

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION COMMITTEE

At a Meeting of the Community Participation Committee held in Meeting Room 3, Council Offices, Garshake Road, Dumbarton on Wednesday, 12 December 2007 at 2.00 p.m.

Present: Councillors George Black, William Hendrie, Jonathan McColl, Iain Robertson and May Smillie. Murdoch Cameron and Francis McNeill, Community Councils Forum; Megan Harrison, Faifley Neighbourhood Forum; Mary Theresa Doherty, Faifley Neighbourhood Forum; Frances McGonagle, Gingerbread Scotland; Elizabeth Conn, Gingerbread Scotland; Bill Rankin, West Dunbartonshire Access Panel; John Diamond, Bellsmyre Neighbourhood Forum; Rhona Young, West Dunbartonshire Seniors Association; Tom Nimmo, West Dunbartonshire Community Care Forum; Joe McCormack, West Dunbartonshire Citizens Advice Service and Brenda Pasquire, Dumbarton Credit Union Ltd.

Attending: Liz Cochrane, Principal Policy Officer; Anne Clegg, Policy Officer – Community and Consultation; and Fiona Anderson, Committee Officer, Legal and Administrative Services.

Also Attending: Rodney Thornton, Section Head – Waste and Transport Services; Margaret Caldwell, Manager Housing Operations; John Duffy, Team Leader - Out of Hours Service; and Phil White, Manager – Community Planning Partnership.

Apologies: Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillors Jim Brown, Geoff Calvert and Gail Casey.

APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR

In the absence of the Chair, the Committee was invited to appoint a Chair for this meeting.

It was agreed that Councillor Robertson be appointed as Chair.

Councillor Iain Robertson in the Chair

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of Meeting of the Committee held on 24 October 2007 were submitted and approved as a correct record.

PRESENTATION ON THE COMMUNITY WARDEN SERVICE

John Duffy, Team Leader - Out of Hours Service, gave a presentation on the Anti Social Behaviour Task Force in West Dunbartonshire with particular emphasis on the Community Warden Service.

The presentation also focused on the undernoted topics:-

- Anti Social Behaviour Task Force; Structure; Partnership Working and Networks;
- The Community Wardens Foot Patrol; Mobile Response Team; Noise Enforcement Team; and CCTV Van; and
- The Fireworks Committee.

The Manager of Housing Operations was also in attendance and was heard in response to Members' questions.

The Committee noted that the annual costs for the Anti Social Behaviour Task Force were reported to Council on a regular basis.

Following questions from the community representatives regarding the number of prosecutions and number of ASBOS issued, it was agreed that John Duffy would respond direct to the representatives who had asked the questions.

Following discussion, the Chair, Councillor Robertson, on behalf of the Committee thanked the Team Leader – Out of Hours Service for his informative and interesting presentation.

THE PEOPLE'S FUND

A report was submitted by the Chief Executive providing information on "The People's Fund".

Following discussion and having heard the Policy Officer - Community and Consultation in further explanation and in answer to Members' questions, the Committee agreed to note the contents of the report.

DOMESTIC RECYCLING

A report was submitted by the Acting Executive Director of Housing, Environmental and Economic Development Department (Land and Environment) providing information on the guidelines applied to the domestic recycling services operated by the Waste and Transport Services Section.

Having heard Rodney Thornton, Section Head – Waste and Transport Services in elaboration and in answer to Members' questions, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to note that officers would give consideration in the future, to a suggestion to target local shoppers when distributing information leaflets regarding recycling and other local services;
- (2) to note that a report seeking funding to introduce a kerbside glass recycling scheme would shortly be submitted to the Corporate Management Team;
- (3) to note that, as a result of considerable Scottish Government funding which had allowed West Dunbartonshire Council to increase recycling facilities, there had been a significant reduction in the volume of waste going to landfill;
- (4) to note that Rodney Thornton, Section Head – Waste and Transport Services, would arrange for the Community Representative concerned to receive a response to a question regarding the removal of the mini recycling centre from Hardgate; and
- (5) otherwise to note the content of the report.

REVIEW OF “INVOLVING COMMUNITIES” WDC’S DECENTRALISATION SCHEME; PROPOSALS FOR DEVELOPING NEW SCHEME REPORT

A report was submitted by the Chief Executive providing an overview of progress of WDC’s “Involving Communities”, advising of proposals for reviewing the Scheme and outlining some key issues to be taken into consideration.

The Policy Officer - Community and Consultation was heard in further explanation and in answer to Members' questions.

Following discussion it was agreed that officers would investigate and report back to the next meeting of the Community Participation Committee on why neither Bellsmyre Neighbourhood Forum nor Dumbarton North Community Council appeared to have been consulted regarding a Scheme of Audit which had apparently been carried out in February 2007 regarding environmental issues in relation to housing schemes.

