

## COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION COMMITTEE

At a Meeting of the Community Participation Committee held in the Council Chambers, Clydebank Town Hall, Dumbarton Road, Clydebank on Wednesday, 20 February 2008 at 2.00 p.m.

**Present:** Councillors George Black, Jim Brown, Geoff Calvert, William Hendrie, Jonathan McColl, Iain Robertson and May Smillie. Murdoch Cameron and Francis McNeill, Community Councils Forum; Mary Theresa Doherty, Faifley Neighbourhood Forum; Bill Rankin, West Dunbartonshire Access Panel; John Diamond, Bellsmyre Neighbourhood Forum; Rhona Young, West Dunbartonshire Seniors Association; Tom Nimmo, West Dunbartonshire Community Care Forum; 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:** Alasdair Gregor, Planning Services Manager; David Clarke, Head of Service – Resources; Gavin Paterson, Local Authority Liaison Officer; Janice Rainey, Section Head (Grants); Marnie Ritchie, Team Leader – Forward Planning and Regeneration; Suzanne Greer, Policy and Development Officer – Diversity; and Phil White, Manager – Community Planning Partnership.

**Apologies:** Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillors Margaret Bootland, Gail Casey, John Millar, and Megan Harrison, Faifley Neighbourhood Forum; and Joe McCormack, West Dunbartonshire Citizens Advice Service.

**Councillor Jim Brown in the Chair**

### MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of Meeting of the Committee held on 12 December 2007 were submitted and approved as a correct record.

### PRESENTATION BY THE POLICE LIAISON OFFICER

Sergeant Gavin Paterson, Local Authority Liaison Officer, gave a presentation on the problems created by people parking on the zig zag lines outside schools.

The Committee noted:-

- (a) that it is not, in itself, an offence to park on zig zag lines outside schools but the Police can ask the motorist to move on;
- (b) that the lengths of zig zag lines vary from school to school dependent on the location of the school and the extent of the problem;
- (c) that the main culprits for parking on zig zag lines were parents dropping off their children.
- (d) that, East Dunbartonshire Council had implemented Road Traffic Orders outside several schools which gave Police the additional tool of enforcement. Any person stopping a vehicle on such a roadway is liable to an instant, fixed penalty 'parking ticket'. This type of reaction from the Police would be as a last resort and would only be invoked when other measures had failed. It had been found in East Dunbartonshire that it had only been necessary to issue a few tickets as advance publicity and consultation about the pilot scheme had proved to be a deterrent and the problem had all but disappeared;
- (e) that Sergeant Paterson had discussed introducing a similar scheme in West Dunbartonshire with the Council's Legal Section and Roads Section and it had been indicated that the Roads Section would be happy to introduce such a scheme and could earmark expenditure for it from the 2008 budget;
- (f) that it was hoped to introduce the scheme towards the end of this calendar year;
- (g) that all schools in West Dunbartonshire would be included;
- (h) that it may be necessary to reduce the length of the zig zag lines;
- (i) that officers from the Roads Section would visit each school;
- (j) that a consultation process would take place between March and the end of the summer term;
- (k) that the Educational services Department would notify the public of the introduction of the scheme; and
- (l) that this scheme would allow enforcement action to be taken as a last resort.

Following a question from a community representative regarding particular parking issues at Aitkenbar Primary School in Dumbarton, Councillor Smillie agreed to raise the matter with the Educational Services Department.

Following discussion, a number of suggestions to deter inconsiderate parking at schools were also noted, namely:-

- (1) that large banners asking people to park with care would be displayed;

- (2) that photographs and registration numbers of offending cars could be published in school newsletters; and
- (3) that purchase orders to suppliers to education premises could stipulate delivery times which would not present a hazard to pupils or staff.

Following a question from Councillor Black, it was agreed that a report be submitted to the next meeting on the possibility of standardising the colour of road markings, as some zig zag lines are yellow and some are white depending on where they are sited.

Further to discussion, the Committee noted that some local Head Teachers regularly letter parents about parking problems at the school and it was recommended that all Head Teachers undertake a similar exercise.

Sergeant Paterson confirmed that the local police would be happy to be involved in a publicity campaign to dissuade parking on zig zag lines.

Having heard Sergeant Paterson in answer to Members' questions, the Chair, on behalf of the Committee thanked him for his interesting and informative presentation.

### **DUMBARTON TOWN CENTRE REGENERATION**

The Committee noted that, prior to the Meeting commencing, members had been given the opportunity to inspect Dumbarton Town Centre Masterplan exhibition boards on display in the Council Chambers and that copies of supporting information had been circulated at the meeting.

Following discussion, it was noted that community members of the Community Participation Committee had been personally invited to attend the exhibition in the Artizan Centre. The opinion was expressed by one of those who attended that the venue was too small.

The Team Leader, Forward Planning and Regeneration, gave an up-date to the Committee on the progress of the Dumbarton Town Centre Masterplan and responded to members' questions, particularly with relation to:-

- (1) the relocation of the Council Offices;
- (2) the retailers who may be interested in locating in the Artizan Centre;
- (3) the feasibility of creating a new civic centre on one site to include a new Denny Civic Theatre, e.g. a multi-use building incorporating Council Chambers, Council Offices, Libraries, Community Hall and Theatre; and
- (4) erecting a roof over the shopping centre which would not only be beneficial to shoppers but would encourage static exhibitions and promotions which would help revitalize the centre.

The Chair, on behalf of the Committee thanked the Team Leader, Forward Planning and Regeneration for her interesting and informative presentation.

