

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION COMMITTEE

At a meeting of the Community Participation Committee held in the Council Chambers, Municipal Buildings, Station Road, Dumbarton on Wednesday, 20 September 2006 at 2.00p.m.

Present: Councillors Gail Casey; George Black; Margaret Bootland; Dennis Brogan; Jackie Maceira; and Martin Rooney; Murdoch Cameron MBE, West Dunbartonshire Community Councils Forum; Francis McNeill, West Dunbartonshire Community Councils Forum; Megan Harrison, Faifley Neighbourhood Forum; Bill Rankin, West Dunbartonshire Access Panel; Abdul Ghani, West Dunbartonshire Minority Ethnic Association; Mary Theresa Doherty, Clydebank Community Forum; Rhona Young, West Dunbartonshire Seniors Association; and Tom Nimmo, West Dunbartonshire Community Care Forum.

Attending: Tim Huntingford, Chief Executive; Anne Laird, Manager of Administrative Services; Alasdair Gregor, Planning Services Manager; Anne Clegg, Policy Officer – Community and Consultation; Steve Marshall, Section Head –Forward Planning and Regeneration; Ross Wood, Senior Community Literacies Worker; Mike O'Donnell, Community Planning Manager – West Dunbartonshire Partnership and Fiona Anderson, Administrative Assistant, Legal and Administrative Services.

Apologies: Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillors Marie McNair and Andy White; and Liz Cochrane, Principal Policy Officer; Bernard Bell, Feis Dhun Breatainn An Iar; and Marjorie Muir, West Dunbartonshire Community Councils Forum.

Councillor Gail Casey in the Chair

Prior to commencing with the business of the meeting the Convener, Councillor Casey, paid tribute to the years of work and dedicated service given to the community, by Ian Campbell and Margaret Morrison, Community Representatives on the Community Participation Committee, who had died recently.

PRESENTATION ON THE FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE BOUNDARY COMMISSION ON THE COUNCIL BOUNDARIES

The Section Head – Local Plan/Forward Planning gave a presentation on the review of electoral arrangements following the final recommendations of the Boundary Commission on the Council boundaries.

The Committee noted:-

- (a) that the new larger wards would be Multi-Member;
- (b) that the new system would affect the composition of the Council but the impact of these new arrangements would not be known until after next year's elections;
- (c) that the Council had consistently expressed a preference for predominantly three Member wards;
- (d) that Old Kilpatrick had been split into two different wards. The view was expressed that this would have a detrimental effect on the village and on the operation of the Community Council;
- (e) that there are concerns that some natural boundaries have not been retained;
- (f) that the Section Head –Forward Planning and Regeneration, confirmed that re-organising the boundaries had presented challenges in relation to balancing natural communities with equitable numbers of electors; and
- (g) that Community Council boundaries would be looked at later.

Following discussion, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) that the concerns expressed by the CPC on the lack of community focus in some of the proposed wards, be raised at the next meeting of the Boundaries Working Group; and
- (2) that Officers provide the CPC with an update on the outcome of the matter, at its next meeting.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of Meeting of the Committee held on 21 June 2006 were submitted and approved as a correct record.

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE WELFARE RIGHTS

Reference was made to the Minutes of Meeting of the Community Participation Committee on 21 June 2006 (Pages 2519/20, paragraph 9350 refers) when it was agreed that Officers should contact the Energy Action Grant Agency (EAGA) to confirm if there is to be a change to the qualifying criteria in July and what it would be and report back to the next meeting.

The Committee noted that an extract of a report by the Energy Action Grant Agency (EAGA), which had been received from the Welfare Rights Section concerning the qualifying criteria, had been submitted for information.

It was noted that, since receiving the report, it had been announced that Scottish Gas have now won the contract for the work.

DRUG AND ALCOHOL ABUSE SERVICES

With reference to the Minutes of Meeting of the Community Participation Committee on 21 June 2006 (Page 2524, paragraph 9377 refers), an extract from West Dunbartonshire Council Corporate Action Plan as at April 2006 was submitted for information, detailing expenditure on Drugs and Alcohol Services.

The Committee agreed:-

- (a) to note that the total for alcohol under the column Probable Outturn 2005/2006 should read £514, resulting in the West Dunbartonshire Council - Total Drugs and Alcohol Spend and Budget reading £1,163;
- (b) that clarification be sought on whether or not the above figure represented total health service expenditure on drugs and alcohol in West Dunbartonshire; and
- (c) that a report on the matter would be submitted to the next meeting of the Community Participation Committee.

