

Minute of Meeting Johnstone and the Villages Local Area Committee

Date	Time	Venue
Thursday, 19 November 2015	18:00	Johnstone Town Hall, Ludovic Square, Johnstone, PA5 8EG

PRESENT

Councillors Bibby, Gilmour, Hood and I McMillan.

CHAIR

Councillor Gilmour, Convener, presided.

COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES

D Wadsworth, Elderslie Community Council; J Anderson, Howwood Sports & Hobbies Group; A Stevenson, Johnstone Castle Community Learning Centre; G Kennedy, Johnstone Community Council; A McBain, Johnstone Seniors' Forum; D Blair, Kilbarchan Community Council; M Lavery, Quarrelton Tenants' & Residents' Association; N McBride, Renfrewshire Early Years Forum; J Black, Sandyflats Tenants' & Residents' Association and C McIntyre MSYP.

COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERS

Inspector S Espie, Police Scotland and I Beattie, Renfrewshire Health & Social Care Partnership.

IN ATTENDANCE

J Graham, IT Trainer/Staff Development Officer and J McCrystal, Community Learning Officer (both Children's Services); S Allan, Head of Amenity Services (Lead Officer); F Carlin, Head of Planning & Housing Services; and M Corrigan, Enforcement Manager (all Community Resources); and D Low, Senior Committee Services Officer (LACs) and A McNaughton, Senior Committee Services Officer (both Finance & Resources).

ADDITIONAL ITEM

The Convener intimated that an additional item relative to the Syrian Refugee Crisis had been received that had not been included in the notice calling the meeting. The Convener, being of the opinion that the item which was dealt with at item 7 of this Minute, was urgent, authorised its consideration.

APOLOGIES

Councillors Caldwell, Andy Doig and McGee

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest intimated prior to the commencement of the meeting.

1 RENFREWSHIRE HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE PARTNERSHIP - LAC UPDATE

There was submitted a report by Renfrewshire Health and Social Care Partnership relative to the formation of an inclusive Strategic Planning Group to support the Integration Joint Board and to ensure that stakeholder groups had a voice and could influence in the delivery of health and social care services. The Convener requested that a report on the uptake of flu vaccinations in the area be submitted to the next meeting. This was agreed.

DECIDED:

- (a) That the report be noted; and
- (b) That a report on the uptake of flu vaccinations in the area be submitted to the next meeting.

2 RENFREWSHIRE HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE PARTNERSHIP: INTEGRATION FACT SHEET

There was submitted a fact sheet by Renfrewshire Health & Social Care Partnership providing an update on the new arrangements being put in place to manage integrated health and social care services and establish the new Health and Social Care Partnership in Renfrewshire.

DECIDED: That the report be noted.

3 **COMMUNITY SAFETY & PUBLIC PROTECTION - PROGRESS UPDATE**

There was submitted a report by the Director of Community Resources providing an overview of the activities of the Safer & Stronger Renfrewshire Partnership, consisting of Renfrewshire Council, Police Scotland, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service and other community safety agencies for the Johnstone & the Villages Local Area Committee (LAC) area during the period 1 July to 30 September, 2015.

The report contained performance information from a number of community planning partners including Police Scotland, the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service and the Renfrewshire Community Safety Partnership.

The report provided information on Johnstone & the Villages LAC area community safety statistics; environmental enforcement and improvement activities; protecting vulnerable residents; building safer communities; diversionary activities; the integrated control room and CCTV system; and the work of the Renfrewshire Adult Protection Committee.

DECIDED: That the report be noted.

4 **OPEN SESSION/KEY LOCAL ISSUES**

The undernoted key issues were considered:

(a) **REGENERATION OF JOHNSTONE TOWN CENTRE**

The Head of Planning & Housing Services provided an update on progress to develop the Johnstone Town Centre Strategy and action plan for regeneration.

He advised that a draft strategy had been prepared for consultation with interested parties including residents, businesses and groups operating in the area. The consultation had been publicised widely and although the number of responses had been low, many were submitted by groups on behalf of their members, and the quality of feedback received had been very high.

Once developed the strategy/action plan would seek to exploit the area's strengths (such as its heritage) and minimise weaknesses (improve traffic management) identify opportunities to increase footfall in the High Street and promote the area more positively.

The strategy would be a key lever to secure funding that would help deliver the regeneration plans.

DECIDED: That the update be noted.

(b) **REVIEW OF LOCAL AREA COMMITTEES**

The Senior Committee Services Officer (LACs) advised that the review of Local Area Committees had been deferred to await guidance on the implementation of the Community Empowerment Act 2015.

He further advised that a new process for the administration of grants had recently been introduced by the Council and would be applied to all LAC voluntary grant applications. New, simplified application forms and guidance would be made available.

DECIDED: That the information be noted.

(c) **ELDERSLIE VILLAGE HALL: HEATING**

Johnstone Seniors' Forum advised that the lack of heating in Elderslie Village Hall had been of concern to members. It was noted that a new gas pipe had been installed recently to improve the gas supply to the boiler and this would, in turn, increase the heating in the hall.

