

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION COMMITTEE

At a Meeting of the Community Participation Committee held in the Council Chambers, Clydebank Town Hall, Dumbarton Road, Clydebank on Wednesday, 21 June 2006 at 2.00 p.m.

Present: Councillors Gail Casey, George Black, Jackie Maceira and Martin Rooney. Murdoch Cameron MBE, West Dunbartonshire Community Councils Forum; Marjorie Muir, West Dunbartonshire Community Councils Forum; Megan Harrison, Faifley Neighbourhood Forum; Bill Rankin, West Dunbartonshire Access Panel; Mary Theresa Doherty, Clydebank Community Forum; and Tom Nimmo, West Dunbartonshire Community Care Forum.

Attending: Liz Cochrane, Policy Manager; Anne Clegg, Policy Officer – Community and Consultation; Lewis Morrison, Policy Officer – Disability and Access; Cheryl Marshall, Community Waste Officer and Fiona Anderson, Administrative Assistant, Legal and Administrative Services.

Apologies: Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillors Margaret Bootland; Dennis Brogan; Marie McNair and Andy White; and Bernard Bell, Feis Dhun Breatainn An Iar; John Diamond, Bellsmyre Neighbourhood Forum; and Rhona Young, West Dunbartonshire Seniors Association.

Councillor Gail Casey in the Chair

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

9347 The Minutes of Meeting of the Committee held on 19 April 2006 were submitted and approved as a correct record.

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE WELFARE RIGHTS

9348 With reference to the Minutes of Meeting of the Community Participation Committee on 19 April 2006 (Page 2630, paragraph 8718 refers) when a question was asked concerning an amendment to the age limit for eligibility to apply to the Energy Action Grant Agency (EAGA) for a new central heating system, the Committee agreed to note the following advice issued by the EAGA Helpline:-

- 9349 EAGA has confirmed that at present is no change to qualifying criteria. However, their targets for this current year have been met, any new clients contacting EAGA will have their contact details taken. These details will then be held until the new grant is available, July 2006. At this stage there may be a slight change to the qualifying criteria.
- 9350 Following discussion and having heard the Convener, Councillor Casey, it was agreed that Officers should contact EAGA to confirm if there is to be a change to the qualifying criteria in July and what it will be and report back to the next meeting.

PRESENTATIONS

(1) Re-cycling Scheme in West Dunbartonshire

- 9351 Ms Cheryl Marshall, Community Waste Officer, was in attendance and provided the Committee with an updated report on the re-cycling scheme in West Dunbartonshire.
- 9352 The Committee noted that the Waste Services Section would shortly be issuing to all households an A-Z including an up-dated list of materials which can be re-cycled together with information regarding the nineteen new recycling points which had brought the total to thirty.
- 9353 The Committee also noted with interest that the “Binman” education package which had reached 85% of all Primary 4 pupils in West Dunbartonshire had received a “Highly Commended” award in a recent nationwide competition.
- 9354 The Committee showed particular interest in the Real Nappy Initiative and were keen that this Initiative should be more widely promoted.
- 9355 It was suggested by a community representative and agreed by the Committee that more emphasis should be given to displaying litter control notices and bins, particularly in lay-bys.

(2) Community Ownership Programme (Stock Transfer)

- 9356 The Committee agreed to note that the presentation on Community Ownership Programme (Stock Transfer) will be given at a future meeting of the Community Participation Committee.

(3) Community Health

- 9357 The Committee agreed to note that the presentation on Community Health will be given at a future meeting of the Community Participation Committee.

NEW COUNCIL DEPARTMENTAL STRUCTURE

- 9358 A report was submitted by the Chief Executive providing information on the Council's new departmental structure.
- 9359 Having heard the Policy Manager in further explanation the Committee agreed to note the contents of the report.
- 9360 It was noted however, that since the report had been prepared, there had been some changes to the senior management structure. Following discussion, Councillor Rooney clarified the position regarding the posts of Acting Director of Education and Cultural Services and Acting Director of Social Work Services.
- 9361 The Committee noted:-
- (a) that the post of Director of Education and Cultural Services had not been filled following the recent interviews; and
 - (b) that it had been agreed that Mrs Liz McGinlay, currently Head of Service, would assume the role of Acting Director of Education and Cultural Services as an interim arrangement.