Following a request for further information on the Financial Implications referred to in the report (paragraph 5 refers), the Policy Officer – Community and Consultation was heard in elaboration and in answer to Members' questions.

Following discussion the Committee agreed:-

- (1) that, in future, reports should quantify financial implications;
- (2) that a report on current planning procedures, particularly with regard to Community Council involvement, be submitted to the next meeting of the Committee for comments; and
- (3) otherwise note the contents of the report.

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP – KEY DEVELOPMENTS: FAIRTRADE

With reference to the Minutes of Meeting of the Committee held on 24 October 2007 (Page 516 refers), a report was submitted by the Chief Executive providing an update on Fairtrade, one of the key developments within West Dunbartonshire Community Planning Partnership (CPP).

The Chair of the Fairtrade Steering Group, Francis McNeill, was heard in elaboration of the report and in response to Members' questions.

Following discussion the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to note that the Steering Group would undertake further work to encourage retailers to make Fairtrade goods more widely available in local shops;
- (2) to support the ongoing campaign for Fairtrade Status in West Dunbartonshire as a whole; and
- (3) otherwise to note the contents of the report.

OPERATION OF THE COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION COMMITTEE (CPC)

With reference to the Minutes of Meeting of the Committee held on 24 October 2007 (Page 516 refers), a report was re-submitted by the Chief Executive providing an update on points raised at the August 2007 meeting about the operation of the Community Participation Committee (CPC).

Having heard the Chair, Councillor Robertson, in further explanation, the Committee agreed to continue the item until a future meeting.

COMMUNITY NEWS

The Committee agreed to note the Community News as detailed in the Appendix to these Minutes.

After discussion, the Committee agreed on the subject of public meetings:-

- (1) that consideration should be given to the views of the community on the timing of major public meetings such as Budget Forums; and
- (2) that additional publicity and reminders to groups should be sent out one or two weeks before the event.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS FROM COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES

The community representatives were invited to suggest topics for inclusion on future agendas.

Following discussion, the Committee agreed that the undernoted topics be included:-

- (a) proposals for arrangements for Council grant funding;
- (b) plans for regenerating Dumbarton Town Centre; and
- (c) progress with the Schools' Programme.

OPEN FORUM

Mr. Neil Etherington of Parkhall and North Kilbowie Community Council requested information on the undernoted topics:-

- (1) Community Directory: Mr. Etherington requested confirmation that all the Community groups represented on the CPC made their contact details available on the Community Directory.

It was agreed that the Policy Officer – Community and Consultation would review the situation and report back to the Committee.

- (2) Community Forums: Mr. Etherington requested clarification on the difference between Community Forums and Civic Forums and suggested that steps should be taken to reduce the number of times the community were consulted on the same issues and that results should be made available to other agencies.

The Community Planning Manager responded and noted that the Community Forums are in their very early stages, and as they develop their role will be refined to ensure that they do not duplicate West Dunbartonshire-wide Civic Forums.

- (3) The People's Fund: Mr. Etherington requested further information regarding the number of applicants who had applied to the fund.

After discussion it was noted that it was coincidental that the number of projects applying had equated to the money available.

Councillor Robertson, Chair, thanked Mr. Etherington for his attendance and input to the meeting.

The meeting closed at 3.45 p.m.

COMMUNITY NEWS

➤ **Budget Forum Public Meetings - January 2008**

An opportunity to:

- find out about WDC's budget proposals for 08-09
- ask questions about the budget
- comment on proposed priorities
- feed into the Council's budget decisions

Tuesday 15 January 6.30 for 7.00 in Dalmuir Community Centre

Thursday 17 January 6.30 for 7.00 in Dumbarton Burgh Hall

For assistance with crèche and transport, phone 01389 737231

➤ **Community Forums**

West Dunbartonshire Community Planning Partnership wants all local people to have a say in its work. The Partnership is proposing to set up three 'Community Forums' as a way for community members in Clydebank, Dumbarton and the Vale of Leven to get involved. These Forums would aim to allow local folk to have greater influence over their communities and bring about positive change in West Dunbartonshire.

Initial consultation meetings are taking place during November. Depending on the results of these meetings, further meetings will take place during January – dates are provisionally set as follows:

Dumbarton Burgh Hall (Small Hall): 7 pm - 9 pm Tue 22nd Jan 08

Alexandria CE Centre: 7 pm - 9 pm Thu 24th Jan 08

Clydebank Lesser Town Hall 7 pm - 9 pm Mon 28th Jan 08

These meetings are, of course, dependent on the outcome of the initial consultation events. Full details will be available on the Council and West Dunbartonshire Partnership websites (www.wdcweb and www.westdp.co.uk).

➤ **West Dunbartonshire Community Day 'Life is for Living' – Date for your diary – this event will take place on Saturday 29 March in the Playdrome - open to the public and FREE.** A chance to find out what's going on in your community and how to get involved.