

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION COMMITTEE

At a Meeting of the Community Participation Committee held in Meeting Room 3, Council Offices, Garshake Road, Dumbarton on Wednesday, 21 January 2009 at 2.00 p.m.

Present: Councillors Margaret Bootland, Jim Brown, Jim McElhill, Jonathan McColl, John Millar, Iain Robertson, Martin Rooney and May Smillie; Murdoch Cameron and Francis McNeill, Community Councils Forum; Megan Harrison and Mary Theresa Doherty, Faifley Neighbourhood Forum; Francis McGonagle, Gingerbread Scotland; John Diamond, Bellsmyre Neighbourhood Forum; Rhona Young, West Dunbartonshire Seniors; Tom Nimmo, West Dunbartonshire Community Care Forum and Brenda Pasquire, Dumbarton Credit Union Ltd.

Attending: Liz Cochrane, Head of Service – Policy & Performance; Anne Clegg, Policy Officer – Community and Consultation; Craig Jardine, Manager of Educational Estates; Janice Rainey, Section Head, Accounting and Budgeting; Anne Clegg, Policy Officer, Community & Consultation and Lorraine Beveridge, Committee Officer, Legal, Administrative and Regulatory Services.

Apologies: Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillors George Black and Patrick McGlinchey and Joe McCormack, West Dunbartonshire Citizens Advice Service.

Councillor Jim Brown in the Chair

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Councillor Brown, Chair, informed the Committee of the recent deaths of Ms Elizabeth Conn, a substitute Community Representative for Gingerbread Scotland on the CPC and Ms Patricia Rice, a former Community Representative on the CPC, both of whom had been committed community activists in the area for many years and had made a valuable contribution to many groups and networks.

Councillor Brown, on behalf of the Committee, offered his sincere condolences to Ms Conn's and Ms Rice's families for their sad loss.

Thereafter, after hearing Councillor J. McColl, the Committee, as a sign of respect, applauded in appreciation of Ms Conn's and Ms Rice's valuable contribution to the community.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of Meeting of the Committee held on 19 November 2008 were submitted and approved as a correct record.

RESPONSE TO PREVIOUS OPEN FORUM QUESTION

With reference to the Minutes of Meeting of the Committee held on 19 November 2008 (Page 1522 refers), the Committee agreed to note the response received from the Local Authority Liaison Officer regarding Clydebank Crime Prevention Panel as detailed below:-

The Crime Prevention Panel had become inactive against a background of deteriorating working relations and liaison with the local Police in Clydebank.

On 11 December 2008 the Divisional Commander Chief Supt Thompson and Clydebank Section Inspector Conway met with members of the Panel.

At that meeting a number of differences were resolved. Chief Supt Thompson agreed that one of the Clydebank Section Inspectors would henceforth attend the start of every meeting of the Panel and provide an update of crime trends and field any enquiries from the Panel.

To further enhance the relationship between the Police and the Panel, PC Griffiths of the Communities Unit at Clydebank Police Office has been appointed as a dedicated liaison officer.

The Panel next meets on 20 January 2009 and it is hoped that members will be encouraged by the improved partnership with the local Police.

At this point in the Meeting, with the approval of the Committee, Mr Neil Etherington, a member of the public, informed the Committee that a representative of the Police had attended a meeting of the Crime Prevention Panel held on 20 January 2009, and that it was hoped that this was a sign of improved partnership with the local Police.

PRESENTATION ON LOCAL GRANTS ARRANGEMENTS

With reference to the Minutes of Meeting of the Committee held on 19 November 2008 (Page 1522 refers), Selina Ross, West Dunbartonshire Community Volunteering Services (present for this item only), gave a presentation on the local grants arrangements.

In this respect there was submitted (tabled) a summary of Ms Ross's presentation on the local grants arrangements.

Ms Ross informed the Committee of the reasons behind the change in the local grant arrangements, the categories for grants, how applications for grants were assessed and the criteria process for grants.

