



Girvan and District Community Council Minutes
Tuesday the 04th of June 2024, 06.30 pm, Carrick
Buildings, Girvan.



(The meeting started at 18: 32)

Present: Catherine Maguire, Colin Davidson, Stephen Galloway, David Girvan, Karen McCartney, Jane Willis, John McCreath, John Young, Ken Johnstone, Rhona Walker (Chair), Sconaid Clark, Wilma Dunlop.

In Attendance: Tanina Stublely (AYE Girvan); Lucy O'Donnell (Girvan Youth Trust); Pauline Bradley, Ainsley McCrindle, Cllr Clark, Cllr Lamont (South Ayrshire Council); David Bone - secretariat.

Apologies: PC Paul McKinlay and PC Andrew Thorpe (Police Scotland).

Welcome from the Chair

Rhona welcomed everyone to the meeting and reminded all those present to speak through the Chair.

Declarations

Of Interest:

None.

Guest Speaker - AYE (Accessibility Yields Empowerment) Girvan, Tamina Stublely

Tamina stated that the main aim of AYE Girvan is to create a community where everyone has access to resources, regardless of economic circumstances. She added that they are not a standalone service and work in conjunction with other organisations including Glendoune, Z1 and the Maybole Food Pantry. She added that all the AYE Trustees have extensive experience in community work, academia and project management. Their initiatives include hygiene provision, childcare, and children's rights workshops, all of which are data-driven. She added that they are also hoping to offer before and after-school care based on needs, which would hopefully break down barriers and would be based on a "pay what you can" model.

David G asked if this ties into the Scottish Government's free childcare initiative. Tamina responded that they are exploring childcare provision separate from this. Karen mentioned, in her professional role, that there are various funds available to help individuals with childcare provision. She added that it is often the lack of capacity, rather than inability to pay that is the main issue.

Tamina emphasised children's human rights, stating that all AYE Girvan projects and practices are based on the principle that children's voices must be heard and that they must be involved in making policies that impact them.

Tamina mentioned that the main income sources for AYE Girvan are "pay what you can" childcare, a planned baby/child-focused charity shop, and the children's human rights CPD training.

She added that they have set up a bank account, registered with OSCR, and are looking to register with the Care Inspectorate by November 2024. They are also identifying gaps in service provision not yet found in the data that is driven by anecdotal evidence.

She then discussed the need to manage local expectations within the community and how letters of support from community groups were very useful to funders.

John Y asked about transport issues for young families and if AYE Girvan could assist with this. Tanina replied that there are other third-sector organisations that are better placed to deal with this and that they would look to partner with these groups, though this is not a core priority for AYE Girvan themselves.

Stephen inquired about childcare facilities. Tamina said that this is an issue identified in the child poverty strategy. Karen noted that childcare provision has diminished over the last decade. Catherine asked if there was any way to reduce 'red tape'. Ainslie said that there are numerous insurance requirements and childcare costs that are often prohibitive. Karen concurred with this.

Tanina said that AYE Girvan is moving towards a not-for-profit model and that a private childcare company may not be viable.

Finally, Tanina said that AYE Girvan also consider the needs of outlying villages.

Pauline Bradley - South Ayrshire Council

Pauline informed the community about the following projects in the town:

Ainslie Park toilets

Currently delayed and in worse condition than expected due to asbestos in the building. Work will continue on-site until August 2024. Regarding the paddle gates, David G asked about charging for the disabled toilets. Pauline replied that access for this would be provided with a RADAR key. Cllr Clark mentioned that the toilets were in danger of going into private ownership.

Bynehill Cemetary

A deer-proof fence with decorative elements and new gates will be installed. A contractor has been appointed for this project. Rhona expressed concern that the fence might not be high enough to deter the deer and that the design had spikes on the top which the deer could become impaled upon. Pauline said she would follow up on this matter and added that it has been designed as a deer-proof fence. Community councillors said that deer can leap up to 8ft and the fence was only 6ft.

