

## **DUMBARTON AREA COMMITTEE**

At a Meeting of Dumbarton Area Committee held within Committee Room 2, Council Offices, Garshake Road, Dumbarton on Wednesday 4 December 2002 at 7.00 p.m.

**Present:** Councillors James McCallum, Linda McColl, John McCutcheon, Iain Robertson and John Trainer. Jack Duffy, Harry Johnston, Hugh O'Donnell, Robert Simpson, Neil McFadyen, James McAleer and Martin Hollern.

**Attending:** Tim Huntingford, Chief Executive; Gerry McNerney, Head of Personnel; Stephen West, Section Head (Accounting and Budgeting) and Lorraine Beveridge, Administrative Assistant, Legal and Administrative Services.

**Apologies:** Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillor Geoffrey Calvert and Alistair Tuach.

**Councillor John McCutcheon in the Chair**

### **VARIATION IN THE ORDER OF BUSINESS**

The order of business of the Meeting was varied as hereinafter minuted.

### **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The Minutes of Meeting of the Dumbarton Area Committee held on 2 October 2002 were submitted and approved as a correct record.

### **OPEN FORUM WRITTEN QUESTIONS**

The Committee noted that no written questions had been submitted for consideration at this meeting.

### **EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION SCHEME**

A report was submitted by the Director of Corporate Services requesting the Area Committee to nominate a Community representative to participate in the Judging Panel for Employee Recognition Awards.

After discussion and having heard the Head of Personnel in further explanation, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to nominate Martin Hollern and Hugh O'Donnell to be members of the Judging Panel for Employee Recognition Awards; and
- (2) otherwise to note the contents of the report.

Mr McInerney left the meeting at this point.

### **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE**

There was submitted and noted the Minutes of Meeting of the Community Development Co-ordinating Committee held on 17 October 2002.

### **AREA COMMITTEE REPRESENTATION ON THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE**

Reference was made to a decision taken by West Dunbartonshire Council on 30 October 2002 regarding Area Committee representation on the Community Development Co-ordinating Committee (CDCC).

In this respect a report was submitted by the Chief Executive requesting Members to appoint a community representative to the CDCC.

After discussion, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to nominate Harry Johnston to serve on the CDCC; and
- (2) to note that the next meeting of the CDCC would be held on Monday 9 December 2002.

### **INVOLVING YOUNG PEOPLE IN AREA COMMITTEES**

With reference to the Minutes of Meeting of the Community Development Co-ordinating Committee of 17 October 2002, a report was submitted by the Chief Executive requesting Members to consider ways of involving young people in Area Committees.

After discussion and having heard the Chief Executive in further explanation, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) that prior to considering ways of involving young people in the Area Committee, to contact all existing youth groups within West Dunbartonshire to ascertain their plans for any future events which they intend to hold; and
- (2) to invite the youth groups to a meeting of the Area Committee or alternatively ask them if they would prefer Members of the Committee to visit them.

### **REALLOCATION OF SCOTTISH BUDGET RESOURCES ENVIRONMENTAL GRANTS**

There was submitted and noted an excerpt Minute of Meeting of the Council held on 30 October 2002 in relation to environmental grants.

In this respect, a report was submitted for consideration by the Director of Corporate Services providing information about potential environmental projects.

Mr Johnston declared a non-pecuniary interest in relation to a budget proposal as detailed in Appendix 2 to the report and took no part in the decision thereon.

Thereafter, there was circulated for information, a late application for grant received in respect of Knowetop Farm, Castlehill, Dumbarton.

After discussion and having heard Mr Johnston in answer to Members' questions, the Committee agreed as follows:-

- (1) to award a grant of £8,000 to West Dunbartonshire Town Centres Initiative Limited to upgrade and improve the Christmas illuminations in Dumbarton;
- (2) to allocate the sum of £12,000 to replace and install town signage at various locations throughout Dumbarton. In this respect, the Committee agreed that Mr Johnston would meet with the Director of Commercial and Technical Services to make arrangements to proceed with the environmental improvements at strategic locations (e.g. roundabouts) and report back to the Committee with an update; and
- (3) to allocate the sum of £5,000 to a 'Keep Dumbarton Tidy Campaign', with the bulk of the grant being designated to an educational campaign which would encourage children to take pride in their school's surroundings and increase awareness of the problem of litter.

### **CONSULTATION ON LOCAL SPENDING PRIORITIES FOR 2003/2004**

A joint report was submitted by the Chief Executive and the Director of Corporate Services inviting Area Committee community representatives to outline local spending priorities relating to Council services, for elected members to consider in setting the 2003/2004 budget for Council.

Having heard the Chair, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) that the Area Committee community representatives would complete the proforma in respect of local priorities for Council spending and return them by 30 December 2002; and
- (2) otherwise to note the contents of the report.

