

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

Council Offices, Garshake Road, Dumbarton G82 3PU

25 October 2007

MEETING: WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

**WEDNESDAY, 31 OCTOBER 2007
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
COUNCIL OFFICES
GARSHAKE ROAD
DUMBARTON**

Dear Member,

Please attend the Meeting of **West Dunbartonshire Council** to be held in the **Council Chambers, Council Offices, Garshake Road, Dumbarton, on Wednesday, 31 October 2007 at 7.00 p.m.**

The business is as shown on the attached agenda.

Yours faithfully

DAVID MCMILLAN

Chief Executive

Distribution:-

All Members of West Dunbartonshire Council.

Chief Executive

Executive Director of Educational Services

Executive Director of Social Work and Health

Acting Executive Director of Housing, Environment & Economic Development
(Housing & Regeneration Services)

Acting Executive Director of Housing, Environment & Economic Development (Land
and Environment)

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

WEDNESDAY, 31 OCTOBER 2007

AGENDA

1. APOLOGIES

2. OPEN FORUM

In terms of Standing Order No 2 (d), the undernoted question has been submitted by a member of the public:-

**Mrs Heather Graham, Dumbarton.
Manor Kingdom Development at Kiel School, Kirktonhill Conservation Area, Dumbarton**

The wholesale removal of mature trees has been carried out in a large area of the above woodland site *regardless* of their condition. (A good number of these trees *were* in good condition, despite subjective claims to the contrary.) Indeed, in this part of the site, according to the Planning Department's own Report, houses were built only in '*natural clearings, to prevent unacceptably compromising the mature trees*'.

However, all trees have instead been removed and the developer is constructing **high density** housing very close to the boundary wall at Helenslee Road.

In the case of the house under construction which faces out along Dixon Drive – this is so obviously sited in order to be a permanent advert for the **Manor Kingdom Development** – but it is insensitively and poorly sited with regard to the integrity of the Conservation Area at that end of Dixon Drive.

This development is creating massive and severe alterations to the landscape throughout the site, whereby the ground level is being **substantially raised**. High artificial mounds have been formed, on top of which 'luxury' houses are being constructed. Thus the conservation area landscape is being entirely remodelled for *no other purpose than to suit the developer* (presumably with Council approval). This is being carried out **regardless of the serious impact on adjacent properties and to the local environment** (with the exception that towards the south of the lower site there is some justification to raise the ground level sufficiently to protect against the potential risk of future flooding).

To respond by saying that the developer will eventually undertake re-planting of trees and surface landscaping seriously misses the point.

In consideration of the above and in particular that this major development is within a Conservation Area, my question is:

How does the Council justify **approving** the **wholesale removal of trees** in the Conservation area; **approving** the immense earthwork operations which are substantially raising the **ground level** throughout the site to the detriment of adjacent properties; **approving** the **high density** and **inappropriate locations** of new builds, and regarding the **high density**, does this not set a (negative) **precedent** for other parts of the site and other parts of the Conservation area, in particular, the adjacent Carmelite Monastery and Methlan Park?

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Submit, for approval as a correct record, the Minutes of the Meeting of West Dunbartonshire Council held on 26 September 2007.

4. MINUTES OF THE JOINT CONSULTATIVE FORUM

Submit for information, and where necessary ratification, the Minutes of Meeting of the Joint Consultative Forum held on 6 September 2007.

5. MINUTES OF THE AUDIT AND PERFORMANCE REVIEW COMMITTEE

Submit for information, and where necessary ratification, the Minutes of Meeting of the Audit and Performance Review Committee held on 18 September 2007.

6. CORPORATE PLAN 2008-2012

With reference to the Minutes of Meeting of the Council held on 26 September 2007, submit a report by the Chief Executive presenting the final version of the Council's new Corporate Plan for approval.

7. REVIEW OF POLLING DISTRICTS AND POLLING PLACES

With reference to the Minutes of Meeting of the Council held on 26 September 2007, submit a report by the Chief Executive advising on representations received in relation to the Council's proposed scheme of polling districts and polling places for parliamentary elections and to recommend adoption of a final scheme.

8. WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP – KEY DEVELOPMENTS

Submit report by the Chief Executive providing the Council with an update on key developments within West Dunbartonshire Community Planning Partnership (CPP).