Girvan Adventure Golf

The design for the course is in its very early stages, with the area covering 26x23 meters. The theme will revolve around local myths, legends and geographical features, such as the lighthouse and Ailsa Craig. Cllr Clark mentioned that additional suggestions are welcome for this. The course will be located towards the shore side of the existing putting green. Jane asked if the kids' area would be on the grass, and Pauline confirmed that it would be. Catherine inquired if a model and site plan could be produced for the public. Pauline said that one would be provided at community events. John Y asked if the ground would be levelled. Pauline responded that it would likely be levelled in parts. Rhona asked if the area would be fenced in. Cllr Clark said it would be managed by GYT. Pauline added that it would be fenced and there would be a charge to play on the course. Rhona then asked where the funds for this would go, and Cllr Clark explained that GYT would be paid to operate it and the funds would go to them. John Y inquired if the park would be open for a longer season than normal. Lucy said that this would be negotiated closer to the opening date. Colin asked about securing the area, which Lucy said would also be discussed closer to the time. The consensus was that this project would be good for the community.

3G Pitch/playpark

The facility is currently in use. Stephen mentioned that 2,000 children have used the park in the last 13 days. Rhona asked if it was officially open. Cllr Clark stated that it would probably be officially opened at some point in July 2024. Rhona asked where the funds go for this project and would any of the funds go into the Common Good fund. Cllr Clark explained that Girvan has no common good finance, and maintenance is done by SAC. He mentioned that he would look into this further. Karen expressed that it is a fantastic facility for Girvan. David G asked when the remaining landscaping will be completed. Pauline said that the playground will be finished in two weeks, along with the other landscaping. Rhona stressed the importance of workmen properly securing the site, as some people have been using it despite the area being fenced off. Stephen requested that a few dog signs be put up.

Girvan Library

Work has started on-site and will take 16-18 weeks to complete. The housing department is being moved up to the first floor, and the building will be fully accessible. There will be an events space in the rear car park that can be used when required. Rhona pointed out that the crest on the plans is actually the one for the community council rather than Girvan itself. David G expressed that he was not keen on this idea. Catherine suggested that it could be useful as a space for a large marquee. Jane inquired about the storage on the plans, to which Pauline explained that it was already existing.

Mckechnie Institute

There will be a lift installed to the first floor of the building, which was formerly the location of a storeroom. Pauline said that a contractor has been appointed. Cllr Clark mentioned that the old Library room is also being refurbished. Ken inquired if people with walkers could use the lift. Pauline replied that it would be accessible to all. John Mc asked if the rooms upstairs would be reutilised as meeting rooms and inquired about the opening hours. John Y asked if the pop-up shop would still be included. Cllr Clark confirmed that it would be.

Palace Park (Location of the Former Bingo Hall)

A designer has been appointed for the redevelopment of this space and is working on preliminary plans. Stephen asked if there would be cameras in the area. Pauline confirmed that there would be. Cllr Lamont mentioned that the area will be gated and reiterated that it is not a thoroughfare. Karen asked about the timescale. Pauline said that it is currently in the feasibility stage. John Mc asked about the name. Pauline explained that "Palace Park" is just a placeholder name and that the funder required a provisional name for the project. Cllr Clark said that it was a reference to the Palace Cinema that was formally on the location.

Stumpy Corner

Pauline said that the workers are currently waiting on materials, but the project is on schedule. Catherine asked about the area at the back of Stumpy. David G explained that the raised flower bed would be removed, creating more walkable space in the area.

Other issues

Discussion over the number of event spaces in the Town.

Pauline mentioned that there would be a public consultation on the 18th of June 2024 from 12-8 pm at the Catholic Hall. David G expressed concern about the limited time for this and suggested that a weekend might be better. Lucy asked if the schools would be invited. Pauline confirmed that all were welcome.

[Pauline left the meeting at 20:00]

Police report

Sent via email. No issues at the meeting.

Minutes of the May 2024 Meeting

Proposed for accuracy by Ken and seconded by Colin.

Matters Arising

John said that he had picked up a leaflet regarding garden waste and that it did not mention the bags. Cllr Clark said that even though these were not mentioned, they would be included in the brown bin permit scheme.

