

STEWARTFIELD COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Correspondence Received April/May 2009

1. South Lanarkshire Community Council Meetings

The following committee meetings were held on March/April 2009.

- Tuesday 28 April Clydesdale Area Committee
- Tuesday 28 April 2009 Cambuslang and Rutherglen Area Committee
- Tuesday 28 April 2009 Planning Committee
- Wednesday 29 April 2009, Licensing Committee
- Wednesday 29 April 2009, Hamilton Area Committee
- Wednesday 29 April 2009 East Kilbride Area Committee

2. Association of Scottish Community Councils

The ASCC is delighted to announce the appointment of Dr Nicola Welsh as its National Development Officer.

Dr Welsh's remit will be wide and varied, including responsibility for the CC Empowerment Pilots Underway, engagement with community councils all over Scotland. Driving continued improvement in the work of the association.

She comes to the association with a wealth of experience in the public sector. Dr Welsh will soon begin work on developing a series of engagement and training events for community councils.

You can contact the NDO through the ASCC office.

3. School Closure (Scotland) Bill

The ASCC has been asked to provide oral evidence to the Scottish Parliament Education Committee on the above Bill.

Following ASCC policy, we will only provide input on behalf of CCs if we have first canvassed our CCs for their views and experience.

Please look at this request, and pass it to your local colleagues.

THE BILL

The main purpose of the Bill is to strengthen the consultation process that local authorities undertake before closing a school. This would include a specific role for HMIE in the consultation process. The Bill also sets out specific factors that local authorities would take into account when seeking to close a rural school. Finally, the Bill would replace the current system, under which the permission of Scottish Ministers is needed for certain closures, with a power for ministers to 'call-in' a school closure decision in certain circumstances.

At Stage 1 of the bill process, the Committee is concerned with the general principles of the Bill. The Committee is therefore interested to hear the views of individuals and organisations with an interest in, or personal experience of, local authority consultation on school closures (including schools in rural areas) and other administrative decisions as specified in the Bill. Any examples of good or bad practice would be particularly welcome.

In addition to commenting on the general principles of the Bill, it would be helpful to the committee if interested parties would also consider the following questions:

- How helpful do you find the policy memorandum and financial memorandum accompanying the Bill?
- Do you have any comments on the consultation the Scottish Government carried out prior to the introduction of the Bill?

You can view the Bill on the Parliament website.

Please send us your thoughts on the proposals in this Bill.

Warm regards

Vincent Waters

National Secretary

Association of Scottish Community Councils
0845 644 5153

4. St Kenneth's Primary School

We have received the planning application consultation for the demolition of existing school and erection of the school/nursery with associated car parking, infrastructure, landscaping and synthetic sports pitch.

Details have already been forwarded to members of the SCC as the response date was the 30 April 2009.

Copy of the application will be available to view at the meeting.

5. Clydesdale Befriending Group

We have received an invitation for any member of the SCC to attend the Annual General Meeting of the above group. As the meeting was on the 7th May 2009, members of the SCC have been contacted directly.

6. Second Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy 2009-2013

Cllr Watson has kindly forwarded a 4 page executive summary (draft) for the above strategy; this has been forwarded to the members of the SCC who can be contacted by E-Mail, a copy of the executive summary will be available to view at the SCC meeting. For further information contact Linda Murray Tel 01698 455311 or Email: Linda.g.cunningham@southlanarkshire.gov.uk.

Tony Fitzpatrick Secretary to the Stewartfield Community Council
Telephone 01355 220392 or e-mail fitzpaek@aol.com.

