

RURAL PANEL.

Minutes of meeting in Pinwherry Community Centre, Pinwherry
on 6th September 2012 at 7.00 p.m.

Present: Councillors Alec Clark (Chair), Andy Campbell, Ann Galbraith, William J. Grant and Alec Oattes.

Apology: Councillor Helen Moonie.

Attending: M. Newall, Head of Planning and Enterprise; M. Hastings, Enterprise Manager; K. Braidwood, Roads Manager; L. Fyfe, Community Safety Manager; M. McLarty, Senior Accountant; A. Blair, Enterprise Officer; and A. Gibson, Committee Services Officer.

1. Introductory Remarks.

The Chair welcomed those present to this Panel meeting.

2. Presentation regarding the Galloway and Southern Ayrshire Biosphere.

Ed Forrest, Biosphere Project Officer gave a presentation with regard to the Galloway and Southern Ayrshire Biosphere.

Decided: following a number of questions from Panel Members and the public present, to thank him for his presentation.

3. Presentation from Pinwherry and Pinmore Community Council.

Mr. P. Walker, Pinwherry and Pinmore Community Council gave a presentation with regard to the condition of the roads in and around Pinwherry.

Decided:

- (1) to thank him for his presentation; and
- (2) to note that further questions from the Community Council would be passed to the Council's Roads Manager for his response.

Declaration of Interest.

Councillors Campbell and Galbraith declared an interest in the following item of business on the agenda, as they were members of the Regulatory Panel and left the meeting during consideration thereof.

4. Questions which had previously been raised.

There was submitted an e-mail (issued) dated 17th August 2012 from Pinwherry and Pinmore Community Council as follows:-

- (1) "Pinwherry and Pinmore Community Council have been asked by the residents they represent to object to any further industrial wind turbines in South Carrick, due to the cumulative impact and detrimental effect on the economy, when great efforts are being made to promote tourism in South Ayrshire. In view of this we ask for a moratorium on turbine applications, as South Carrick has done more than its fair share to contribute to the government's targets on renewable energy";
- (2) "the impact of windfarm traffic and the associated increase in timber traffic has left local road in dire condition, with verges and drainage destroyed and increased potholes and surface defects. The verge damage is now resulting in subsidence and vehicles have slipped off the road edge down embankments leaving highly dangerous sections of road on blind bends. The paltry sum of £100,000 received from the developers of Mark Hill and Arecleoch to reinstate local roads after the wind farms were built is unlikely to be sufficient to meet the demand. Our Community Council would also like to be reassured that the sum received has been allocated as an addition to the annual budget for our local roads and not merely added to the overall budget"; and
- (3) "in future we would like to suggest that South Ayrshire Council's Planning and Legal Sections ensure windfarm developers pay an appropriate bond on approval of any development. This bond would pay for road reinstatement after construction and the removal of turbines and their concrete foundations and access tracks at the end of their 20 year life."

In respect of the above questions, the Head of Planning and Enterprise responded as follows:-

- (a) in relation to (1) above, that South Ayrshire Council as Planning Authority, was required to consider planning applications as submitted in accordance with the South Ayrshire Local Plan, supplementary guidance and planning legislation and that each planning application was considered on its own merits;
- (b) in relation to (2) above,
 - (i) that from Scottish Power renewable's contribution of £100,739.45 in April 2012, there remained approximately £32,000 to be allocated to repairs for this year;
 - (ii) that this Council's match funding would be spread equally over this financial year and the next one; and
 - (iii) that plans were available that displayed where road improvements had been made so far and where future improvements were planned to take place; and

- (c) in relation to (3) above,
- (i) under Planning legislation, Section 75 Legal Agreements were drawn up between developers and the Council when these were considered necessary and appropriate; and
 - (ii) that Section 75 Legal Agreements were legally binding and could cover a range of community related benefits and improvements.

Decided: to note the above responses as detailed at (a) to (c) above.

At this point, Councillors Campbell and Galbraith rejoined the meeting.

B U S I N E S S

5. Rural Communities Fund – Revenue Budgetary Control 2012/13 – Position Statement at 31st July 2012.

There was submitted a joint report (issued) of 23rd August 2012 by the Executive Director – Development and Environment and the Executive Director – Corporate Services advising of the expenditure against its profiled budgets for the period to 31st July 2012 (Period 4).

Decided: to note the contents of the report.

6. Applications for Financial Support.

There was submitted a report (issued) of 20th August 2012 by the Executive and Executive Director – Development and Environment advising that rural grant applications had been submitted as undernoted.

Decided: to award grant as follows:-

<u>Organisation</u>	<u>Summary of Application</u>	<u>Panel Decision</u>
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Declaration of Interest.

Councillor Oattes declared an interest in the following grant application as he was a member of SAYLSA and withdrew from the meeting during consideration of only that application:-

The Stranraer to Ayr Railway Line (SAYLSA)	To seek funding towards the development of a funding and development strategy and action plan.	Approve award of £4,250, subject to all other funding being in place;
McCandlish Hall – Straiton Club	To seek funding towards the cost of refurbishing the McCandlish Hall.	Approve award of £3,600;

Tarbolton Tenants' and Residents' Association	To seek funding towards the cost of a historical interpretation signage project for Tarbolton.	Approve award of £3,000;
Girvan Youth Trust	To seek funding towards the cost of a youth apprentice position for a young person aged 16-18 for a period of one year for its Hand in Hand project.	Approve award of £4,500, subject to all other funding being in place, a transparent recruitment process being followed and that the validity of this award being confirmed from the appropriate officer as it was for the funding of a post; and
Carrick Rural Arts Group (CRAG)	To seek funding towards the cost of funding the community workshops element of the Carrick Festival of Light.	Approve award of £3,850.

7. **Rural Scotland in Focus 2012.**

There was submitted a report (issued) of 23rd August 2012 by the Executive Director – Development and Environment detailing the findings and policy implications of the “Rural Scotland in Focus 2012” report published by the Rural Policy Centre, Scottish Agricultural College.

Decided: to agree to take cognisance of the findings of the “Rural Scotland in Focus 2012” report to inform their contribution to the development of Council and national strategy and policy for rural South Ayrshire.

The meeting ended at 8.50 p.m.

At the conclusion of the meeting, there followed an informal question and answer session with the members of the public present.