### **AREA COMMITTEE TRAINING NEEDS**

A report was submitted by the Chief Executive:-

- (1) providing feedback on the evaluation carried out on the recent induction training provided for community representatives on the Area Committees;
- (2) providing feedback on future training needs identified by community representatives; and
- (3) requesting Area Committee Members to prioritise the training needs outlined in Appendix 2 to the report, so that future training can be organised.

After discussion, the Committee agreed that the existing provision of training should be revised and proposed that a distance learning package be made available for Area Committee community representatives, with assistance being provided by departmental link officers.

### **BUSINESS CARDS AND STATIONERY FOR COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES**

The Committee had under consideration a recommendation from the Vale of Leven Area Committee that Community representatives should be issued with business cards and headed stationery.

After discussion, the Committee agreed that if any community representatives of the Area Committee required business cards or headed stationery they could contact the Clerk to the Committee.

### **CONDITION OF THE DRIVEWAYS AND FOOTPATHS OF DUMBARTON CEMETERY, STIRLING ROAD, DUMBARTON**

With reference to the meeting of the Dumbarton Area Committee held on 2 October 2002, a report was submitted by the Director of Commercial and Technical Services providing a response to the Committee's further enquiries in connection with the above.

After discussion and having heard Mr O'Donnell, the Committee agreed that Mr O'Donnell should contact the Director of Commercial and Technical Services to discuss his concerns in relation to the condition of the driveways and footpaths in Dumbarton Cemetery.

### **ROAD SAFETY ISSUES AT CUMBRAE CRESCENT SOUTH, DUMBARTON**

With reference to the Minutes of Meeting of Dumbarton Area Committee held on 2 October 2002, Councillor Trainer gave a verbal update on the speeding and parking situation at Cumbrae Crescent South, Dumbarton. In so doing, Councillor Trainer advised that he was presently in the process of arranging a site meeting with Strathclyde Police, Commercial and Technical Services, the Head Teacher of Our Lady and St. Patrick's High School and Mr Hollern to discuss the road safety issues at Cumbrae Crescent South and Our Lady and St. Patrick's High School, Hawthornhill Road, Dumbarton.

The Committee noted the position and that Mr Hollern would report back to a future meeting of the Committee to advise of the outcome of the aforementioned meeting.

### **FLOOD PREVENTION IN DUMBARTON**

With reference to the Minutes of Meeting of Dumbarton Area Committee held on 2 October 2002, a report was submitted by the Director of Commercial and Technical Services apprising the Committee of the results of an investigation into the points raised on the issue of flood prevention in Dumbarton.

After discussion and having heard Councillor McCallum and the Chief Executive in answer to Members' questions, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to note that a joint commission had been carried out in 2002 by the Departments of Commercial and Technical Services and Economic, Planning and Environmental Services to study flooding in Dumbarton and the Surrounding Areas. This study was currently being considered by Officers and a report on the results would be submitted to a meeting of the Council to be held on 29 January 2003;
- (2) that the papers and agenda for the aforementioned Council meeting would be sent to all community representatives of the Area Committee; and
- (3) otherwise to note the contents of the report.

## **ESSO LAND DEVELOPMENT**

With reference to the minutes of Meeting of Dumbarton Area Committee held on 2 October 2002, a report was submitted by the Director of Commercial and Technical Services concerning any proposed development in respect of the above site.

Having heard Councillor Robertson in further explanation, the Committee agreed to note the contents of the report.

## **COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 30 OCTOBER 2002**

There was submitted for information, excerpt Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 30 October 2002 on decisions made in respect of the following items:-

- (a) Dumbarton Common Good Fund.
- (b) The Old Academy Building, Church Street, Dumbarton.
- (c) Raising Items at Area Committees.

After discussion and having heard the Chief Executive in answer to Members' questions, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to note the decision made in relation to the Dumbarton Common Good Fund;
- (2) that with reference to (b) above, to request the Director of Commercial and Technical Services to provide a status report on the Old Academy Building to be submitted to the next meeting of the Committee; and
- (3) to note the decision made relative to raising items at meetings of the Area Committee.

## **CASTLEHILL COMMUNITY STORE**

With reference to the Minutes of Meeting of the Council held on 30 October 2002, an excerpt Minute was submitted advising of a decision regarding a short term loan of £12,244 to be made to the Castlehill Community Store, to be funded from the Dumbarton Common Good Fund, subject to appropriate consultation with the Dumbarton Area Committee.

After discussion and having heard the Chair and Councillor Robertson in answer to Members' questions, the Committee agreed to note Council's decision.

## **CANALISATION OF THE RIVER LEVEN**

Mr McFadyen requested that officers prepare a report for submission to the Area Committee providing an update on the above proposal.