After hearing Mr Diamond, Bellsmyre Neighbourhood Forum, the Committee noted that Bellsmyre Digital Community were having difficulty in obtaining funding which would enable the project to run until the end of the year and had been unsuccessful in its application for funding to the National Lottery.

After discussion and having heard Ms Ross in further explanation and in answer to Members' questions, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to note the grant process and that West Dunbartonshire Council for Voluntary Service assisted groups in the application process for grants either from the Council or other agencies;
- (2) to note there was no set appeals process for grant applications which had been refused;
- (3) to note that, at this time, there were 4 outstanding applications and 1 application to be re-assessed; and
- (4) to note that Ms Scott intended to recruit volunteers, who were not presently members of community groups, to assist West Dunbartonshire Council for Voluntary Service in assessing grant applications against the set criteria.

The Chair, Councillor Brown, on behalf of the Committee thanked Ms Ross for her very informative presentation.

REGENERATION OF THE SCHOOLS' ESTATE

With reference to the Minutes of Meeting of the Committee held on 23 April 2008 (Page 1075 refers), a report was submitted by the Executive Director of Educational Services providing an update on the progress in the regeneration of the schools' estate.

After discussion and having heard the Manager of Educational Estates in further explanation and in answer to Members' questions, the Committee agreed to note:-

- (1) that the PPP project was well under way and generally on programme;
- (2) that the re-tendering process for the new Goldenhill and Bonhill primary schools projects was under way as detailed in paragraphs 3.10 and 3.11 of the report;
- (3) that the informal consultation meetings to consider the pros and cons of co-located schools had been productive;

- (4) that the initial public consultation meetings with Bellsmyre, Faifley and Haldane/Jamestown communities and the initial public consultation meeting with the remainder of the Alexandria schools had been held;
- (5) that the initial consultation meeting for the remainder of the Dumbarton schools and Early Education and Childcare Centres (EECCs) which had been held on Monday 19 January 2009 in Dumbarton Academy had been successful; and
- (6) that the initial consultation meeting for the remainder of the Clydebank schools and the EECCs would be held on Monday 26 January 2009 at 7.00 p.m. in Clydebank Town Hall at which all schools, Parent Councils and EECCs would be represented.

After further discussion and having heard the Manager of Educational Estates in answer to Members' questions, the Committee agreed:-

- (a) that the Manager of Educational Estates would inform the Executive Director of Educational Services of Members' concerns in relation to the type of heating to be installed in the proposed St. Peter the Apostle High School building;
- (b) to note that a report on the results of the full tender for the proposed new Bonhill and Goldenhill Primary Schools would be submitted to the April meeting of the Council and that an interim report on the process to date would be considered at an appropriate Committee in February;
- (c) that a report on the contractual agreement with BAM in relation to the disposal of the portacabins at the Vale of Leven Academy would be submitted to the next meeting of the Committee;
- (d) to note that the planning for the transfer of materials, apparatus and equipment from the four existing secondary school buildings into the new secondary schools and other establishments had now commenced and a detailed plan was under development. Any surplus equipment would be offered to all schools;
- (e) to note that a report on co-located schools would be submitted to the next meeting of the Member/Officer Working Group: Regeneration of the West Dunbartonshire Schools' Estate – Phase 2;
- (f) to note that the programme for future consultations would be considered by the Member/Officer Working Group: Regeneration of the West Dunbartonshire Schools' Estate – Phase 2;
- (g) that copies of the Minutes of Meetings of the Member/Officer Working Group: Regeneration of the West Dunbartonshire Schools' Estate – Phase 2 would be circulated to Members of the Committee for information; and
- (h) otherwise to note the contents of the report.

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION COMMITTEE – REVIEW OF MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMITTEE

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 outlining arrangements for reviewing the membership of this Committee.

