

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION COMMITTEE

At a Meeting of the Community Participation Committee held in Meeting Room 3, Council Offices, Garshake Road, Dumbarton on Friday, 7 May 2004 at 10.00 a.m.

Present: Councillors Margaret Bootland, Dennis Brogan, Gail Casey, Jackie Maceira and Margaret McGregor. Murdoch Cameron MBE, West Dunbartonshire Community Councils Forum; Wendy Hutchinson, West Dunbartonshire Community Councils Forum; Hope Robertson, South Drumry Tenants and Residents Association and Frances McGonagle, Lone Parent Group.

Attending: Anne Clegg, Policy Officer – Community and Consultation and Fiona Anderson, Administrative Assistant, Legal and Administrative Services.

Apologies: Councillors Jim Bollan, Marie McNair, Connie O'Sullivan and Andy White. Patricia Rice, Clydebank Unemployed Community Resource Centre and Jeanette Jennings, Faifley Neighbourhood Forum.

Councillor Gail Casey in the Chair

URGENT ITEM OF BUSINESS

In accordance with Standing Order No. 7, Councillor Casey advised the Committee that it was her intention to discuss at the end of the Agenda, as a matter of urgency, the timing of meetings given the problems experienced at the previous evening meeting on 21 April 2004 which was inquorate.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of Meeting of Community Participation Committee held on 18 February 2004 were submitted and approved as a correct record.

COMMUNITY WEEK

It was noted that Tom Jackson, Community Planning Co-ordinator, had given a presentation detailing the events taking place during Community Week to those members who had attended the inquorate meeting but was not able to attend this meeting. In his absence, the Policy Officer – Community and Consultation, gave a further update and answered Members' questions.

COMMUNITY DAY – FEEDBACK REPORT

A report was submitted by Chief Executive providing information about Community Day, which was held on Saturday 20 March 2004 in the Concord Community Centre, Dumbarton Town Centre.

After discussion on issues which might be considered when planning next year's event and having heard the Policy Officer – Community and Consultation in elaboration and in response to Members' questions, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to note the information contained in the report;
- (2) to recommend to Council that the Community Participation Committee be given an annual grant (£10,000 is suggested) to promote community involvement with the Council; and
- (3) to send out with the minutes of this meeting the full reports for Community Day and Community Week.

FEEDBACK ON THE ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR EVENT

A report was submitted by Chief Executive providing information about the Anti-Social Behaviour Event which was held on Saturday 27 March 2004 in St. Kessog's Primary School in Balloch by West Dunbartonshire Strategic Community Safety Partnership.

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

- (1) to note the contents of the report; and
- (2) to send out with the minutes of this meeting the full report on the event by the Community Safety Co-ordinator.

TRAINING FOR COMMUNITY COUNCILS

A report was submitted by the Director of Corporate Services providing information on the progress made to provide training for Community Councillors.

Having heard the Policy Officer – Community and Consultation in further explanation, the Committee agreed to note the information contained in the report.

The Committee further agreed to note the views expressed by Wendy Hutchinson in connection with the training provided.

PROPOSALS FOR WDC'S REVISED DECENTRALISATION SCHEME

A report was submitted by the Chief Executive setting out proposals for the Council's revised Decentralisation Scheme and inviting comments on these proposals.

Having heard the Policy Officer – Community and Consultation, in further explanation, the Committee discussed the proposals contained in the report and agreed to recommend to Council:-

- (a) points 3.1 to 3.9 from the report, as shown in Appendix I to these Minutes;
- (b) that a Community Page be introduced within the Council News; and
- (c) that consideration be given to the production of a laminated sheet, for delivery to each household in the Council's area, mapping an A-Z of contacts within the Council for specific aspects of services.

PROPOSALS FOR MEMBERSHIP, OPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION COMMITTEE

A report was submitted by Chief Executive putting forward proposals for the membership, operation and development of the Community Participation Committee (CPC) and inviting comments and feedback on these proposals.

The Policy Officer, Community and Consultation reminded the Committee that, in addition to the proposed role and remit, the CPC also has the general remit given to all committees i.e. to encourage social inclusion and equal opportunities and to promote health improvement.

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

- (1) the proposals in paragraphs 3.1 to 3.6 in the report (the role and remit of the Committee), as shown in Appendix II to these Minutes; and
- (2) a slightly amended version of Option 2, as shown in Appendix III to these Minutes, giving a total of 18 community members (this option recommends an advocate for representing youth; more direct youth involvement will be pursued in consultation with young people);
- (3) that community representatives should be able to send a named substitute if unable to attend; and
- (4) that the Community Participation Committee have an Open Forum at the end of each meeting.

COUNCIL DECISION MAKING STRUCTURE – REVIEW PROCESS

A report was submitted by the Chief Executive asking the Committee for initial views on the current decision making structure and for thoughts on how a fuller review might be undertaken.

Having heard the Convener in further explanation and after discussion, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to note that some Members were concerned that the restructuring of departments might have an affect on the decision-making process; and
- (2) to defer consideration of this Report to a future meeting.

The meeting closed at 12.15 p.m.