

NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL

REPORT

To: NORTH AREA COMMITTEE		Subject: CUMBERNAULD COMMUNITY FORUM
From: DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES		
Date: 23 DECEMBER 2004	Ref: BP/MF	

1. **PURPOSE**

The purpose of this report is to submit the minutes of the Cumbernauld Community Forum meetings to the Area Committee. The minute of 26 October and 23 November 2004 are attached as Appendix 1 to this report.

2. **RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Area Committee is requested to note the minutes of the meeting held by the Cumbernauld Community Forum.



**Cumbernauld Community Forum
Meeting held on Tuesday 26 October 2004**

In Attendance:	Ian Thom	
	Christine McNeil	Cumbernauld Women's Watershed Group
	Stewart McCrae	Cumbernauld YMCA/YWCA
	Gordon Wright	Westerwood CC
	Alan J Sneddon	JAG
	S Mitchell	JAG
	Gordon S Murray	NLC Elected Member
	Angi Inch	
	Robert Towart	CL&D NLC
	Tom Reilly	CACE
	Jim Watson	NLC Planning & Environment
	Alice Homer	Carbrain & Hillcrest Community Council
	Mae Hardy	Kenilworth Patient Partner Group
	Yvonne McDermott	Kenilworth Patient Partner Group
	John McCann	Carrickstone Community Council
	Steve Keegan	Association of CCCs
	Ramsay Kyle	Balloch/Eastfield CC
	Hugh Gough	Carbrain Learning Centre Trust
	Jim Clark	CACE
	Bob Chadha	NLC Elected Member
Apologies:	Margaret Robertson	Foyer Project
	Maureen Hendry	NLN CVS
	Billy Lees	Westfield CC
	Bill Taylor	Cumbernauld Theatre

2. Chair Opening Remarks

- 2.1 Tom Reilly welcomed everyone to the meeting. He stated that he would like the Forum to be more pro-active and suggested that forming sub-groups as in the members brought together to discuss the bus tour could be an example for future Forum development.
- 2.2 Tom welcomed the new office bearers and asked to have all the existing accounts transferred to enable Hugh Gough to undertake the treasurer role.

3. Minutes of Previous Meeting

Minutes adopted. Proposed by Ramsey Kyle and seconded by Alice Homer.

4. Matters Arising

Rose Bowie introduced Ian Thom who will now be the second representative of Carbrain Tenants Association.

5. Bus Tour

- 5.1. Tom thanked all of the members that were involved in developing the programme for both days of the tour, the group representatives for providing pre-tour information and groups for their contribution to either tour.

Tom introduced Jim Watson the Lead Officer for the Area Committee and invited him to give feedback on the tours.

- 5.2. Jim Watson thanked the groups for their contribution to the success of the tours. He circulated copies of the pre-tour information papers that had been altered to include information that had

arisen during the tours. He asked groups to review the amended papers, check them for accuracy, make any changes and return them to him. He will pass the information regarding the issues highlighted in each area to the appropriate Council Department. He will update the Forum and the Area Committee on a regular basis regarding progress on the issues identified on the tours.

Robert Towart Link Worker to the Forum will circulate all of the pre-tour papers to ensure that all the groups that contributed can make appropriate alterations. Groups were asked to return these papers to Robert who will forward them to Jim Watson.

5.3. Councillor Chadha thanked Jim for his work regarding the tours.

5.4. Tom asked for questions from the floor.

5.5. Rose Bowie stated that the tours had been good but could have involved other Departments; Health Boards etc.

Ian Thom informed the meeting that a clean up had taken place in Carbrain and wondered if that had to do with the tour.

Stewart McCrae asked if the information gained through the tour would inform the Community Plan.

Jim Watson verified this and said that it is one of several methods including the engagement of consultants to assist the process.

Stephen Keegan indicated that he had been disappointed at the lack of any introductions during the tours. He was unclear which Departments were represented, which officers were in attendance and what their job titles were.

Jim Watson conceded this point but explained that it was due mainly to time constraints. He said that each Department that makes up the Area Team was represented.

Stephen emphasised the need for action as communities could become disillusioned if no progress resulted from the tours. He suggested that progress should be seen in short, medium and long term with short-term issues being addressed quickly to give communities faith in the process.

Jim Watson agreed.

6. Roads

6.1. Tom asked Jim Watson to give an input regarding road work currently under-way in Cumbernauld – Glasgow Road/ Central Way, Condorrat Ring Road and Smithstone Road. Jim Watson explained that funds were available to complete essential work. The decision had to be made to complete the work now or have it delayed by anything up to two years which could incur greater costs in the long term. The work represents a major investment in Cumbernauld.

He further explained that the traffic in Cumbernauld is generally regarded as the most free flowing in North Lanarkshire. This factor and the need to complete all of the work before winter sets in makes the situation appear much worse.

6.2 Tom asked for questions from the floor.

Q. Is Smithstone Road closed due to developers and if so are developers charged by the Council?

A. The road is closed at the request of developers and the Council is considering charges being brought in the future.

Q. Would charging developers not encourage them to complete work more quickly?

A. Agreed.

Q. A number of questions were raised concerning footpaths e.g. number of broken and muddy footpaths causing an accident hazard.

A. Footpaths are included in the overall budget. Council is putting a significant investment into this problem but recognise that there is a backlog due to under investment in previous years.

A specific question was asked regarding the resurfacing of a play area.

A note of the problem was taken and it will be looked into.

