EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES COMMITTEE

AGENDA

1st Meeting, 2013 (Session 4)

Thursday 10 January 2013

The Committee will meet at 9.30 am in Committee Room 4.

1. **Where Gypsy/Travellers live:** The Committee will take evidence from—

   Christopher Ahern, Chairman, North Muirton Community Council;

   James Brownhill, Vice Chairman, Nigg Community Council;

   Sheila Chambers, Vice Chairman, Cockenzie and Port Seton Community Council;

   Kenneth Johnstone, Chairman, Girvan Community Council;

   Elizabeth Rhodick, Vice Convener, Lochgilphead Community Council.

Douglas Thornton
Clerk to the Equal Opportunities Committee
Room TG.01
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
Tel: 0131 348 5216
Email: Douglas.Thornton@scottish.parliament.uk
The papers for this meeting are as follows—

**Agenda item 1**

PRIVATE PAPER

Submission from Lochgilphead Community Council

EO/S4/13/1/1 (P)

EO/S4/13/1/2
SUBMISSION FROM LOCHGILPHEAD COMMUNITY COUNCIL

In this day and age surely it is important that people, regardless of ethnic minority, have the right to choose where they live, within reason.

Local Authorities are obliged to provide "Gypsy/Traveller" sites in their areas, but this can be open to abuse, with the sites being vandalised and left in unhygienic conditions.

"Gypsy/Travellers" must respect what is provided for them as must the local communities and not mistreat the facilities on site.

There is still a stigma attached to "Gypsy/Travellers" although this is lessening and local communities should wish to live in harmony with all "incomers" regardless of cultural background.

The older generation of "Gypsy/Travellers" have a respectful attitude whereas the younger generation seem to have a 'chip' on their shoulder and use the "Gypsy/Traveller" card to get what they wish and have no respect for themselves or others around them.

Respect is a two way street and if all people treat each other with respect then respect will be returned.

Local Authorities are also required to show the same respect to all residents regardless of race or creed.

Opinions and assumptions regarding "Gypsy/Traveller" must change to allow for a better Scotland and its people.

Betty Rhodick
Vice Convener
Lochgilphead Community Council
7 January 2013