

Coatbridge, 13 September 2005 at 2 pm.

A Meeting of the **COATBRIDGE AREA COMMITTEE**

PRESENT

Councillor M. Clark, Convener; Councillors Brooks, Maginnis, Shields and Smith.

CHAIR

Councillor M. Clark (Convener) presided.

IN ATTENDANCE

The Corporate Freedom of Information Officer and Administrative Officer, Administration Department; Office Manager, Education Department, Local Regeneration Manager, Chief Executive's Department; Policy Officer, Community Services Department and Road Network Operations Manager, Team Leader and Planning Officer, Planning and Environment Department.

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE

M. Donovan and P. Winnie, Coatbridge Community Forum.

APOLOGIES

Councillors Burns, Cassidy and Gordon.

CONVENER'S REMARKS

The Convener referred to the tragic circumstances surrounding the death of Inspector Sam Allison who regularly attended meetings of the Coatbridge Area Committee. She acknowledged his commitment and contribution to the work of the Committee and his work within the Coatbridge Area. On behalf of the Committee the Convener extended her condolences to Sam's family.

The Convener intimated that Michelle Battersby, Local Regeneration Manager would replace Ian Murdoch as Area Team Leader, and thanked Mr. Murdoch for all his work within the Area Committee.

COATBRIDGE AREA COMMITTEE MINUTE

1. There was submitted the Minute of the meeting of Coatbridge Area Committee held on 7 June 2005.

Decided: that the terms of the Minute be noted.

COATBRIDGE COMMUNITY FORUM - MINUTE

2. There was submitted the Minute of the meeting of Coatbridge Community Forum held on 7 July 2005.

Decided: that the terms of the Minute be noted.

GLENBOIG COMMUNITY COUNCIL - MINUTES

3. There were submitted the Minutes of the meetings of Glenboig Community Council held on 29 March, 26 April and 31 May 2005.

Decided: that the terms of the Minutes be noted.

GOOD NEWS

4. There was submitted a report dated 13 July 2005 by the Director of Community Services detailing a number of community initiative projects and events undertaken and supported by the Department of Community Services within North Lanarkshire.

Decided: that the terms of the report be noted.

POLICE REPORT

5. There was submitted a report (tabled) by Strathclyde Police summarising the crime statistics in the Coatbridge area for the year to date, and providing a comparison with the statistics in the same period in 2004.

The Convener advised that Inspector Hughes had been unable to attend the Committee meeting due to other work commitments.

Decided:

- (1) that the Director of Administration write to Strathclyde Police requesting that a substitute representative attend the meeting should Inspector Hughes be unable to attend, and
- (2) that the crime statistics in the Coatbridge area, for the year to date, be noted.

NORTH LANARKSHIRE LOCAL PLAN - PROGRESS REPORT

6. With reference to paragraph 6 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 16 November 2004 when the progress of the formulation of the North Lanarkshire Local Plan had been noted, there was submitted a report (docketed) dated 31 August 2005 by the Director of Planning and Environment regarding the progress of the North Lanarkshire Local Plan and outlining the next stages in the preparation of the consultative draft plan (1) intimating that the Local Plan was being prepared in accordance with the Council's sustainability objectives and in line with EU Directive 2001/42/EU; (2) advising that (a) a Geographic Information System Project was being developed to access the social infrastructure capacity of communities, in terms of facilities such as open spaces and play areas, local shops and community halls, and (b) the Local Plan would direct development to areas with existing Social Infrastructure Capacity; (3) intimating that (a) over 300 Local Plan submissions had been made seeking housing development on 3,500 hectares of land, which was seven times the amount of housing development land currently identified for development, and (b) the task of a new Local Plan would be to prioritise sites for Housing Development to meet the needs of each local area; (4) indicating that (a) the Local Plan Team will analyse the housing development needs within the Area Committee's jurisdiction, and (b) the options for the area will be submitted to the Area Committee Meeting in January 2006 with the publication of a Consultation Draft North Lanarkshire Local Plan programmed for Spring 2006, and (5) informing that once adopted, the North Lanarkshire Local Plan will be the Council's land use strategy for the area and will co-ordinate and influence investment decisions by private interests and other external agencies.

Decided: that the terms of the report be noted.

