

## COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION COMMITTEE

At a meeting of the Community Participation Committee held in the Council Chambers, Municipal Buildings, Station Road, Dumbarton, on Wednesday 10 December 2003 at 11.00 a.m.

**Present:** Councillors Dennis Brogan, Gail Casey, Jack Duffy, Jackie Maceira, Marie McNair, Connie O'Sullivan and Andy White. Mr Mark Ewing, Bellsmyre Neighbourhood Forum; Mrs Wendy Hutchinson and Mr Murdoch Cameron MBE, West Dunbartonshire Community Councils Forum; and Ms Patricia Rice, Clydebank Unemployed Community Resource Centre.

**Attending:** Liz Cochrane, Policy Manager; Anne Clegg, Policy Officer – Community and Consultation and Fiona Anderson, Administrative Assistant, Legal and Administrative Services.

**Also Attending:** Joe Cox, Public Relations and Marketing Officer; Lorne Campbell, External Funding Officer; Susan Carragher, Manager of Life-Long Learning; Bob MacDonald, Project Manager – Bellsmyre Digital Inclusion Project and Inspector David Kirkland of the Community Safety Section of Strathclyde Police.

**Apologies:** Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillors Jim Bolland and Margaret McGregor, Mrs Frances McGonagle, Lone Parent Group and Mrs Hope Robertson, South Drumry Tenants and Residents Association.

### Councillor Gail Casey in the Chair

### WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

1423 Before commencing with the business of the meeting, Councillor Casey welcomed everyone to the third meeting of the Community Participation Committee and thanked them for attending.

### PRESENTATIONS

#### (a) BELLSMYRE DIGITAL INCLUSION PROJECT

1424 Mr. Bob MacDonald, Project Manager of Bellsmyre Digital Inclusion Project gave a presentation about the Project and in particular the progress made since approximately 1500 free personal computers with

Internet access had been distributed and installed in Bellsmyre households between July 2002 and January 2003. The Committee noted that Community Learning Centres had been established in the two local primary schools with a total of 25 personal computers installed for training purposes.

1425 Having heard Mr. MacDonald in answer to Members' questions, Councillor Casey, on behalf of the Committee, thanked him for a most interesting presentation and thereafter Ms. Carragher and Mr. MacDonald left the meeting.

**(b) WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE NEWS**

1426 Mr. Joe Cox, Public Relations and Marketing Officer, gave a presentation on the production process for the recently re-introduced new-look 'West Dunbartonshire News', the Council's newspaper for West Dunbartonshire residents.

1427 In response to concerns expressed that some areas of West Dunbartonshire were not receiving copies of the Council newspaper, Mr. Cox outlined the delivery process and schedule operated by the Royal Mail.

1428 Having heard Mr Cox in response to Members' questions and comments, Councillor Casey, on behalf of the Committee, thanked him for his very interesting and informative presentation.

Mr. Cox left the meeting following his presentation.

**MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

1429 The Minutes of Meeting of Community Participation Committee held on 8 October 2003 were submitted and approved as a correct record.

**COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION COMMITTEE – TIMING OF MEETINGS AND VENUES**

1430 A report was submitted by the Chief Executive providing the Committee with feedback on the responses to the questionnaire on timing of meetings and venues for meetings of the Community Participation Committee.

1431 After discussion and having heard the Policy Officer – Community and Consultation in elaboration, it was agreed:-

- (1) that future meetings should take place on a Wednesday evening; and
- (2) that meetings should alternate between Clydebank, Dumbarton and the Vale of Leven (i.e. between three venues).

## **COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION COMMITTEE - ROLE AND REMIT**

- 1432 A report was submitted by the Chief Executive inviting Members of the Committee to comment on the role and remit of the Committee as outlined in the Report.
- 1433 Following discussion and having heard the Policy Officer – Community and Consultation, the Committee agreed that the Community Participation Committee should:-
- (1) encourage and support the development of local community based organisations;
  - (2) provide a forum (but not the only forum) for obtaining the views of community based organisations;
  - (3) co-ordinate discussion and action on issues raised by community groups and forums;
  - (4) consider comments and suggestions from community based organisations about Council services;
  - (5) consider and comment on Council participation structures and policies;
  - (6) co-ordinate community involvement in the ongoing development and review of the Council's Decentralisation Scheme (in terms of the Local Government etc. (Scotland) Act 1994), and make recommendations to Council on the nature of decentralisation in West Dunbartonshire and on any delegation of power;
  - (7) consider matters relating to Community Councils;
  - (8) consider matters relating to the Voluntary Sector; and
  - (9) consider matters relating to community involvement in partnership working in West Dunbartonshire.

## **COMMUNITY CONFERENCE: PLANNING FOR 2004**

- 1434 A report was submitted by the Chief Executive providing Members with an update on planning for the 2004 Community Conference.
- 1435 After discussion and having heard the Policy Officer – Community and Consultation in further explanation, it was agreed:-
- (1) that a day-long event during Community Week should be dedicated to the subject of anti-social behaviour issues;

- (2) that the West Dunbartonshire Strategic Community Safety Partnership should co-ordinate the event;
- (3) that officers should give consideration to inviting a Panel consisting of a range of relevant representatives including the police and justice system to be present for a Question and Answer Session; and
- (4) that the Community Conference should reflect the theme of culture.

### **FUNDING REVIEW**

1436 A report was submitted by the Chief Executive:-

- (a) summarising the position within West Dunbartonshire Council with regard to External Funding using National Lottery statistics as a performance measure; and
- (b) identifying current initiatives in place to improve council performance on matters of External Funding and future challenges and opportunities in the area.

1437 Having heard the External Funding Officer in response to Members' questions, the Committee agreed to note the content of the report.

At this point, Councillor Brogan left the meeting.

### **POWERS OF THE POLICE**

1438 A report was submitted by the local Liaison Officer for Strathclyde Police advising the Committee of the powers of the Scottish Police Service in relation to Crime and Anti-Social behaviour.

1439 Having heard Inspector Kirkland of the Community Safety Section of Strathclyde Police in response to Members' questions, the Committee agreed to note the contents of the report.

1440 Following discussion, it was agreed that officers would source an abridged copy of the Anti-Social Behaviour Bill and distribute it to the Committee for information.

### **CONVENOR'S REMARKS**

1441 Having heard the Convenor, the Committee agreed to note that Minutes of the Community Participation Committee meetings would be distributed at an early date following each meeting.

The meeting closed at 1.20 p.m.