9. ABSTRACT OF ACCOUNTS

Submit report by the Chief Executive on the audited abstract of accounts for the year to 31 March 2007.

10. GENERAL SERVICES REVENUE BUDGETARY CONTROL REPORT: PERIOD 5 (2007/2008)

Submit report by the Chief Executive advising of the performance of the General Services Revenue Budget for the period to 15 September 2007.

11. GENERAL SERVICES CAPITAL BUDGETARY CONTROL REPORT: PERIOD 5 (2007/2008)

Submit report by the Chief Executive providing the Council with an update on the General Services Capital Plan for 2007/2008.

12. HRA 2007/2008 BUDGETARY CONTROL STATEMENT: PERIOD 5 (2007/2008)

Submit report by the Acting Executive Director of Housing, Regeneration and Environmental Services (Housing and Regeneration Services) containing information on the progress of the Housing Revenue Account 2007/2008 up to 15 September 2007 (Period 5).

13. HRA CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2007/2008 BUDGETARY CONTROL STATEMENT: PERIOD 5 (2007/2008)

Submit report by the Acting Executive Director of Housing, Regeneration and Environmental Services (Housing and Regeneration Services) on the progress of the HRA Capital Programme 2007/2008 up to 15 September 2007 (Period 5).

14. QUESTION

In accordance with the terms of Standing Order No 9 (b), the undernoted question has been submitted:-

Question by Councillor Patrick McGlinchey to Councillor May Smillie, Spokesperson for Educational Services – 2008/2009 Revenue Estimates Budget Savings Options

The 2008/2009 Revenue Estimates Budget Savings Options contains £6,765,082 worth of efficiency savings for the Education and Lifelong Learning Department. However the Leader of the Council already ruled out taking any efficiency savings from the Pre 5 budgets and from the Council's successful Early Intervention Team. However the Leader of the Council has left the options of school closures on the table. What school closures do you support?

15. NOTICES OF MOTION

The Council is requested to consider the undernoted motions which have been submitted in accordance with Standing Order No. 8:-

(a) Motion by Councillor David McBride – Financial Settlement – Meeting with John Swinney MSP

This Council acknowledges and thanks the Cabinet Secretary for Finance, John Swinney MSP for the time and courtesy he extended towards the cross-party representation made to him by West Dunbartonshire Council at the recent meeting. The Council reiterates the points made to Mr. Swinney, namely:

- That the previous Labour Finance Minister, Tom McCabe gave West Dunbartonshire Council an increase of 4.25% in financial year 2007/2008. This equates to an extra £7m. The Finance Minister also gave the Council £1.1m for spend to save projects.

- That in noting that the SNP national policy is to have a zero percent increase in Council Tax in 2008/2009, and given that inflation is currently running at 3.3% this equates to £1.3 million of lost revenue, the Council looks to the Minister to make up any shortfall in funding consequential to implementation of this SNP manifesto commitment.
- That the Council requests that the Scottish Government matches the 4.25% increase awarded by the previous Labour led Administration.

This Council therefore instructs the Leader of the Council to confirm these points in writing to the Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Efficient Government requesting confirmation that the Cabinet Secretary will accede to these requests.

(b) Motion by Councillor Geoff Calvert - Single Status Costs

This Council notes that the average number of historic pay inequalities means that Single Status and Equal Pay will cost this Council an extra 8.5% increase on the base payroll.

This is an estimated additional cost of £5.7m for 2006/2007, £7.1m for 2007/2008; and £8.3m for 2008/2009.

The Council agrees that the Leader of the Council writes to the Scottish Government and asks them to recognise the above average number of pay inequalities in West Dunbartonshire and seek additional help in funding Single Status and Equal Pay. Council also agrees that paying for Single Status and Equal Pay should not result in job losses.

(c) Motion by Councillor William McLaughlin – HMY Britannia

This Council agrees to explore the possibilities of having the HMY Britannia returned to Clydebank on a permanent or temporary basis.

This Council also agrees to communicate with the Royal Navy regarding the prospects of naval ships berthing in Clydebank on goodwill visits in the future.

(d) Motion by Councillor Iain Robertson – Future Provision of Council Offices

This Council recognises that as elected members we have a responsibility to ensure the sustainability and development of this organisation.

It is important that the Council does not just merely exist but it is seen to develop and innovate to ensure the organisation does not stagnate.