RECYCLING IN WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE

Reference was made to the Minutes of Meeting of the Community Participation Committee on 21 June 2006 (Page 2520, paragraph 9355 refers) when the Committee agreed that more emphasis should be given to displaying litter control notices and bins, particularly in lay-bys.

The Committee agreed to note the information contained in the undernoted response which had been received from the Head of Land Services:-

The Grounds Maintenance Section has responsibility for delivering the Council's Litter Control Strategy which is aimed at improving the cleanliness and related appearance of West Dunbartonshire.

In order to achieve this, part of the strategy addresses the issue of Litter Bin provision throughout the Council area.

Since the introduction of the Strategy in 2003, in excess of 200 additional bins have been sited throughout the Council area. The majority of these have been located in areas identified by Council staff as being deficient of adequate provision however, members of the public frequently contact the Grounds Maintenance Section seeking installation of litter bins. On these occasions a survey of the area is carried out to determine need and, where appropriate, bins and associated signage is installed.

With regards to Lay-bys, the main trunk route through the Council area is the A82 Dual Carriageway which stretches approx. 12 miles from Drumry Roundabout in Clydebank to Stoneymollen Roundabout in Balloch. On the road there are 11 lay-bys, most of which have one or two bins sited. There is one lay-by on the eastbound stretch near to the slip road to the Erskine Bridge which was recently upgraded and which requires a bin to be re-installed. There are also a number of Bus-bays along the route, some of which have litter bin provision. Consideration will be given to further enhancing bin provision and signage at each of the bus-bays.

From an education perspective, the Litter Control Officers provide advice and guidance through a variety of means. They have attended community days, assisted in community clean-ups, provided displays at ASDA supermarkets in Dumbarton and Clydebank, participated in Greenspace's three Earthcraft days and raised awareness via Local Radio advertising and newspapers articles/reports.

Consideration is now being given to producing anti-litter and anti-dog fouling posters and publicity material for local distribution.

WDC COMMUNITY GROUP DATABASE

Reference was made to the Minutes of Meeting of the Community Participation Committee on 21 June 2006 (Page 2521, paragraph 9364 refers) when the Committee agreed that the Policy Officer, Community and Consultation, investigate further developing the database into a comprehensive stakeholder database, centrally managed for the community planning partners, and report back to a future meeting.

Having heard the Policy Officer – Community and Consultation, the Committee agreed to note that in response to a request from the CPC, arrangements were underway to publish, via the Council's website, a list of

the groups who receive funding from West Dunbartonshire Council with contact details for the Grants Administrator.

COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Reference was made to the Minutes of Meeting of the Community Participation Committee on 21 June 2006 (Page 2523, paragraph 9375 refers) when it was agreed that the Policy Officer – Community and Consultation would contact the individual groups which had expressed an interest in membership of the Community Participation Committee to confirm their continued interest in becoming involved if selected.

The Policy Officer – Community and Consultation advised the Committee of the response by the individual groups regarding their interest and thereafter a draw was made from the two interested parties to determine the successful nominee.

The Committee agreed to note that:-

- (a) Ben View Resource Centre had been selected and would be contacted regarding this decision requesting that a representative attend the next meeting of the CPC in November;
- (b) the unsuccessful applicant would be notified; and
- (c) Officers would write to thank Feis dhun Breatainn an Iar for their contribution over the last two years.

Having heard the Policy Officer, Community and Consultation, the Committee agreed to note the following information regarding the 2006 Community Council Elections:-

- (1) The nomination and withdrawal periods for the 2006 Community Council elections have now closed and 9 Community Councils reached the minimum number of members to allow them to continue, namely:-

Balloch and Haldane
Bonhill and Dalmonach
Bowling and Milton
Dumbarton East and Central
Dumbarton North
Kilmarnock
Old Kilpatrick
Parkhall and North Kilbowie
Silverton and Overtoun

- (2) Dumbarton West Community Council failed to reach the minimum number of members and as a result will be wound up as from 12 October 2006. This Community Council has been given the opportunity

to re-establish. If it submits a requisition for a Community Council signed by twenty local electors, new elections will be arranged in that area and requisitions can be received at any time.

- (3) Requisitions forms which had been requested for Renton Community Council and Clydebank East Community Council have not been returned despite follow-up correspondence.

