

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

Council Offices, Garshake Road, Dumbarton G82 3PU

18 June 2010

MEETING: WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

**WEDNESDAY 30 JUNE 2010
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
COUNCIL OFFICES
GARSHAKE ROAD
DUMBARTON**

Dear Member,

Please attend a Meeting of **West Dunbartonshire Council** to be held in the **Council Chambers, Council Offices, Garshake Road, Dumbarton, on Wednesday, 30 June 2010 at 6.00 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 Corporate Services

Executive Director of Educational Services

Interim Executive Directors of Social Work and Health

Executive Director of Housing, Environmental & Economic Development

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

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

WEDNESDAY, 30 JUNE 2010

AGENDA

1. APOLOGIES

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members are invited to declare if they have an interest in any of the items of business on this agenda and state the reasons for such declarations.

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Submit for approval as a correct record, the Minutes of Meeting of West Dunbartonshire Council held on 26 May 2010.

4. OPEN FORUM

The Council is asked to note that no open forum questions have been submitted by members of the public.

5. INDEPENDENT LIVING FUND ELIGIBILITY CHANGES AND EFFECT ON COUNCIL CHARGES – VERBAL UPDATE

With reference to the Minutes of Meeting of West Dunbartonshire Council held on 26 May 2010, the Interim Executive Director of Social Work and Health will give the Council a verbal update on the changes to the Independent Living Fund Eligibility and the effect on Council Charges.

6. BEST VALUE IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Submit report by the Chief Executive presenting for consideration, the Best Value Improvement Plan for 2010/11

7. KEY CORPORATE PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

Submit report by the Chief Executive presenting an update on the Council's Key Corporate Performance Indicators for 2009/10 and the proposals for revised Key Corporate Performance Indicators for 2010/11.

8. EARLY MEMBER INVOLVEMENT IN DECISION MAKING – REVIEW OF STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Submit report by the Chief Executive providing the Council with proposals for the key strategic priorities which should provide the focus for the early involvement of elected members in decision making.

9. APPOINTMENT TO WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE LICENSING BOARD

Submit report by the Executive Director of Corporate Services informing the Council of Councillor John Millar's resignation from the West Dunbartonshire Licensing Board and seeking a nomination to fill the vacancy.

10. DATES OF MEETINGS OF THE EDUCATION AND LIFELONG LEARNING COMMITTEE

Submit report by the Executive Director of Educational Services asking Council to agree to changes to the dates of the meetings of the Education and Lifelong Learning Committee in August and October 2010.

11. NOTICES OF MOTION

(A) Motion by Councillor George Black – Housing, Environment and Economic Development Committee

This Council is concerned that elected members of the Housing Environment and Economic Development Committee chose not to suspend standing orders at their meeting on Wednesday, 5 May 2010 thereby denying the residents of the village of Bowling the democratic right to voice their legitimate concerns and objections to the sale of this land. This Council condemns the undemocratic actions of those Councillors concerned.

(B) Motion by Councillor Jim Bolla – No Compulsory Redundancies

This Council agrees to a no compulsory redundancy policy amongst its workforce.

(C) Motion by Councillor Geoff Calvert - Sale of Land extending to 1554 metres (0.383 acres) or thereby adjacent to 44 Dumbarton Road, Bowling

Reference: Housing, Environment and Economic Development (HEED) Committee meetings on 6 January 2010 and 5 May 2010

This Council notes that the decision to sell the above land was taken at the HEED Committee on 6 January 2010 based on officers' recommendations. This Council notes also that an attempt to overturn this decision in May 2010 was rejected by the HEED Committee.

This Council further notes that both decisions taken by the HEED Committee were within its delegated powers and this Council has no criticism of either decision, based on the information provided to Members at the time.

Since the original decision was taken, there now seems to be doubt that all relevant information was included for consideration at the time. Whilst there is no suggestion that the lack of information available was intentional, local information provided by residents and the Bowling and Milton Community Council leads this Council to believe that the HEED Committee may well have taken a different decision if all the information had been available at the time.

The Community Council, having consulted with residents, makes the following specific challenges to the original report to HEED Committee in January 2010.

- It challenges the assertion that the 'loss of open space can be limited by sensitive development of the site' because two residential units of unspecified size plus parking facilities could not be considered 'sensitive' or 'limited'.
- It challenges the assertion that 'In general, the village will benefit from development of an infill site which would improve the streetscape of Dumbarton Road, Bowling'. This site is currently a grassy area with daffodils in springtime and it enhances the character of that section of the village. In no way does it have the appearance of an 'infill site' and residential development would detract from its appearance and provide no positive value to the residents of the village.
- Moreover, the site is the only open space recreational area in the centre of the village where young people can safely play ball games.

- It challenges the view of the Roads Traffic Section of the Council that there should be no objections on traffic grounds to the development. Local knowledge and experience indicate that the site is a 'blind corner' where the footway narrows and is exacerbated by parked vehicles for much of the time. Residents' have real concerns that pedestrian safety will be compromised by this development.
- As a final observation, the Community Council points out that the recently adopted Local Plan makes provision for additional potential residential development at both sides of the village – Scott's yard to the west and adjacent to the upper canal basin to the east. In addition, the present incomplete site at Littlemill, with many properties remaining to be sold at the present time, underpins the community's view that it is particularly important to retain the character, appearance and open green space at the centre of the village.

Therefore, whilst recognising that the HEED Committee acted fully within its powers and with the information available at the time, this Council now agrees to Suspend Standing Orders and thereafter, having given due weight to the information now before Council, agrees to rescind the decision to sell the land in question.

Note: The Council is asked to note that it will need to suspend Standing Order No 19 in order to consider the above motion as a period of 6 months has not passed since the Housing, Environment and Economic Development Committee made a decision on this matter.

(D) Motion by Councillor Jim Bollan – Boycott of Israeli Goods

This Council condemns the massacre of 9 peace activists by the Government of Israel, and the continuing blockade of Gaza. Council notes these brave people were trying to deliver 10,000 tons of humanitarian aid to Palestinians in Gaza which has been blockaded since 2007 by the IDF. This Council therefore re-affirms its current boycott of all Israeli goods. Council also agrees to write to all Scottish Local Authorities, Westminster and Holyrood Governments calling on them to implement an immediate boycott of all Israeli goods.

(E) Motion by Councillor William McLaughlin – Dalmuir Golf Course

Council agrees to implement immediate actions to prevent improper access and use at Dalmuir Golf Course. This behaviour is costing thousands of pounds per week and causing great distress to paying customers.

(F) Motion by Councillor William McLaughlin – Drumry Bowling Green

Council requests an update on the situation relating to Drumry Bowling Green to be reported to the Housing Environment and Economic Development Committee with details of the local consultation on suggested changes.

(G) Motion by Councillor John Millar – Memorial Benches

Council notes the tremendous success of the Council's practice of allowing families and friends to purchase memorial benches, to be placed in public parks, in memory of their loved ones.

However, Council also notes that over the past few months a moratorium has been imposed by the Housing, Environment and Economic Development Department which is preventing families from purchasing these tokens of remembrance.

Council accepts that the development of a clear policy on memorial benches in public parks is a necessary requirement. However, Council calls on the Executive Director of HEED to bring forward a report to the next Council meeting.