DECIDED: That the information be noted.

5 **COMMUNITY COUNCIL ELECTIONS – UPDATE**

There was submitted a report by the Director of Finance & Resources relative to the establishment of 21 community councils throughout Renfrewshire following the recent four-yearly elections. The report detailed the community councils, including those in the Johnstone & the Villages LAC area, that had achieved at least the minimum amount of nominations to be established.

DECIDED: That the report be noted.

6 **FAMILIES FIRST APPROACH - ESTABLISHING ADDITIONAL FAMILIES FIRST CORE TEAMS IN GALLOWHILL, JOHNSTONE AND FOXBAR**

There was submitted a report by the Director of Children's Services relative to the progress made in establishing additional Families First Core Teams in Gallowhill, Johnstone and Foxbar localities.

The report intimated that the Council at its meeting held on 25 June, 2015 approved proposals for deploying significant investment in response to the recommendations contained in the Tackling Poverty Commission report. The Council agreed to allocate £1 million from the tackling poverty fund to extend the successful and innovative Families First Core Team approach into three new localities of Gallowhill, Johnstone and Foxbar.

Work was being taken forward to recruit staff to Core Teams and it was expected that the new service would commence early in 2016. In addition a community engagement process had commenced to ensure that the priorities for the Families First Core Team would be identified by local parents and children in each of the localities.

DECIDED:

(a) That the Council decision to allocate £1 million to extend the provision of the Families First model to Gallowhill, Johnstone and Foxbar be noted;

(b) That it be noted that the recruitment process had commenced and the additional Families First Core Teams service was expected to commence in Gallowhill, Johnstone and Foxbar early in 2016; and

(c) That it be noted that a process of engaging the local community had commenced to ensure that the Families First priorities were identified by local parents and children.

7 SYRIAN REFUGEE CRISIS

The representative of Howwood Sports & Hobbies Group suggested that the LAC consider providing assistance to the Syrian refugees resettling in the area.

It was noted that the UK Government was funding resettlement costs in the first year; that the Council had put in place a package of assistance including interpreters, housing, schooling, medical care etc; and that Engage Renfrewshire were co-ordinating the voluntary sector response/activity. The requirement for any further assistance was not known at this time and it was proposed that an update on the resettlement of refugees be submitted to the next meeting of this LAC. This was agreed.

DECIDED:

- (a) That the current position be noted, and
- (b) That an update report be submitted to the next meeting of this LAC.

8 PRESENTATION - SCOTTISH YOUTH PARLIAMENT

Carrie McIntyre, MSYP for Renfrewshire South, gave a presentation on his election, highlighting the function of the Scottish Youth Parliament, and outlining her priorities during her term in office and achievements to date.

DECIDED: That the presentation be noted.

9 LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE TIMETABLE TO FEBRUARY 2017

There was submitted a report by the Director of Finance & Resources relative to the timetable of Johnstone & the Villages LAC meetings to May 2017.

DECIDED:

- (a) That meetings of this LAC be programmed for 25 August and 17 November, 2016 and 16 February, 2017; and
- (b) That, the Director of Finance & Resources, in conjunction with the Convener, decide the venue and timing of meetings and advise members accordingly.

10 BUDGET MONITORING REPORT

There was submitted a report by the Director of Finance & Resources relative to the Johnstone & the Villages LAC budget for 2015/16.

Appendix 1 to the report provided details of the expenditure committed by the LAC to date together with available budgets.

The report advised that the LAC also received funding from the Renfrewshire Council Citizens Fund and details of the expenditure committed to date together with the remaining balance were contained in Appendix 2 to the report.

The report requested homologation of the decision by the Director of Finance & Resources, in consultation with the Convener, to agree a maximum allocation of £850 towards the cost of materials associated with the unveiling of the Mary Barbour Cairn in Kilbarchan.

DECIDED:

- (a) That the report be noted; and
- (b) That the award of up to a maximum of £850 towards the cost of materials associated with the unveiling of the Mary Barbour Cairn in Kilbarchan be homologated.

11 APPLICATION TO RENFREWSHIRE COUNCIL CITIZENS FUND

There was submitted a report by the Director of Finance & Resources relative to the submission of applications to Renfrewshire Council Citizens Fund by Kilbarchan Pipe Band for £2,000 towards the cost of participation at the remembrance events in France to commemorate the Battle of the Somme, and by Kilbarchan Community Nursery for £700 towards the cost of a cloakroom extension.

DECIDED: That it be recommended to the Finance & Resources Policy Board that £2,000 be awarded to Kilbarchan Pipe Band and £700 be awarded to Kilbarchan Community Nursery from the Renfrewshire Council Citizens Fund.

12 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was noted that the next meeting of the Johnstone & the Villages LAC would be held in Johnstone Town Hall at 6.00 pm on Thursday, 18 February, 2016.