

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION COMMITTEE

At a Meeting of the Community Participation Committee held in the Council Chambers, Clydebank Town Hall, Dumbarton Road, Clydebank on Wednesday, 19 August 2009 at 2.00 p.m.

Present: Councillors Jim Brown, Jonathan McColl, Marie McNair, John Millar, Iain Robertson, Martin Rooney and May Smillie; Murdoch Cameron, MBE and Francis McNeill, Community Councils Forum; Megan Harrison and Mary Theresa Doherty (Sub), Faifley Neighbourhood Forum; Frances McGonagle, Gingerbread Scotland; Justeen Peacock, West Dunbartonshire Access Panel; Haji Munir, West Dunbartonshire Minority Ethnic Association; John Diamond and Tony Oliver (Sub), Bellsmyre Neighbourhood Forum; Rhona Young, West Dunbartonshire Seniors; Tom Nimmo and Lily Kennedy, MBE, (Sub), West Dunbartonshire Community Care Forum; Anna Hemphill (Sub), Dumbarton Community Forum; Neil Etherington (Sub), Clydebank Community Forum; Anne MacDougall and Jeanette Ross (Sub), Clydebank Crime Prevention Panel; Carole Donkin, Clydebank Women's Aid and Brenda Pasquire, West Dunbartonshire Citizens' Advice Service.

Attending: Liz Cochrane, Head of Service – Policy and Performance; Craig Jardine, Manager of Educational Estates; Jan McKinley, Strategy Officer – Housing Strategy; Helen Weir, Strategy Officer – Addiction Services and Fiona Anderson, Committee Officer, Legal, Administrative and Regulatory Services.

Apologies: Councillors George Black and Margaret Bootland; Tom Wilmshurst, Association of Clydebank Residents Groups and June Todd, Clydebank Community Forum.

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.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

Before commencing with the business of the meeting, Councillor Brown welcomed everyone to the meeting and, as there were new members attending for the first time, invited introductions from all those present.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of Meeting of the Committee held on 20 May 2009 were submitted and approved as a correct record subject to clarification on the undernoted item:-

With reference to the Minutes of Meeting of West Dunbartonshire Council held on 24 June 2009 (page 2036 refers), when the Minutes of Meeting of the Community Participation Committee held on 20 May 2009 were submitted and all decisions contained therein were approved with the exception of the item under the heading 'Presentation on Social and Economic Profile' whereby the Council agreed that the issue of Councillor Black's request for additional information to be included in the Profile concerning sex offenders be referred back to the Committee to clarify if the Committee agreed with this request.

Following discussion and having heard Councillor Robertson, the Committee agreed that the Minute should remain as it stood, that is, Councillor Black's request was noted.

The Committee noted that Brenda Pasquire, West Dunbartonshire Citizens' Advice Service, had requested a copy of the Social and Economic Profile. It was also noted that this would be sent to all members of the CPC.

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP - UPDATE

A report was submitted by the Chief Executive providing an update on key developments within West Dunbartonshire Community Planning Partnership (CPP).

Having heard the Head of Service, Policy and Performance, in further explanation and in response to Members' questions, the Committee agreed to note:-

- (1) that the next Board meeting has been postponed from 10 August and would now be held on 24 August 2009 at 10.00 a.m. in the Beardmore Hotel and would be open to the public;
- (2) that the outcomes from the Board meeting would be reported to the Community Participation Committee; and
- (3) that the Single Outcome Agreement had now been formally signed by the Cabinet Secretary for Education and Life-Long Learning and the Community Planning Partners in West Dunbartonshire.

Following discussion regarding the closure of the community resource bases, Councillor Rooney, seconded by Councillor Millar, moved:-

This Committee notes the report on West Dunbartonshire Community Planning Partnership – Update.

Committee also notes that a number of ring fenced funding streams had been combined by the Scottish Government to create the Fairer Scotland Fund.

Committee is deeply disappointed that the first act of the Scottish Government was to cut the Fairer Scotland Fund allocation in West Dunbartonshire by a massive £500,000.

Committee notes that this funding reduction trend has continued and the West Dunbartonshire Fairer Scotland Fund was cut by a further £439,000 in 2009/10 and the Scottish Government intends to cut this funding by a further £400,000 in 2010/11.

This Committee is concerned that an overall cut of £1.4million over three years is presented as “fairer” to the communities of West Dunbartonshire.

Committee also notes that the funding cuts had forced the closure of the Community Resource Bases which resulted in the loss of experienced staff, who provided vital community services to community groups throughout West Dunbartonshire.

Committee notes the progress made in relation to the signing of the Single Outcome Agreement. However the limited community involvement in the process remains a concern.

This Committee agrees that the Community Planning Partnership Board and the Community Forums should be properly consulted and be involved in decision making at the earliest possible stages.

As an amendment, Councillor Robertson, seconded by Councillor J. McColl, moved:-

That this Committee accepts the recommendations in paragraphs 7.1 and 7.2 of the report (as shown below):-

- 7.1 The CPP has made progress on a number of fronts during recent months, most particularly,
- the implementation of new staffing structures;
 - the submission of the SOA;
 - the development of a revised, strategic approach to the use of FSF; and
 - the review of support for Community Engagement.
- 7.2 Members are requested to note the developments within the CPP, and to identify any further information if required.

On a vote being taken, 14 Members voted for the amendment and 5 Members voted for the motion. Accordingly the amendment was declared carried.

Following discussion, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to note the developments within the Community Planning Partnership; and
- (2) otherwise to note the contents of the report.

