

## **SOUTH CLYDEBANK AREA COMMITTEE**

At a meeting of the South Clydebank Area Committee held in the Court Room, Municipal Buildings, Dumbarton Road, Clydebank on Thursday, 26 September 2002 at 7.00 p.m.

**Present:** Councillors James McElhill, Danny McCafferty\* and John McCutcheon\*; Elizabeth McIntosh, Patricia Rice, Rhona Young, Isabella Ashrif, John Hearn, John Hainey and Gordon King.

\* Arrived later in meeting.

**Attending:** Alexis Jay, Director of Social Work and Housing Services; Dan Henderson, Director of Economic, Planning and Environmental Services; David Connell, Manager of Accounting; Anna Frost, Community Safety Officer; and David Rooney, Senior Administrative Officer.

**Apologies:** Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Mary Campbell and Andy White.

### **Councillor James McElhill in the Chair**

## **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The Minutes of Meeting of the Area Committee held on 15 August 2002 were submitted and approved as a correct record, subject to the undernoted amendments:-

- (i) the addition of Mr. John Hainey's name to the list of those who had been present at the meeting; and
- (ii) the addition of Ms Patricia Rice's name to the list of those who had submitted apologies for absence.

With respect to a point which was raised by Ms Rice concerning the Committee's deliberation at the last meeting of possible alternative venues for meetings of the Area Committee, it was agreed that all future meetings should be held either in the Municipal Buildings, Dumbarton Road, Clydebank or in Dalmuir C. E. Centre.

## **OPEN FORUM – WRITTEN QUESTIONS**

It was noted that no written questions had been submitted for consideration at the meeting.

## **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE**

The Minutes of Meeting of the Community Development Co-ordinating Committee held on 8 August 2002 were submitted, for information, and noted.

### **COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES ON COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE**

The Committee was advised that at the meeting of the Vale of Leven Area Committee held on 6 August 2002, it was agreed to recommend to the Community Development Co-ordinating Committee (CDCC) that there should be Community Representatives on that Committee and that the views of the other Area Committees should be sought on this matter.

After consideration it was agreed that whilst the Community Representatives did not feel that it was completely necessary for them to be represented on the CDCC, if the general consensus after consideration by the other Area Committees was that Community Representatives should be represented on the CDCC, this Area Committee would nominate a Community Representative to serve on the Committee.

### **PROCEDURES FOR MOTIONS, FORMAL QUESTIONS AND OPEN FORUMS**

With reference to the Minutes of Meeting of the Area Committee held on 15 August 2002, a report was submitted by the Director of Corporate Services advising of the Council's decision on 28 August 2002 on options for raising motions and questions and the holding of Open Forums at the Area Committees.

It was agreed to note the arrangements for motions, formal questions and Open Forums as detailed in the report.

With respect to a point which was raised by Mr. Hainey, it was noted that if required members of the Committee could raise urgent matters during the Open Forums for verbal questions/issues at the end of meetings.

NOTE: Councillor McCafferty entered the meeting during consideration of the above item.

### **DISAGGREGATION OF LOCAL GRANTS BUDGET**

With reference to the Minutes of Meeting of the Area Committee held on 15 August 2002, the Committee was advised that after consideration of a recommendation from the Finance Working Group, at the meeting of Council which was held on 28 August 2002 it had been agreed that:-

- (a) until such time as the recommendations of all the Area Committees on local grants had been submitted and considered, the sum of £12,500 be delegated to each Area Committee from the £50,000 allocated to them by the Council from the Reallocation of the Scottish Budget Resources to allow them to award local grants up to a maximum of £1,000; and

- (b) in order to expedite this, powers be delegated to the Community Development Co-ordinating Committee to approve a system to provide a co-ordinated approach as to how grants were to be administered, checked etc.

After hearing Councillor McCafferty it was noted that the £1,000 ceiling on grants referred to in (a) above would apply on an interim basis for the duration of the current financial year.

### **ADMINISTRATION OF GRANTS BY AREA COMMITTEES**

A report was submitted by the Director of Corporate Services advising of the regulations and proposed administrative procedures relating to the awarding of grants to voluntary organisations.

In this connection copies of the proposed standard application form and guidance notes were circulated for information.

After hearing the Manager of Accounting and following discussion it was agreed:-

- (a) that the terms of the report be noted;
- (b) to note that the proposed procedures for grants administration had yet to be approved by the Community Development Co-ordinating Committee, the next meeting of which was due to be held on 17 October 2002; and
- (c) to note that whilst the proposed procedures would preclude applications being submitted by groups which were not properly constituted, the guidance notes could be reviewed and suitably amended to permit a more flexible approach to be adopted in this regard.

### **REALLOCATION OF SCOTTISH BUDGET RESOURCES – ENVIRONMENTAL GRANTS**

A report was submitted by the Chief Executive providing information about the money which had been allocated to Area Committees following the reallocation of Scottish Budget Resources. In this context, the report considered the criteria required for the identification of environmental expenditure at Area Committee level and suggested options for arranging distribution.

After discussion it was agreed:-

- (a) to note that current discussions related only to the availability of funds in the financial year 2002/03;
- (b) that it would not be feasible to undertake a consultation exercise in relation to the identification of potential small environmental projects given the limited timescale available for completion of any projects;

- (c) that the suggested criteria for assessing proposals for environmental works listed in the report be noted and taken into consideration as far as possible when assessing proposals, but the main criteria should be that any proposed project would benefit the South Clydebanks area and would comply with legislative requirements and the Scottish Executive guidelines on the use of the additional resources, that is, that the resources be used for the benefit of children and young people or the local environment;
- (d) that a special meeting of the Area Committee be held for the purpose of identifying specific environmental projects and that it be left to the Chair and relevant officers to make the necessary arrangements in this respect; and
- (e) that the possibility of obtaining match funding for the £25,000 which had been allocated to the Area Committee be discussed at the special meeting and that appropriate representatives of external agencies be invited to attend the meeting.