WDC COMMUNITY GROUP DATABASE

- 9362 A report was submitted by the Chief Executive:-
- (a) providing suggestions for up-dating WDC's Community Group database; and
 - (b) seeking the Committee's views on the proposals.
- 9363 Having heard the Policy Officer, Community and Consultation, in elaboration the Committee agreed that the Grants Administrator, Finance Department, should be contacted to discuss a system for the exchange of information about groups funded by West Dunbartonshire Council, subject to the necessary data protection permissions being sought.
- 9364 The Committee agreed that the Policy Officer, Community and Consultation, investigate further developing the database into a comprehensive stakeholder database, centrally managed for the community planning partners, and report back to a future meeting.

POLICY FOR VOLUNTEERING/VOLUNTARY SECTOR POLICY

- 9365 A report was submitted by the Chief Executive inviting community representatives to take part in the working groups updating the undernoted policies:-

- (a) Policy for Volunteering; and
- (b) Voluntary Sector Policy

9366 Following discussion regarding community representation and having heard the Policy Officer in further explanation, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) that the Community Participation Committee needs a major project to focus on (e.g. involvement in allocating local grants) and requested that a report be submitted to the next meeting of the CPC listing the achievements of the Committee thus far; and
- (2) otherwise to note the contents of the report.

COMMUNITY DAY 2006

9367 A report was submitted by the Chief Executive providing follow-up information on Community Day 2006.

9368 Having heard the Policy Officer in further explanation, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to note that mixed comments had been received about the catering but that the Playdrome as a venue had been deemed successful;
- (2) that the event should be publicised more widely throughout the area in an effort to attract more members of the public; and
- (3) otherwise to note the contents of the report.

CUSTOMER SERVICE STANDARDS: CITIZENS PANEL SURVEY RESULTS

9369 A report was submitted by the Chief Executive reporting on the recent Citizens Panel Survey of Customer Service Standards.

9370 Having heard the Policy Manager in elaboration, the Committee agreed to note the contents of the report and that the survey would be repeated again at a future date to allow an evaluation of progress.

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION IN THE DISABILITY EQUALITY SCHEME

9371 A report was submitted by the Chief Executive detailing the Council's approach to the involvement of the disabled community in the development of its policies and services, and proposals for the expansion of community involvement in the Disability Working Group.

- 9372 Following discussion and having heard the Policy Officer, Disability and Access, in further explanation the Committee agreed to note the contents of the report.

PROPOSED EVENT FOR CPC MEMBERS AND YOUNG PEOPLE

- 9373 The Policy Officer, Community and Consultation, gave an update on the progress in connection with the proposed event for CPC Members and young people.

- 9374 The Committee noted that:-

- (1) the meeting with Councillor Casey, Anne Clegg, Frances McGonagle, a member of the Youth Development Team and the young people is planned for the end of August/beginning of September;
- (2) the proposed event is now planned to take place later in the year, e.g. October/November; and
- (3) to make the event a success, all members of the CPC are urged to take part.

COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

- 9375 With reference to the Minutes of Meeting of the Community Participation Committee on 17 August 2005 (Page 1812, paragraph 6619 refers) when it was agreed that the date for changeover for individual groups should be every two years; allowing the current groups to remain members until September 2006, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to note that the term of membership for Feis Dhun Breatainn An Iar would end in September; and
- (2) that the Policy Officer – Community and Consultation should contact the individual groups which had expressed an interest in membership of the Community Participation Committee to confirm their continued interest in becoming involved if selected. Failing which, Feis Dhun Breatainn An Iar would be offered the opportunity to remain as a member of the Committee.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS FROM COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES

- 9376 Community Representatives were invited to raise topics for inclusion on future Agendas.

- 9377 Following discussion, the Committee noted that the financial report on Drug and Alcohol Abuse Services, which had been requested at the last meeting, was still outstanding and it was agreed that the relevant information should be submitted to the next meeting of the Committee.
- 9378 Following discussion, the Committee agreed the topics for presentations for inclusion on future Agendas should be:-
- (a) Single Transferable Vote (STV);
 - (b) Community Ownership Programme (Stock Transfer); and
 - (c) Community Health.

OPEN FORUM

- 9379 The Committee noted that there were no open forum questions as no members of the public were present.

The meeting closed at 4.12 p.m.