NATIONAL DELIVERY REFORMS: CHANGES TO WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE STRATEGIC ADDICTION STRUCTURES

A report was submitted by the Executive Director of Social Work and Health providing information on a review of Alcohol and Drug Action Teams (ADAT's) across Scotland and how those findings have translated into new local structures.

Helen Weir, Strategy Officer – Addiction Services, was heard in further explanation and in response to Members' questions.

Following discussion, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to note that the new local structure, Alcohol and Drug Partnerships (ADP's) are multi-agency partnerships which will be firmly based within and accountable to community planning structures;
- (2) to note that proposed membership of the local ADP should include involvement from the community;
- (3) to note that community representatives on the CPC should go back to their own groups to confirm if anyone wished to be considered for membership of the local ADP;
- (4) to note that community representatives would require training and support as this is such a specialised field;
- (5) to note that any group interested should contact the Strategy Officer - Addiction Services direct by the middle of September; and
- (6) to request an annual report and presentation to the Community Participation Committee and to receive updates about addiction related issues as appropriate.

REGENERATION OF THE SCHOOLS' ESTATE - UPDATE

With reference to the Minutes of Meeting of the Committee held on 23 March 2009 (page 1834 refers), submit report by the Executive Director of Educational Services providing an update on progress of the regeneration of the Schools' Estate.

Having heard the Manager of Educational Estates in further explanation and in answer to Members' questions, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to note that the three secondary schools within the PPP project were delivered on schedule and work was proceeding on the demolition of the old school buildings in preparation for the construction of playing fields, other external works and the new St. Eunan's Primary School and Early Education and Childcare Centre;
- (2) to note that work had commenced on the new Bonhill and Goldenhill primary schools;
- (3) to note that the information consultation process on "Phase 2" of schools' regeneration, had concluded and recommendations on the future shape of the schools' estate would be presented to Council on 30 September 2009;
- (4) to note that the next report on the schools' regeneration would be submitted to the Community Participation Committee Meeting scheduled for 16 December 2009;
- (5) to note that an Open Day for the new schools would be held for members of the public, probably during October, and Members were encouraged to take advantage of the invitation to see round the schools;
- (6) to note that the Manager of Education Estates would organise a visit to the new schools for Members of the Community Participation Committee;
- (7) to note that it was hoped Dumbarton Academy would be included in the September announcement by the Scottish Government; and
- (8) otherwise to note the contents of the report.

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE CITIZENS' PANEL

A report was submitted by the Chief Executive providing information on the operation of the West Dunbartonshire Citizens' Panel during 2008-2009.

The Head of Service – Policy and Performance was heard in further explanation and in response to Members' questions.

Following discussion, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to note that the West Dunbartonshire Citizens' Panel had been recognised as an example of good practice and officers had recently given a presentation at a National Conference in Birmingham;
- (2) to recommend that Council and the Community Planning Partnership continue to prioritise the levels of funding needed to run the Citizens' Panel to this high standard; and

- (3) otherwise to note the contents of the report.

CHANGE OF AGENDA

The Committee noted that, due to unforeseen circumstances, the presentation on Gender Equality – Men's Health, would not take place but had been replaced with the presentation on Tenant Participation Strategy, as follows.

Having heard the Section Head – Policy and Performance, the Committee agreed to send best wishes to Bobby Jones, Lead Officer – Public Health, for a speedy recovery.

PRESENTATION ON TENANT PARTICIPATION STRATEGY

Jan McKinley, Strategy Officer – Housing Strategy, gave a presentation on West Dunbartonshire Council draft Tenant Participation Strategy 2009-2012 and circulated paper copies of the slides used in her powerpoint presentation.

The main points covered in the presentation were:-

- The purpose of a Tenant Participation Strategy;
- The necessity for reviewing the West Dunbartonshire Council Tenant Participation Strategy 2004/07;
- Tenant Information Services;
- Tenant Participation Working Group and the diverse membership of the Group;
- Focus Group meetings with tenants, staff and Elected Members;
- Findings of the review; and
- Processes of the Review demonstrating the public were involved.

Having heard the Strategy Officer in further explanation and in response to Members' questions, following discussion the Committee agreed to note:-

- (1) that a report on the finalised Tenant Participation Strategy 2009-2012 would be submitted to the Housing, Environment and Economic Development Committee to be held on 2 September 2009; and
- (2) that officers would respond directly to the enquiry from the Community Representative from Bellsmyre Neighbourhood Forum, regarding the Estates Audit.

The Chair, Councillor Brown, on behalf of the Committee thanked Ms McKinley for her most interesting and informative presentation.

Note: Lily Kennedy, MBE, and Tom Nimmo, Community Representatives for West Dunbartonshire Community Care Forum, left the meeting at 3.55 p.m. prior to the following item of business.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Committee members were reminded of the invitation 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.

Current topics include:-

- 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
- Future Development on Strathleven Corridor
- West Dunbartonshire Licensing Forum (Dec Meeting)
- Council Tax Presentation (Feb 2010 then annually)

The Committee agreed to add the following suggestions to the above list of items:-

- The possible introduction of fortnightly waste collection
- Presentation in the Autumn by Alexandria Canine Club to tie in with a Members' Bill going through Parliament regarding dogs and dog fouling
- Layperson's Guide to Committees and Standing Orders

It was agreed that the waste collection issue should be a priority for the October meeting of the Committee.

OPEN FORUM

The Committee noted that there were no Open Forum questions as there were no members of the public present.

Following a question from one of the community representatives regarding the new Alexandria Health Centre to be built on the hospital site, Councillor Robertson confirmed that plans were progressing satisfactorily but agreed to find out if planning permission had been granted and report back to the Committee.

The meeting closed at 4.10 p.m.