NOTE: Councillor McCutcheon entered the meeting during consideration of the above item.

### **AREA COMMITTEES AND PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

A report was submitted by the Director of Economic, Planning and Environmental Services on the main ways in which Area Committees might best become involved in Planning Applications.

Having heard the Director of Economic, Planning and Environmental Services and following discussion, the Area Committee agreed:-

- (a) that the terms of the report be noted; and
- (b) to note that all Community Representatives on the Committee would wish to receive the weekly lists of planning applications and respond directly to the Development Control Section on an individual basis in relation to relevant applications, rather than appoint a planning contact.

### **SOURCES OF FUNDING AVAILABLE TO THE AREA COMMITTEE**

With reference to the Minutes of Meeting of the Area Committee held on 15 August 2002, a report was submitted by the Director of Corporate Services on sources of funding available to the Area Committee.

Having heard the Manager of Accounting it was agreed:-

- (a) that the contents of the report be noted; and

- (b) that the recently appointed Funding Officer referred to in the report be invited to attend the special meeting of the Committee which it had earlier been agreed would be held to consider potential small environmental projects to be funded from the £25,000 which had been allocated to the Committee and the possibility of attracting match funding from external agencies.

### **WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE STRATEGIC COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP**

With reference to the Minutes of Meeting of the Area Committee held on 15 August 2002 a report by the Co-ordinator of West Dunbartonshire Strategic Community Safety Partnership was resubmitted:-

- (a) explaining the purpose of the West Dunbartonshire Strategic Community Safety Partnership and the nature of the Scottish Executive funding of this partnership; and
- (b) requesting a nomination from South Clydebank Area Committee to sit on one of the working groups of the Partnership to assist in the award of community grants.

It was noted that in accordance with the decision of the Committee at the previous meeting, Ms Anna Frost, Community Safety Officer, had been invited to attend the meeting and was present.

At the invitation of Councillor McElhill, Ms Frost gave a short presentation on the aims of the Community Safety Partnership with particular reference to the work of the two main working groups that had been established to consider the distribution of funding which had been made available from the Scottish Executive for the Partnership's Community Safety Award scheme.

It was noted that the working groups on accidents and crime each had a budget of £40,000 for allocation as grants to local groups to allow them to engage directly in community safety activity; that this money required to be distributed by 31 March 2003; and that the nomination of a member of the Area Committee to serve on one of the working groups would involve the relevant individual attending two meetings per year.

Councillor McElhill thanked Ms Frost for her presentation. The Area Committee thereafter agreed that Mr. John Hainey be nominated to serve on one of the working groups.

### **PEDESTRIAN CIRCULATION IN CLYDEBANK TOWN CENTRE**

A report was submitted by the Director of Economic, Planning and Environmental Services regarding concerns that had been raised by Mr. Hearn over pedestrian facilities at Clydebank Town Centre, specifically the lack of pedestrian facilities at Coldstream Road and at Halfords Car Park near the Kentucky Fried Chicken drive-through restaurant.

The Committee heard the Director of Economic, Planning & Environmental Services in amplification of the report and thereafter Mr. Hearn in response.

It was noted:-

- (a) that in the opinion of officers the provision of additional pedestrian facilities at Coldstream Road would adversely affect traffic flows and adequate pedestrian facilities already existed in respect of the retail park east of Argyll Road; and
- (b) that Mr. Hearn did not accept the terms of the report and in particular the contention that there was little need for pedestrians to cross Coldstream Road.

After discussion it was noted that the Members of the Committee were generally of the view that at busy times difficulties could be experienced by pedestrians wishing to cross Coldstream Road and it was agreed that there was a need for a review of the traffic flow problems in the vicinity of the Shopping Centre to be undertaken. In this context it was noted that a traffic impact assessment would be carried out by the Clydebank Task Force and/or developers in terms of the plans for the regeneration of the Clydebank Riverside area.

#### **DATE AND VENUE FOR NEXT MEETING**

The Committee noted that the next meeting was due to be held on Thursday, 28 November 2002 at 7.00 p.m.

It was agreed that the venue for the meeting would again be the Municipal Buildings, Dumbarton Road, Clydebank.

#### **DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF WRITTEN MOTIONS/QUESTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION AT NEXT MEETING**

The Committee agreed to note that the deadline for submission of written motions/questions for consideration at the next meeting would be 4 p.m. on Thursday 14 November 2002.

#### **OPEN FORUM – VERBAL QUESTIONS/ISSUES**

The Committee noted that no members of the public were in attendance for the Open Forum.

In relation to a question from Ms Rice, the Director of Economic, Planning and Environmental Services advised that the development works being carried out at Clydebank Shopping Centre were proceeding on schedule; that the planned completion date was March 2003; and that the main shopping mall should be completed in time for the Christmas shopping period.

## **MS RICE**

Before closing the meeting, the Chair, Councillor McElhill, advised that Ms Rice had recently moved home to an area which was outwith the boundary of the South Clydebank Area Committee and, although this did not debar her from continuing as a Community Representative on the Committee, she had intimated that she was prepared to resign if any of the Members felt that it would be inappropriate for her to remain on the Committee.

It was noted that all Members present were happy for Ms Rice to continue to serve on the Committee.

The meeting closed at 9.00 p.m.