Rhona said that Kevin Braidwood would be invited to the September meeting as Fiona Ross is coming to the July meeting.

Public Participation

Tanina mentioned dog dirt in the town. Cllr Clark responded that SAC is aware of this issue and that it is not unique to Girvan.

Girvan Youth Trust (GYT)

The summer season has started with Music on the Prom kicking off this weekend. Plans are also underway for the September weekend. The boating pond will be open this weekend, with seven new employees in place and a new supervisor will be starting on Monday. Friday night football has been moved to the new 3G pitch. A busload of people will be attending the Scotland vs. Finland match on Friday. The Summer Cup is underway, and thanks were extended to Girvan Attractions for the new cup. The school holiday programme has been finalised, featuring pop-up events most weekends.

Related to the Music on the Prom, Jane inquired about the electricity point along the Promenade, and Cllr Clark explained that it would not be installed until the end of the season due to issues with Scottish Power. John Y asked about the route of the cable and hoped it would not cause disruption to the seating.

Matters arising from any group meeting at the moment:

John Mc mentioned that the lectern at the bandstand had been damaged, but the police had been notified.

Action Point Log

Bingo Hall site - updated.

Allotments - Cllr Clark said no suitable allotment ground had been found but it is still active.

Matters arising from:

Treasurers' Report

No issues.

Planning applications

No issues.

Licensing applications

Nothing to report.

Correspondence

Flooding at Victory Park. Related to this, Stephen said operatives only cleared one of the drains.

Fire brigade public consultation.

Biosphere signs.

TQZ gym.

Ayr Hospital.

Update from local councillors

Cllr Clark

Thanked Girvan and District Attractions for their organisation of the Lowland Gathering at the weekend. He and Cllr Lamont attended a meeting regarding issues with the Scottish Ambulance Service along with several national politicians but did not feel it was useful. There was a general discussion about poor ambulance provision in the area. Colin mentioned that all the emergency services in the area are down to a bare minimum in staffing and resources.

Cllr Lamont

Met with senior officers from building control about the buddleia growing out of the buildings in Dalrymple Street. In relation to this, David G asked about the wildflowers that were planted two years ago and that while he thought they were a good addition to the town, the areas where they were previously planted are unkempt now. Cllr Clark stated that the ones at Ainslie Park have been replanted and that he would look into the status of the other locations.

A.O.C.B.

Jane mentioned that the benches on Knockcushan Street are not fit for people to sit on due to peeling paint. Cllr Lamont said he would look into this. John Mc said the benches at the Promenade were taken away for refurbishment.

Regarding the drains on Dalrymple Street, Cllr Clark said this has been reported but it is AMEY's responsibility to deal with this. David G expressed his support for Cllr Clark on this issue and said that AMEY can be difficult to deal with. Related to this, Catherine asked if AMEY had a service agreement or a statutory time to respond. The community council decided to make a formal complaint regarding these endemic issues. Cllr Clark will send Vincent's email address to Rhona.

Jane W said that her house number did not exist in the system when she tried to buy a permit for her brown bin.

Rhona announced that David G would be taking over as Treasurer and asked if there were any objections, there were no objections. Online banking has now been put in place before the Bank closes.

[DB left the meeting at 20:40 and returned at 20:43]

While DB was absent a vote was taken by the members to increase his payment for secretariat services. This was passed unanimously.

John Y said that sub-contractors employed by Scottish Water are leaving cable ties on the road after they have completed their work. Cllr Clark said he would address this issue.

Ainslie mentioned that she would be on holiday for the next meeting and asked if the community council would like another link officer to attend. Ainslie also said that she had not received the meeting documentation. David B said that he would look into this.

Colin inquired about the soil from the 3G pitch that had been dumped at the back road. Cllr Clark said that it may be taken away at some point and that it is on SAC land. Stephen mentioned that he was informed it could be used for agricultural purposes.

(The meeting ended at 20:53)

Next meeting - Tuesday the 02nd of July 2024 at 06:30 pm