As the primary employer for the area we must be seen to drive forward a fresh approach to regenerating our communities while developing the organisation.

Garshake and Rosebery Place are old buildings and are costing considerable sums in repairs and maintenance; and we must also ensure that they are fit for purpose for the future of West Dunbartonshire Council.

The Council also has a duty to do what it can to stimulate economic regeneration in our local town centres including consideration being given to relocating as many council facilities directly into the centres as possible.

Therefore the Council agrees to instruct officers to prepare an options appraisal study looking at the long term costs of Rosebery Place and Garshake offices.

The report should look at the cost effectiveness of all options available including relocating these offices directly into the town centres to help deliver sustainable economic regeneration.

(e) Motion by Councillor Craig McLaughlin – Local Plan Housing Quota

For sometime now the future of housing in West Dunbartonshire has been driven purely by the commercial forces of the housing market and the need to extend the council tax base.

This short term view has led to a lack of clear planning of housing needs throughout West Dunbartonshire.

The recent housing needs study has indicated that there are identifiable long term shortfalls in the socially rented housing sector in West Dunbartonshire.

In order to offset this shortfall action is required now to put the necessary mechanisms in place to offset this position.

Therefore the Council agrees to instruct officers to prepare a report looking at the findings of the housing options appraisal study with a view to developing quota policies for socially rented housing for inclusion in the current local plan.

A regeneration fund should also be established by the Council to act as a delivery mechanism for future regeneration projects across the Authority.

In addition officers should arrange a meeting with the convenor of Housing and all local housing associations to develop the quota policy and ensure that the rented sector is prepared for the implementation of the policy.

(f) Motion by Councillor Craig McLaughlin – Policing in West Dunbartonshire

At a recent public meeting on Anti-Social behaviour the issue of the number of police officers on shift at anyone time was raised.

The meeting was concerned to learn the low number of officers available to respond to incidents and emergency calls.

The meeting also expressed concern about the new call handling arrangements, being operated by Strathclyde Police, where all calls are now filtered via a call centre in either Govan or Motherwell.

It is important that the Council and the Police work to deliver real reductions in crime and anti-social behaviour for our communities. Therefore the Council agrees to invite the Chief Constable to the next suitable Council meeting to discuss the issues mentioned.

(g) Motion by Councillor Craig McLaughlin – Financial Settlement

This Council notes with extreme concern the Scottish Grant settlement from the Westminster is the lowest in the last 8 years.

This settlement clearly shows the contempt that the Westminster Government has for the Scottish people and their democratically elected Government.

Furthermore this Council notes with concern the likely impact that the settlement from Westminster is going to have on Scottish Local government funding and indeed this Council.

To that end the Council agrees to write to all Scottish MPs to demand that they take up the case with the Chancellor as a matter of urgency.

(h) Motion by Councillor May Smillie – Renton Community School

Regenerating and rebuilding communities will form a corner stone of this administration's aspirations. We will work in partnership with communities and agencies to deliver sustainable futures for communities and services.

As part of this approach the Council will explore innovative ways of delivering services in communities and welcomes the approach from Cordale Housing Association concerning a partnership approach to build a new village community school and other facilities.

This administration accepts that a considerable amount of work needs to be done to assess the viability of the proposal and therefore instructs officers to meet with the Associations' Directors to develop an options appraisal for the project.

(i) Motion by Councillor William Hendrie – St. Margaret's Hospice

This Council recognises the unique care provided to people by St. Margaret's Hospice. Council condemns Greater Glasgow & Clyde Health Board's plans to remove service from the Hospice. Council instructs its Leader to write to the Hospice pledging our support and to write to the Health Board to protest in the strongest terms.

(j) Motion by Councillor Jonathan McColl – Clydebank Asbestos Group

This Council recognises the good work of Clydebank Asbestos Group. Council understands that funds have been secured by the group for a memorial to those who have suffered from asbestosis.

Council agrees to form a working group to assist Clydebank Asbestos Group in securing an appropriate site in the future for their memorial.

For information on the above agenda please contact George Hawthorn, Senior Administrative Officer, Legal and Administrative Services, Council Offices, Garshake Road, Dumbarton G82 3PU. Tel: (01389) 737204 or e-mail: george.hawthorn@west-dunbarton.gov.uk.