SMALL COMMUNITIES PROGRAMME

7. With reference to paragraph 7 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 7 June 2005 when the progress of the projects contained within the Small Communities Programme for the Coatbridge area were noted, there was submitted a report (docketed) dated 2 September 2005 by the Director of Planning and Environment (1) enclosing in Appendix 1 to the report, an update on all the projects contained within the Programme; (2) informing that the budget for 2006/2007 had been increased and that suggestions for future projects would be sought from local community groups; (3) indicating that the upgrading of the area of derelict land adjacent to the bus turning circle in Carnbroe was complete, and (4) intimating that a marketing programme for the Small Communities Fund was being developed in order to raise awareness across North Lanarkshire.

Decided: that the progress of the projects contained within the Small Communities Programme for the Coatbridge area, be noted.

ROADWORKS PROGRAMME 2005/2006

8. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 30 August 2005 by the Director of Planning and Environment regarding roads, footways, street lighting and structural renewal works to be undertaken in the Coatbridge area during 2005/2006 (1) providing details of the revenue budget for the roads and transportation service; (2) enclosing in Appendix 1 to the report a detailed works programme to be undertaken in the financial year 2005/2006 to a value of £1,059,000; (3) indicating that the Council had shown an improvement in the statutory performance indicators in respect of roads, footways, street lighting and structural renewal, and (4) advising that the number of third party claims against the Council due to road defects had halved since the introduction of a carriageway and precinct safety inspection regime in 2001.

Thereon, concerns were raised regarding the road surface works at Bankhead Avenue and Viewfield Road which were outstanding, and had been delayed due to the unwillingness of Scottish Water to contribute to the costs.

Decided:

- (1) that the performance of the programme of works for roads, footpaths, street lighting and structural renewal for 2005/2006 and the improved performance of the roads maintenance service in the Coatbridge area be noted, and
- (2) that the Director of Planning and Environment bring forward a report to the next meeting of the Committee on the outstanding road surface works at Bankhead Avenue and Viewfield Road.

COATBRIDGE TOWN CENTRE ACTION PLAN

9. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 25 August 2005 by the Director of Planning and Environment advising of the progress made on projects contained with the Coatbridge Town Centre Action Plan (1) enclosing in an Appendix to the report an update on the projects contained within the Action Plan and the proposed timescale for completion, and (2) indicating that the third phase of the environmental improvements in the town centre, progress towards the development of the Bank Street Corridor Masterplan and the award of a contract to carry out the strategic traffic assessment of the A89 and surrounding road network was almost complete.

Thereon, concerns were raised on a number of projects within the Coatbridge area including use of the former Coatbridge Baths Site, the upgrading works to the Town Centre, the future plans for Drumpellier Country Park and the use of West End Public Park by outside organisations.

Decided:

- (1) that the progress of the projects contained within the Coatbridge Town Centre Action Plan be noted;
- (2) that the Head of Property Services provide an update report to future meetings of the Committee on the progress on the use of the former Baths Site, Main Street, Coatbridge;
- (3) that the Director of Community Services provide a report to the next meeting of the Committee on the budget and future plans for Drumpellier Country Park, and
- (4) that the Director of Community Services provide a report to the next meeting of the Committee on the use of West End Park, Coatbridge, by outside organisations.

PRESENTATION - MONKLANDS ASSOCIATION FOR VOLUNTARY SERVICES

10. James Keir, Chairperson, Monklands Association for Voluntary Services (MAVS) provided a presentation on the services provided by MAVS in the Coatbridge area and advised:-

- of the history and background to MAVS;
- that the objectives of the Council's for the Voluntary Sector (CVS) were:-
 - understanding the voluntary sector;
 - communicating with the voluntary sector;
 - representing the interests of the local voluntary sector;
 - providing support services;
 - promoting good practice;
- of the types of services provided by MAVS;
- of the member organisations of MAVS;
- of the current funding arrangements for MAVS;
- of the plan for the future delivery of services which included a possible merger of CVS's, and
- of their concerns regarding the possible merger.

Councillor Smith suggested that as a member of the North Lanarkshire Partnership he could arrange a meeting between MAVS and the North Lanarkshire Partnership to discuss the proposals.

Thereon the Convener thanked Mr. Keir for his informative presentation.

Decided:

- (1) that the Convener would refer the MAVS concerns to the Council's representative on the North Lanarkshire Partnership, and
- (2) that the terms of the presentation be noted.