

PUBLIC PROCESSES PANEL.

Minutes of meeting in County Buildings, Wellington Square, Ayr,
on 10th December 2014 at 10.00 a.m.

Present: Councillors Brian McGinley (Chair), Alec Clark, Peter Convery, Ian Douglas, Hugh Hunter, Helen Moonie and Alec Oattes.

Attending: V. Andrews, Executive Director – Resources, Governance and Organisation, L. Bloomer, Executive Director – Economy, Neighbourhood and Environment; R. Riddiough, Head of Legal and Democratic Services; K. Leinster, Head of Community Care and Housing; M. Baker, Head of Policy and Performance; C. Monaghan, Head of Communities; M. Newall, Head of Neighbourhood Services; T. Pettigrew, Grounds and Street Services Co-ordinator; C. McGarva, Community Engagement Officer; and A. Gerrish, Committee Services Officer.

Also Attending: Councillors Bill Grant (Portfolio holder) and S. Turner, Head of Ayrshire Roads Alliance.

1. Declarations of Interest.

Councillor Hunter declared an interest in the Rosemount Gardens petition as he resided in that area.

2. Public Petitions.

The Executive Director – Resources, Governance and Organisation

- (1) confirmed that the procedures for public petitions were being further developed; and
- (2) summarised the petitions protocol to be followed in hearing petitions as approved by the Council on 19th August 2014.

The Panel

Decided: to note that the procedures were still to be finalised.

3. Variation in order of business.

In terms of Council Standing Order No. 13.2, the Panel agreed to vary the order of business as hereinafter minuted.

4. Public Petitions.

(1) Streets Ahead Campaign

There was submitted a petition containing over 1500 signatures, in the following terms, namely:-

“We the undersigned want South Ayrshire Council to:

- Open Ayr High Street to all traffic 24 hours a day; and
- Introduce free Ayr town centre parking for the first hour”.

Under the provisions of paragraph 31 of the Council’s Standing Orders for meetings, the Chair then invited Mr Sam Durkin to come forward to present the case to the meeting.

Mr Durkin, the lead petitioner welcomed the opportunity to attend this Panel to speak on behalf of the petition and highlighted

- (1) that Ayr High Street over a number of years had changed due to various circumstances including the recession, internet shopping, free parking at Silverburn and that shoppers demanded convenience, and
- (2) that residents felt that they were not being listened to and that the Panel should consider the experts on their own doorstep.

The Chair invited the Portfolio Holder (Councillor Grant) to come forward and speak to the petition.

The Chair then invited the Head of Ayrshire Roads Alliance and the Executive Director – Economy, Neighbourhood and Environment to come forward and present the report (issued) ([link attached](#)) of 28th November 2014 to the meeting to provide background information in response to the petition, highlighting

- (a) that the Leadership Panel approved proposals on 4th November 2014 seeking to establish whether the traffic system in the town could be altered and, with increased accessibility could further support trading and by undertaking this project, the Council could decide on alternative traffic management options on an informed basis, balancing different interests and views and that the modelling work underway would allow the Council to assess this option from the point of view of traffic management and stakeholder views and to make a decision on an informed basis;
- (b) that a range of alternative parking proposals within Ayr town centre would be considered as part of the modelling work to be taken forward by the Consultant and that potential changes to tariffs and the length of parking time available would be examined; and
- (c) that a report would be submitted to the Leadership Panel on 17th February 2015 with proposals for consideration.

The Head of Ayrshire Roads Alliance was asked questions by Members of the Panel in relation to the issues raised and the Chair then gave Mr. Durkin the opportunity to sum up.

The Chair, on behalf of the Panel, thanked the Mr. Durkin of the Streets Ahead Campaign and the Portfolio holder for their contributions.

Clarification was sought by Panel Members in relation to the contents of the report being submitted to the Leadership Panel on 17th February 2015.

The Panel

Decided: to await the outcome of the report being submitted to the meeting of Leadership Panel on 17th February 2015.

(2) Rosemount Gardens, Prestwick.

The Panel decided that as there was no person(s) present to speak on behalf of the petition for Rosemount Gardens, Prestwick, that the petition should be carried forward to the next meeting of the Panel and that a letter should be sent to the lead petitioner explaining that attendance at that meeting is essential, otherwise the petition will fall and will not be considered further.

5. Call-ins from Leadership Panel.

The Panel noted that there had been no call-ins from the Leadership Panel meeting which had taken place on 2nd December 2014.

6. Minutes of previous meeting of 7th October 2014.

The Minutes of the Public Processes Panel of 7th October 2014 (issued) ([link attached](#)) were submitted and approved.

7. Action Log and Work Programme.

There was submitted and noted the Action Log and Work Programme (issued) ([link attached](#)) for a guide for the Panel.

8. Day Care Services in Maybole – Follow Up to Petition.

Reference was made to the previous Minutes of 7th October 2014 (Page 1, paragraph 4) when it had been decided to request the Head of Community Health and Care Services to undertake further enquiries, in particular in relation to transportation issues, proposals on future consultation methods with the Community, the number of service users who were not participating in the current provision, and their reasons for this, and the facilities available in Maybole which could be used for social and community care related activities, and report back to this meeting of the Panel.

There was submitted a report of 26th November 2014 (issued) ([link attached](#)) by the Head of Community Health and Care Services detailing the information requested.

Concerns were raised by Panel Members in relation to the information of the above report not being communicated to the Petitioners and the Head of Communities informed that it would be done through normal community engagement and the Panel

Decided:

- (1) to note the report; and
- (2) to request the Head of Legal and Democratic Services to write to the Lead petitioner informing him of the outcome.

9. Public Record (Scotland) Act 2011 – Progress Towards Completing Records Management Plan.

There was submitted a report of 1st December 2014 (issued) ([link attached](#)) by the Head of Legal and Democratic Services presenting an initial report on steps this Council must take in relation to the Public Records (Scotland) Act 2011.

The Panel

Decided: to request the Head of Legal and Democratic Services to submit a further report to a future meeting of this Panel which should include a work plan and dates for achievement of the tasks specified within it, in order to facilitate future scrutiny.

10. Complaints – Scrutiny Update to 30th September 2014.

There was submitted a report (issued) ([link attached](#)) of 1st December 2014 by the Head of Legal and Democratic Services presenting performance in relation to complaints to facilitate appropriate scrutiny.

The Chair welcomed the idea of complaints being scrutinised and commented that much more detailed information would be required to find out where potential problems were.

The Panel

Decided:

- (1) to note the terms of the report; and
- (2) to request a further report on the Council's complaints performance during 2014/15 be submitted to a future meeting of this Panel no later than June 2015.

11. Update on Community Consultation and Engagement.

Reference was made to the previous Minutes of 7th October 2014 (Page 4, paragraph 8) when it had been decided

- (1) to agree that Community Engagement would be a standing item for the Agenda for this Panel; and
- (2) to note that progress reports from the Strategy Action Plan would be submitted on a six monthly basis to this Panel, and

there was submitted a report (issued) ([link attached](#)) of 28th November 2014 by the Head of Communities updating the Panel on the Council's community consultation and engagement work.

Members expressed a desire for this area to be driven with real momentum and for progress to be sustained. The Chair commented on the need to be realistic on what could be achieved over the short to long term and noted that good practice required to be articulated and an understanding secured of the complexity of good Community Engagement.

The Panel

Decided: to request the Head of Communities to submit a full update to this Panel every two months.

The meeting ended at 12.25 p.m.