After hearing the Policy Officer, Community & Consultation in further explanation, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) that the Association of Clydebank Residents Groups and Dumbarton and Vale of Leven Housing Federation would be re-invited to have representation on the CPC;
- (2) that the Senior Forums would be invited to give their views on how Seniors should be represented on the CPC;
- (3) that arrangements for individual groups would be refreshed;
- (4) to thank Ms Hannan, Ben View Resource Centre and Ms Pasquire, Dumbarton Credit Union for their contribution to the Committee;
- (5) that arrangements to link with young people would be through events with youth forums and via the Community, Learning and Development youth team workers;
- (6) to note that the groups represented on the CPC already had a standing item for CPC on their agendas;
- (7) that the Committee would recommend to Council that the Community Forums, Clydebank, Vale of Leven and Dumbarton (when the latter was established) would be offered representation, one place per forum;
- (8) that Members of the Committee would contact the Policy Officer with information on any other Groups who they thought should be represented on the Committee for recommendation to the Council; and
- (9) that the Policy Officer would submit a report to a future meeting of the Committee following any findings from the review proforma process.

OLD PEOPLES' WELFARE GRANT FUNDING

With reference to the Minutes of Meeting of the Committee held on 19 November 2008 (Page 1522 refers), a report was submitted by the Executive Director of Corporate Services:-

- (a) advising of the current position of the Christmas funding to elderly residents of the area; and

- (b) putting forward alternative options which could be available for the payment of these grants in future years, with a view to providing feedback to the Corporate and Efficient Governance Committee.

After discussion and having heard the Section Head, Accounting and Budgeting, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to await the outcome of the Seminar to be held on Thursday 29 January 2009 in the Council Offices, Garshake Road, Dumbarton to discuss old peoples' welfare grant funding; and
- (2) that a report on the outcome of the Seminar should be submitted to the next meeting of the Committee.

COMMUNITY NEWS

It was agreed to note that Committee members had been invited to provide information for the Community News item in advance of meetings on an on-going basis.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS FROM COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES

Community Representatives were invited to propose topics for inclusion on future Agendas and were requested to give consideration to the current list of topics:-

- Regular update on Regeneration of the Schools' Estate
- Housing – Strategic Delivery Plans
- Fairtrade
- Facilities for Visitors
- Gender Equality – Men's Health (Partnership Activity)
- Presentation on Social and Economic Profile
- Presentation on Community Forums
- Clydebank Crime Prevention Panel
- Regular update on Recycling and Waste Minimisation

Having heard Mr Tom Nimmo, West Dunbartonshire Community Care Forum, in relation to the present condition of the War Memorial at Christie Park, after discussion the Committee agreed:-

- (1) that Councillor J. McColl would discuss the proposal to utilise those youths engaged in the community service programme to clean the War Memorials in West Dunbartonshire with the Executive Director of Social Work and Health; and

- (2) that an update on the current position in relation to implementation of the programme of remedial works to memorials in West Dunbartonshire would be sought from the Department of Housing, Environmental and Economic Development.

Following discussion and after hearing the Chair, the Committee agreed that the undernoted items would be included on future Agendas:-

<u>Item</u>	<u>Date of meeting</u>
Presentation on Council Tax	18 March 2009
Presentation on Community forums	18 March 2009
Presentation on Social and Economic Profile	20 May 2009
Presentation on Facilities for Visitors	20 May 2009

OPEN FORUM

Mr Neil Etherington, a member of the public, raised the following issues during the Open Forum:-

Community Planning Partnership (CPP) – Appointment of Manager

After discussion and having heard Councillor Robertson and the Head of Service – Policy & Performance in answer to Mr Etherington's question, the Committee noted that a Manager of the CPP had been appointed and would take up post on 2 February 2009 and that a report on development within the CPP would be submitted to the next meeting of West Dunbartonshire Council to be held on 28 January 2009.

Membership on the Community Participation Committee

Mr Etherington proposed that Councillor McGlinchey, who had replaced Councillor Casey in April 2008 and had only attended one meeting of the CPC since 23 April 2008, be replaced by another Councillor.

The Committee noted the position.

The meeting closed at 3.20 p.m.