

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION COMMITTEE

At a Meeting of the Community Participation Committee held in the Council Chambers, Clydebank Town, Dumbarton Road, Clydebank on Wednesday, 15 November 2006 at 2.00 p.m.

Present: Councillors Gail Casey, George Black, Dennis Brogan, Jackie Maceira, Marie McNair and Martin Rooney; Murdoch Cameron MBE, West Dunbartonshire Community Councils Forum; Francis McNeill, West Dunbartonshire Community Councils Forum; Megan Harrison, Faifley Neighbourhood Forum; Frances McGonagle, Gingerbread Scotland; Elizabeth Conn, Gingerbread Scotland; Bill Rankin, West Dunbartonshire Access Panel; Mary Theresa Doherty, Clydebank Community Forum; Catherine Martin, West Dunbartonshire Seniors' Association; Tom Nimmo, West Dunbartonshire Community Care Forum; Daniel Lennie, Dalmuir Multi Storey Flats Tenants and Residents Group; Catherine Hannan, Ben View Resource Centre; and Joe McCormack, Dumbarton and District Citizens Advice Bureau.

Attending: Liz Cochrane, Principal Policy Officer; Anne Clegg, Policy Officer – Community and Consultation; Miriam McKenna, Policy and Development Officer – Diversity; David McCulloch, Section Head – Trading Standards and Fiona Anderson, Administrative Assistant, Legal and Administrative Services.

Apologies: Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillors Andrew White and Margaret Bootland.

Councillor Gail Casey in the Chair

Prior to commencing with the business of the meeting the Convener, Councillor Casey, welcomed Catherine Hannan, Ben View Resource Centre; Catherine Martin, West Dunbartonshire Seniors' Association; Daniel Lennie, Dalmuir Multi Storey Flats Tenants and Residents Group; and Joe McCormack, Dumbarton and District Citizens Advice Bureau, to their first meeting of the Community Participation Committee.

PRESENTATION ON THE WORK OF THE TRADING STANDARDS

David McCulloch, Section Head – Trading Standards, gave a presentation on the work of the Trading Standards Section and made particular reference to:-

- (a) Consumer Protection;
- (b) Consumer Direct Scotland;
- (c) Consumer Education;
- (d) Enforcement Procedures;
- (e) Doorstep Selling;
- (f) Sales of Fireworks, Cigarettes and Alcohol to people under-age;
- (g) Early warning on scams operating in the area particularly to vulnerable householders;
- (h) Monitoring of sales of fireworks;
- (i) Monitoring the sales of used cars on garage forecourts to ensure they are in a safe and road-worthy condition;
- (j) “Short Measure Week” Campaign;
- (k) Trading Standards Consultation Strategy; and
- (l) the introduction of “No cold calling zones”.

Having heard the Section Head – Trading Standards in answer to Members’ questions, the Convener, on behalf of the Committee, thanked him for his very interesting and informative presentation.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of Meeting of the Committee held on 20 September 2006 were submitted and approved as a correct record.

FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE BOUNDARY COMMISSION ON THE COUNCIL BOUNDARIES

With reference to the Minutes of Meeting of the Community Participation Committee on 20 September 2006 (Page 2678, paragraph 10048 refers) when it had been requested:-

- (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.

The Committee was asked to note the undernoted response from the Section Head – Forward Planning and Regeneration:-

Following from the previous meeting of the CPC wherein it was agreed 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, these concerns were discussed at the Boundaries Review Working Group on 27 September.

It was agreed at the Working Group that revised proposals be worked up in order that Old Kilpatrick be contained in a single ward, and that the number of 3 member wards be maximised.

Details of these alternative arrangements were sent to the Scottish Executive on 28 September 2006 in advance of a meeting between the Council and Tom McCabe MSP on 3 October 2006.

The Council at this meeting presented in some detail its preferred electoral arrangements for West Dunbartonshire and that community focus was central to the formulation of the Wards proposed by the Council.

A decision from Scottish Ministers on the electoral arrangements for West Dunbartonshire is still awaited.

The Committee noted that an announcement by Tom McCabe was expected within the next two weeks.

DRUG AND ALCOHOL ABUSE SERVICES

With reference to the Minutes of Meeting of the Community Participation Committee on 20 September 2006 (Page 2679, paragraph 10054 refers), the Committee noted:-

- (1) that the sums referred to represented all specialist investment from West Dunbartonshire Council and did not include NHS expenditure; and
- (2) that a report by the Director of Social Work Services summarising Council and Health Board expenditure would be put to the January meeting of the CPC.

COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

With reference to the Minutes of Meeting of the Community Participation Committee on 20 September 2006 (Page 2681, paragraph 10067 refers), the Committee noted:-

- (a) that Mr Daniel Lennie had taken up membership as the representative of Dalmuir Multi Storey Flats Tenants and Residents Group;

- (b) that Mr Joe McCormack would represent the Dumbarton and District Citizens Advice Bureau; and
- (c) that Ms Catherine Hannan would represent Ben View Resource Centre.

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

- (1) that the Tenants and Residents Groups in the Dumbarton and Alexandria areas would be contacted regarding membership of the Committee;
- (2) that if several Tenants and Residents Groups expressed interest, selection would be drawn by lot; and
- (3) that Robert Kyle and Harry Johnston had withdrawn from membership of the Committee as the Dumbarton Community and Commercial Association was no longer in existence.

DRAFT JOINT VOLUNTARY POLICY

A report was submitted by the Chief Executive informing of the development of a Joint Voluntary Policy and seeking comments and feedback on the draft policy.

Having heard the Policy Officer, Community and Consultation, in answer to Members' questions the Committee agreed:-

- (1) that the report might benefit from more "In Practice" explanatory paragraphs;
- (2) that the inclusion of a "Who's Who" of all the voluntary groups in the area would be most useful. However, since this could go out of date quickly, information on WDC and CVS websites might be an alternative;
- (3) that an ending paragraph preceding the address should be added advising "for further information on volunteering in your area contact"; and
- (4) otherwise to note the contents of the report.

EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY STRATEGY PROGRESS REPORT AND ACTION PLAN

A report was submitted by the Chief Executive advising of progress on the delivery of the Equality and Diversity Strategy Action Plan.

Having heard the Policy and Development Officer, in answer to Members' questions, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to note the progress made on the Equality and Diversity Strategy Action Plan 2005-2006; and
- (2) to note the Action Plan for 2006-2007.

RACE EQUALITY SCHEME PROGRESS REPORT AND ACTION PLAN

A report was submitted by the Chief Executive informing of progress on the delivery of the Race Equality Scheme Action Plan 2005-2006, and presenting the Race Equality Scheme Action Plan 2006-2007.

Having heard the Policy and Development Officer, in answer to Members' questions, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to note the progress made on the delivery of the Race Equality Action Plan to date; and
- (2) to note the new Action Plan to 2007.

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION COMMITTEE – INVOLVING YOUNG PEOPLE

With reference to the Minutes of Meeting of the Community Participation Committee on 20 September 2006 (Page 2684, paragraph 10079 refers), a report was submitted by the Chief Executive advising on arrangements for the buffet evening to be held on 5 December 2006 involving young people and representatives from the CPC.

Having heard the Policy Officer, Community and Consultation, in answer to Members' questions, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to note that the last planning meeting for the event had been cancelled due to illness;
- (2) to note that within the next two weeks the young people would issue letters of invitation to those who had expressed an interest;

- (3) to note that Frances McGonagle, Community Representative and Councillors Marie McNair or Gail Casey and George Black had agreed to contribute to the introduction session of the event as outlined in the report;
- (4) to note that Murdoch Cameron would contact Anne Clegg direct with the names of 2 Community Councillors willing to participate in the event; and
- (5) otherwise to note the contents of the report.

STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY INPUT TO THE COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION COMMITTEE (CPC)

A report was submitted by the Chief Executive suggesting some simple measures to assist community representatives on the Committee to extend and develop input from the groups they represent.

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

- (1) to have the Agenda item "Community Participation Committee" as a standing agenda item for their groups; and
- (2) to increase the input of the groups represented into the business of the Committee by developing communication and feedback on relevant issues.

SENIOR MANAGERS NETWORK – CONSULTATION AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

A report was submitted by the Chief Executive informing of a recent presentation to the Council's Senior Managers Network, up-dating managers on consultation and community engagement developments.

Having heard the Policy Officer, Community and Consultation, in answer to Members' questions and after discussion, the Committee agreed:-

- (a) to note the contents of the report; and
- (b) to welcome additional feedback following consultation and community engagement.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS FROM COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES

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

Following discussion, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) that presentations for inclusion on future Agendas should be:-
 - (a) Citizens' Advice Bureau;
 - (b) Clydebank Rebuilt;
 - (c) Community Ownership Programme;
 - (d) Clydebank Independent Resource Centre;
 - (e) WD Community Safety Partnership C.C.T.V. Cameras in the local area; and
 - (f) Single Transferable Voting system.
- (2) that the presentation for next Community Participation Committee Meeting on 24 January 2007 should be the Citizens' Advice Bureau: An Overview of the Service; and
- (3) that a report on C.C.T.V. in West Dunbartonshire should also be submitted to the next meeting.

OPEN FORUM

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

The meeting closed at 3.40 p.m.