5,000;
 - Dumbarton Castle - 10,000;
 - LL&T National Park - 500,000+;
 - Lomond Shores - 100,000+; and
 - Titan Crane – 15,000;

- (c) standards of accommodation premises (hotels, B&Bs, etc) within West Dunbartonshire;
- (d) the current infrastructure and development opportunities and the projected figures for 2035;
- (e) the importance of the West Dunbartonshire area as the gateway to the Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park; and
- (f) the various agencies making up the West Dunbartonshire Experience, e.g. West Dunbartonshire Council, the Scottish Government, West Dunbartonshire community; VisitScotland, Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park; and Glasgow and Clyde Valley Strategic Planning Agency.

Having heard Mr Adams-McGilp in further explanation and in response to Members' questions, the Committee agreed to note:-

- (1) that VisitScotland was prepared to investigate the possibility of conducting a survey to find out what people who were visiting the area thought of it, providing West Dunbartonshire Council confirmed this information would be useful for future planning;
- (2) that VisitScotland were willing to support, in principle, anything that made it easier for visitors to move around, such as a rail link to Glasgow Airport or improvements to the A82 bottleneck between Dumbuck junction and Bowling Roundabout;
- (3) that VisitScotland was not a funding organisation but a marketing organisation offering support and strategic assistance in relation to attracting tourism in Scotland; and
- (4) the importance of attractive open spaces and the possibility of establishing a reporting system for members of the public to highlight where public realm improvements are needed.

The Chair, Councillor Brown, on behalf of the Committee thanked Mr Adams-McGilp for his most interesting and informative presentation.

PRESENTATION ON SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC PROFILE

With reference to the Minutes of Meeting of the Committee held on 21 January 2009 (page 1661 refers), a report was submitted by the Chief Executive informing of the contents of the Social and Economic Profile 2008/09.

Valerie McIlhatton, Policy Officer – Social Justice, was in attendance to respond to questions on the report and gave a presentation on the Social and Economic Profile.

The main issues covered in the presentation were:-

- (a) population statistics and their impact on the economy;
- (b) the impact of the economic downturn on the West Dunbartonshire area;
- (c) lessons learned from previous recessions;
- (d) the likely time-scales for recovery of the labour market and the finance, construction, retail and manufacturing sectors; and
- (e) the likelihood that younger people, older workers and females may be affected to a greater extent.

The Committee noted that Councillor Black had requested that, in future, reference was made within the Social and Economic Profile:-

- (a) to the numbers of persons known to be on the Sex Offenders Register; and
- (b) to the numbers of people transferred into the area while on Supervision Orders.

Following discussion and having heard the Policy Officer – Social Justice in further elaboration and in response to members' questions, the Chair, Councillor Brown, on behalf of the Committee, thanked the Policy Officer – Social Justice for her most interesting and informative presentation.

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION COMMITTEE - REVIEW OF MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMITTEE

A report was submitted by the Chief Executive providing information about the review of committee membership.

The Policy Officer – Community and Consultation confirmed that the membership had been refreshed and welcomed the new representatives from the Association of Clydebank Residents Groups; Dumbarton Community Forum and Clydebank Community Forum.

The Committee agreed:-

- (a) to note that some of the current organisations represented had refreshed their membership by replacing some of their representatives;

- (b) to note that 2 out of the 3 seniors groups had indicated that they were happy to continue with the present representation and that the remaining group had been contacted again and had not responded; and to recommend that, in light of this, the current arrangements for Seniors' representation should continue; and
- (c) to note that Councillor Brown, on behalf of the Committee, recorded his appreciation of Brenda Pasquire's contribution, as a representative from Dumbarton Credit Union, to the CPC over the last 2 - 3 years.

Having heard the Policy Officer – Community and Consultation in further explanation, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to note that only four responses had been received from groups interested in participating on the Committee on a two year rota basis;
- (2) to note that Brenda had been invited to make the draw to select two groups from the four interested groups;
- (3) to note that, the two groups drawn, Clydebank Crime Prevention Panel and Clydebank Women's Aid, would be invited to participate on the Committee for the next two years;
- (4) to note that the unsuccessful applicants Bellsmyre Digital Community and Overtoun House Christian Centre would be notified and thanked for their interest; and
- (5) to note that officers would write to Dumbarton Credit Union Ltd. to thank them for their participation on the Committee.

BUDGET PRIORITIES CITIZENS' PANEL SURVEY – DECEMBER 2008

With reference to the Minutes of Meeting of the Committee held on 18 March 2009 (Page 1836 refers), a response was submitted from the Land and Environment Section regarding the suggestion that, while recognising that only one footpath in a street was gritted, consideration should be given to gritting alternate footpaths on alternate occasions.

Having heard the Chair, the Committee agreed:-

- (a) to note the contents of the response; and
- (b) to note that the Land and Environment Section would consider this suggestion further when planning future years' gritting operations.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Committee members were reminded 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 note the topics already requested and to raise topics for inclusion on future Agendas.

- Regular 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
- Gender Equality – Men's Health (August Meeting)

The Committee noted:-

- (a) that Gender Equality – Men's Health would feature as the main presentation at the August meeting; and
- (b) that a request had been received for a future presentation by Clydebank Rebuilt.

OPEN FORUM

The Committee noted:-

- (1) that there were no Open Forum questions as there were no members of the public present;
- (2) that following discussion, it was agreed that officers would investigate the allegation that the Community Wardens' answering machine advised that they were on holiday until Tuesday of the following week; and
- (3) that in response to a request from one of the community members, officers confirmed that a report on the recent Community Day would be submitted to the August Meeting of the Committee.

The meeting closed at 3.50 p.m.