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP – KEY DEVELOPMENTS

A report was submitted by the Chief Executive providing an update on key developments within West Dunbartonshire Community Planning Partnership (CPP) and in particular highlighting the process to develop a new Community Plan for West Dunbartonshire and identifying the role which the CPC might play.

Following discussion and having heard the Community Planning Manager – West Dunbartonshire Partnership, the Committee agreed to note:-

- (1) that the three main tiers of the Community Planning Partnership (CPP) structure had been established;
- (2) that some elements are continuing to evolve to meet both national and local requirements;
- (3) that three key issues for the CPP include:
 - (a) tackling worklessness, including the Employability Framework and the NEET (Not in Education, Employment or Training) Strategy;
 - (b) development of the new Community Plan; and
 - (c) the longer term sustainability of the CPP;
- (4) that members of the CPC who wished more information should contact the Community Planning Manager – West Dunbartonshire Partnership direct;
- (5) that Community Planning partners use a number of methods to consult with local people such as the Civic Forum and the Citizen's Panel.

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION COMMITTEE (CPC) ACHIEVEMENT, EVALUATION AND DEVELOPMENT

A report was submitted by the Chief Executive advising of the achievements, evaluation and development of the Community Participation Committee.

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

- (1) that reports to accompany presentations helped to focus questions;
- (2) that the possibility of introducing informal discussion sessions should be explored further; and
- (3) otherwise to note the contents of the report.

**WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE ADULT LEARNING ACTION PLAN GROUP –
ACTION PLAN 2005-2010 SUMMARY LEAFLET AND
COMMENT/FEEDBACK FORM**

A report was submitted by the Director of Education and Cultural Services explaining the background to the West Dunbartonshire Adult Learning Action Plan Group and requesting that the Community Participation Committee notes the content of the Group's Action Plan Summary Leaflet and Comment/Feedback Form.

Having heard the Senior Community Literacies Worker in further explanation and following discussion, the Committee agreed to note the contents of the report and to give further consideration to nominating one or two community representatives to participate in the Adult Learning Action Plan Group.

It was noted that Megan Harrison had indicated her interest in becoming a volunteer tutor and that any other interested parties should contact Ross Wood, the Senior Community Literacies Worker, direct.

**SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE PLANNING ADVICE NOTE – COMMUNITY
ENGAGEMENT “PLANNING WITH PEOPLE”: CONSULTATION DRAFT**

A report was submitted by the Director of Housing, Regeneration and Environmental Services advising of the publication by the Scottish Executive Development Department of a Planning Advice Note on Community Engagement “Planning with People”: Consultation Draft and recommending a response.

Having heard the Planning Services Manager, and following discussion, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to note the contents of the report;
- (2) to note that the main aim of the Bill is to introduce more opportunities and requirements to engage with the community at an early stage; and
- (3) to await enactment of the Planning Bill and publication of further legislative and procedural guidance.

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION COMMITTEE – INVOLVING YOUNG PEOPLE

A report was submitted by the Chief Executive advising on progress in organising an event to promote involving young people in the work of the CPC and in other Council decision-making structures.

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

- (1) that a buffet evening would be held on the evening of Tuesday, 5 December 2006 in Dalmuir Community Centre;
- (2) that the event would involve some young people and a minimum of five community representatives and five Elected Members;
- (3) that Councillors Brogan, Black, Casey and Maceira had agreed to attend the event;
- (4) that the community representation would include Megan Harrison, Mary Theresa Doherty and Frances McGonagle;
- (5) that Murdoch Cameron would try to identify two Community Council representatives; and
- (6) that a more detailed programme would be submitted to the November CPC meeting.

COMMUNITY HEALTH PARTNERSHIP – FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

A report was submitted from Community Health Partnership detailing frequently asked questions.

Having heard the Community Planning Manager – West Dunbartonshire Partnership and following discussion, it was agreed that Officers represent the Committee's misgivings about the future of services at the Vale of Leven Hospital.

It was noted that Accident and Emergency Services were currently undergoing a major re-structure throughout Britain as a whole and not just in this area.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS FROM COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES

Community Representatives were invited to consider topics for inclusion on future Agendas.

Following discussion, the Committee agreed that presentations for inclusion on future Agendas should be:-

- (a) the Citizens' Advice Bureau;
- (b) Trading Standards;
- (c) Clydebank Rebuilt; and
- (d) Community Ownership Programme.

OPEN FORUM

The Committee noted that there were no open forum questions as no members of the public were present.

The meeting closed at 4.30 p.m.