### **COMMUNITY COUNCIL INVOLVEMENT IN PLANNING PROCEDURES**

A report was submitted by the Executive Director of Housing, Environmental and Economic Development informing of current planning procedures, particularly with regard to Community Council involvement.

Having heard the Planning Services Manager in further explanation and in response to members' questions, the Committee agreed to note the content of the report.

### **REVIEW OF "INVOLVING COMMUNITIES" WDC'S DECENTRALISATION SCHEME; PROPOSALS FOR DEVELOPING NEW SCHEME REPORT**

With reference to the Minutes of Meeting of the Committee held on 12 December 2007 (Page 655 refers), the Committee agreed to note the following response to a question raised by the Bellsmyre Neighbourhood Forum (BNF) representative:-

In the absence of a tenants' group, the Team Leader for Tenancy Services attended a meeting with the BNF on 6 March 2007, prior to the introduction of Estate Audits in the Bellsmyre area and gave a presentation on the process. The process has been under way for almost a year now and there have been no further meetings on this matter with any tenants' groups. The BNF will be included if there are any further planned meetings with Tenants' groups. The progress in relation to the Estate Audits is reported via the HEED Committee. The Manager of Housing Operations had contacted the representative direct and discussed this matter with him.

Following discussion, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to note that officers would liaise with the community representative concerned to follow up points raised; and
- (2) to note that the Policy Officer, Community and Consultation, would ask the Housing, Environment and Economic Development Department to add Bellsmyre Neighbourhood Forum to their distribution list of Tenants' Groups to receive information.

### **REGENERATION OF THE SCHOOLS' ESTATE**

A report was submitted by the Executive Director of Educational Services providing an update on the progress on the regeneration of the schools' estate.

Following discussion the Committee agreed to note the terms of the report.

## **PROPOSALS FOR THE ARRANGEMENTS FOR COUNCIL GRANT FUNDING**

A report was submitted by the Executive Director of Corporate Services advising on proposals for future Council grant funding.

The Committee agreed to note the contents of the report and offered no comments thereon.

### **GYPSY TRAVELLER STRATEGY**

A report was submitted by the Chief Executive advising the Committee on the West Dunbartonshire Gypsy/Traveller Strategy which sets out the Council's strategy for providing services to Gypsies/Travellers and dealing with unauthorised encampments.

Following discussion regarding the definition of a "permanent" site, illegal camping and anti-social behaviour in relation to the gypsy travellers, the Committee agreed to note:-

- (1) the contents of the Draft Gypsy/Traveller Strategy and Action Plan associated with it;
- (2) the continuing work with the Gypsy Traveller Corporate Forum in implementing the strategy and developing closer links with the Gypsy Traveller Action Group;
- (3) that gypsy travellers pay substantial charges for their pitches and contribute to other local taxes, thereby entitling them to services; and
- (4) that it was important for the Council to support their cultural traditions.

### **OPERATION OF THE COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION COMMITTEE (CPC)/ WIDER COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT STRUCTURES**

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 making recommendations about reviewing the working of the CPC with a view to increasing the effectiveness of its role and linking this to the wider review and development of the Council's Decentralisation Scheme/Community Engagement Strategy.

Having heard the Policy Officer, Community and Consultation in further explanation the Committee noted that a more extensive review of the CPC would be carried out as described in paragraph 3 of the report, in the context of the new developments identified and the CPC would continue in its current form pending the review described in the report.

### **BUDGET PUBLIC FORUM MEETINGS – 15 & 17 JANUARY 2008**

A report was submitted by the Chief Executive informing the Committee about the Budget Public Forum Meetings which took place during January 2008.

Having heard the Policy Officer, Community and Consultation and following discussion, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to note the contents of the report; and
- (2) to channel, through officers, any comments on the formats and venues.

### **COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION COMMITTEE (CPC) – INVOLVING YOUNG PEOPLE EVENT**

The Policy Officer, Community and Consultation was heard in elaboration of the Involving Young People Event and agreed to note:-

- (1) that an event was planned, getting together young people from Youth Forums with members of the CPC (community representatives and Elected Members) to take place on the evening of Monday 19 May, 2008;
- (2) that the event would be informal in style and would involve a presentation from young people on youth structures and information from a piece of research carried out by young people with young people; and
- (3) that the venue for the event was still to be confirmed; and
- (4) that members of the Committee would receive an invitation to attend.

Following discussion, the Policy Officer, Community and Consultation, agreed to take back to the Youth Development Staff the suggestion that young people from all over West Dunbartonshire should be involved to break down territorial barriers.

### **COMMUNITY NEWS**

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

### **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS FROM COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES**

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

Following discussion, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to reduce the number of items on the Agenda to allow more time for discussion of each item;
- (2) that officers should give consideration to the number of presentations at each meeting;
- (3) that consideration could be given at a future meeting to whether the Community Participation Committee would be prepared to become the lead organisation to bring together all interested parties to discuss issues related to the River Leven, e.g. flooding, erosion, etc.;
- (4) to ask officers to submit a report to the next meeting on the outcome of the Council's decision to have 23 wheelchair accessible taxis in operation locally by 28 March 2008 and the action to be taken if the commitment was not met; and
- (5) to request a regular update at each meeting on progress with the regeneration of the schools' estate.

#### **OPEN FORUM**

The Committee noted that there were no Open Forum questions from members of the public who were present.

The meeting closed at 4.25 p.m.