Having heard Mr McFadyen in further explanation and the Chief Executive in answer to Members' questions, the Committee agreed to note that, at this time, West Dunbartonshire Council and Scottish Enterprise Dunbartonshire did not have any plans to restore navigation to the River Leven.

## **CODE OF CONDUCT FOR TAXI DRIVERS**

Mr McFadyen requested that the Area Committee recommend to the Regulatory Committee (Licensing) that consideration be given to a Code of Conduct for Taxi Drivers.

Mr McFadyen referred to a survey which had been undertaken by West Dunbartonshire Council to obtain the views of disabled people in relation to the matter of demand for accessible taxis in the Dumbarton and Vale of Leven areas. In this respect, he highlighted the additional adverse comments made in the survey results in relation to accessibility and on taxi drivers' behaviour.

After discussion, the Committee agreed that the above matters be referred to the Regulatory Committee (Licensing) for consideration.

## **SHOP ACCESSIBILITY FOR WHEELCHAIRS**

Mr McFadyen informed the Committee that recently 2 shops in the High Street, Dumbarton had raised their floors, with the result that wheelchair users could not access the premises. In this respect, Mr McFadyen asked the Area Committee to investigate who was responsible for the High Street shops and what could be done to remedy the situation.

In this respect, Mr Johnston confirmed that all shops should be accessible to wheelchair users. After hearing Mr McFadyen in further explanation and Mr O'Donnell in answer to Members' questions, the Committee noted that Mr Johnston, on behalf of West Dunbartonshire Town Centres Initiative Limited, would investigate the situation in relation to the above mentioned shops.

## **WEST END PROJECT, NAPIER CRESCENT, BRUCEHILL**

Mr McFadyen proposed that the Area Committee request officers to submit a report to the Committee on the issue of external lighting and ground maintenance at the above project. The report should identify who has responsibility for maintaining the external lighting and grounds.

Having heard Mr McFadyen in further explanation, the Committee agreed that the Director of Social Work and Housing Services be requested to investigate the above matter and report directly to Mr McFadyen.

### **TOWN CENTRE INITIATIVE BUSINESS PLAN**

A report on the Town Centres Business Plan 2002-2005 by West Dunbartonshire Town Centres Initiative Limited was submitted and noted.

Having heard Mr Johnston and after discussion, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) that representatives from the West Dunbartonshire Centres Initiative Limited would give a presentation on their town centres action plan to the next meeting of the Area Committee to be held on Wednesday 5 February 2003;
- (2) that the above presentation would be held at 6.30 p.m. followed by a meeting of the Area Committee;
- (3) to invite members of the other three Area Committees to attend; and
- (4) that, thereafter, a presentation would be made to the Area Committee at six monthly intervals on the up to date position in relation to the town centres action plan.

### **CLOSING DATE FOR SUBMISSION OF WRITTEN MOTION/QUESTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION AT THE NEXT MEETING**

The Committee noted that the deadline for submission of written motions/questions for consideration at the next meeting of the Committee was 4.00 p.m. on Wednesday 22 January 2003.

### **DATE AND VENUE FOR NEXT MEETING**

The Committee noted that the next meeting of the Area Committee would be held on Wednesday, 5 February 2003 at 7.00 p.m. After discussion, it was agreed that the Meeting of the Area Committee be held in the Council Chambers, Municipal Buildings, Station Road, Dumbarton, if available.

### **OPEN FORUM – VERBAL QUESTIONS/ISSUES**

The following comments/issues were made/raised by a member of the Committee and members of the public:-



- (a) Mr Johnston proposed that the number of items placed on the agenda for each meeting by Members of the Committee should be limited to one and that, if possible, all other issues be passed to the appropriate department.

After discussion and having heard the Chief Executive, the Committee agreed that the above proposal could not be put into effect, however the Clerk should make every effort to ascertain if issues raised by Members could be dealt with by Departments before placing the items on the agenda.

- (b) Two members of the public were heard regarding flooding problems in connection with Gruggies Burn at Alclutha Avenue, Greenhead Gardens and Castlegreen Street, Dumbarton.

Councillor McCallum advised that he was aware of the problem and confirmed that although this area had not been included in the Consultant's report, the above area had been inspected by the Departments of Commercial and Technical Services and Economic, Planning and Environmental Services. It was also noted that Gruggies Burn had been the subject of several clearing operations since March 2000, resulting in the removal of approximately 1000 tonnes of accumulated sand, gravel and other debris.

After discussion, the Committee agreed that the two members of the public would be invited to attend the Council meeting to be held on 29 January 2003, when a report on the issue of flooding would be submitted for consideration.

The meeting closed at 9.00 p.m.