

WHAT DOES THE ASCC DO?

The main aim is to provide and disseminate information to and between Community Councils.

Act as a co-ordinating body for the collection and dissemination for information relative to Community Councils in connection with the Scottish Executive, Scottish Parliament and other national institutions.

Provide speakers for meetings, such as the Scottish Parliament committees on Local Government, Rural Development, Fishing, Telecommunications.

Speakers to other events and conferences such as Liquor Licensing and Planning.

Attendance on other committees where community views and participation are deemed necessary – these currently include Third Party Right of Appeal, Fly Tipping, Community Learning and Development, Rural Planning and Design Issues, (mostly at the request of the Scottish Executive or National Agencies).

Participate on a Grants Panel distributing £1.5m of funding for environmental projects to community led bodies, through the Aggregates Levy Fund – other panel members include representatives from the Scottish Executive, SNH, SEPA, Environmental LINK, COSLA and Aggregates Industry.

Respond to consultations either directly or through collecting views from Community Councils.

Providing information on such consultations to Community Councils that they may respond themselves.

Attending national events to provide Community Council views, and to gather other views from those attending.

Maintain a database of Community Council contacts and respond to requests from a diversity of sources – Water, Army, SEPA, SNH, SE, Scottish Parliament, Private firms such as Leisure and Play suppliers etc.

Provide a telephone help-line and assistance to cover the needs of Community Councils, Scottish Executive, Scottish Parliament, Individuals, MSPs, MPs, MEPs. Media, researchers etc.

This has included informal legal advice on defamation, data protection, insurance, accountancy, protocol for Community Councillors, Schemes for Community Councils, Common Good Funds etc.

Provide information on funding sources for projects such as Youth Clubs, environment, recycling etc and assist in identifying similar type projects.

Maintains a contact list for Local Authority officials dealing with Community Councils and regularly can use this to identify or assist in promoting answers to common, and not so common, problems.

Issues a newsletter, approx. on a quarterly basis, to provide a Forum for Community Councils and others.

Has two web sites, (but requires more input to enable better use of these).

Provides economical insurance cover for over 15% of Scotland's Community Councils.

Promotes the Calor Community of the Year Awards – the only national Awards for Community Councils (we would wish to see more applications from Fife this year – deadline is 10 September).

These Awards promote Community Councils by providing a means for advertising what they can and what they could do – Calor estimate that the advertising value each year exceeds £250,000.

Has previously provided training sessions/meetings for Community Councils.

Held events in various parts of Scotland to promote opportunities for Community Councils and to receive feedback on what they wish the ASCC to do or respond with when attending some of the national events as requested by the Scottish Executive and others.

Has attempted to be representative, and to represent Community Councils where necessary.

If we are unable to help, we usually know someone who can.

Will do what its members request of it, within reason and of resources available.

Dm/August 2003.