7. Engagement Strategy

Jim Watson was asked for information regarding the Engagement Strategy pilot in Airdrie/Bellshill.

The pilot has concentrated on the work of the Area Team looking specifically at the way Departments have worked jointly in response to issues identified by the community. The Area Team includes Council Departments, Police, Fire and Health Boards.

Consultants have been brought in to evaluate the pilot.

As the engagement strategy is rolled out each Area Committee will be allocated a new worker whose job will be to assist the engagement process and pursue actions required.

8. A80

8.1. Tom intimated that a seminar organised by JAG is being held on 29 Oct. to discuss proposals. Sam Mitchell informed the meeting that the seminar was for the commercial sector and by invitation only.

Tom asked that the Forum receive feedback from the seminar.

8.2. Tom asked Jim Watson for an update regarding the A80.
Jim Watson highlighted the following points:

- The recent failure could cause up to six months delay.
- There will be crawler lanes north and south between Auchenkilns and Old Inns.
- Plans for Mollinsburn and Dalshannon junctions are being reviewed.
- Phase 1, 2, and 3 could be a single contract.
- The earliest start to this work will be 2007 to be completed in 2010

9. Town Centre

Campsie Centres had been approached to send a representative but no representative was in attendance.

Discussion around the Town Centre development led on to a debate regarding the development of a strategy for the Forum. Items discussed included:

- The relationship between the Forum and the Area Committee.

- The need to have an Area Committees for Cumbernauld, Kilsyth and the Northern Corridor.
- The A 80 route.
- The development of a town park
- The Local Plan

The members concluded that the next meeting should concentrate on developing an overall plan for the Forum.

The Forum will also invite David Jones who is currently working to produce the Local Plan to speak to the Forum as the first item on the agenda for the next meeting. It is hoped that this will inform the subsequent discussion.

10. Date of next meeting

The next meeting will take place on Tuesday 23 November at 7.00 in the Court Room Cumbernauld and tea and coffee will be provided.

* Please note that the starting time has been brought forward to 7.00 pm.*

**Cumbernauld Community Forum
Meeting held on Tuesday 23 November 2004**

In Attendance	Hugh Gough	CLCT
	David Jones	NLC Planning & Environment
	Jim Clark	CACE
	Sam Mitchell	JAG
	Mae Hardy	Kenilworth Patient Partner Group
	Ailsa Cluny	Craigmarloch Community Council
	Chris Kay	Craigmarloch CC
	Cllr Bob Chadha	Elected Member NLC
	Angi Inch	G & MFR Assc
	Steven Keegan	Association of CCCs
	Jim Watson	NLC Planning & Environment
	Gordon Wright	Westerwood CC
	Rose Bowie	CTA
	Ian Thom	CTA
	Cllr Gordon Murray	Elected Member NLC
	Maureen Hendry	NLN CVS
	Tom Reilly	CACE
Robert Towart	NLC Community Learning & Development	
Apologies	Bill Taylor	Cumbernauld Theatre
	Alice Homer	Carbrain & Hillcrest CC
	Yvonne McDermott	Kenilworth Patient Partner Group
	Jimmy McKechnie	CHOA

2 Chair Opening Remarks

- 2.1 Tom Reilly welcomed everyone to the meeting. He welcomed invited guests Jim Watson, NLC Planning and Environment and David Jones, Team Leader Local Plans Team.
- 2.2 Tom stated that at our last meeting we decided that this meeting should concentrate on developing an overall plan for the Forum. We invited David Jones to speak and hopefully this will inform subsequent discussion.
- 2.3 Tom intimated that Jim Watson had distributed copies of proposed items raised during the Bus Trip. Groups were given the opportunity to clarify their submissions. Tom made it clear that all items raised by groups will be considered and reported on by Council Officials.
- 2.4 Tom stated that the matter of Councillors attendance at Forum meetings had been raised with him. He made it clear that Councillors attend by invitation to provide information and assistance. He went on to say that the Forum could decide to alter this arrangement but he felt that this would not be helpful at this stage.
- 2.5 Tom advised the Forum that Maureen Hendry (NLN CVS) had been approached by the Poverty Alliance Group who wished to speak to the Forum. Tom suggested that the Forum invite them to make a short presentation at a future meeting.

3. Minutes of Previous Meeting

- 3.1 Rose Bowie indicated that she had stated that for future elections of office bearers each person nominated should either provide a statement supporting their nomination or make a presentation prior to the elections to assist members in the voting process. She went on to say that at the AGM it was not made clear that anyone taking up the role of secretary would be supported by the CLAD link worker to the Forum.
- 3.2 Sam Mitchell indicated that during questions to Jim Watson he had stated that work on the Condorrat Ring Road could have been completed in stages. Jim Watson had replied that the monies allocated to this work had to be spent all at once.
- 3.3 Minutes were proposed by Stephen Keegan and seconded by Hugh Gough.

4. Matters Arising

- 4.1 Tom invited Jim Watson to give an update on the bus tours. Jim Watson indicated that from the notes distributed to be reviewed by groups only 3 had been returned. He said that items listed under Community Councils were those raised by Community Councils and that the other items were those raised during the tours. He acknowledged that other groups had made a significant contribution and should have been mentioned. He will arrange to have items that were raised by Carbrain Tenants Association listed separately.
- 4.2 Tom asked for feedback on the A80/Bypass conference held in Condorrat. The conference resulted in a unanimous resolution asking for a public inquiry into both routes for road upgrade. The resolution has been forwarded to the Scottish Executive.

5 Local Plan

- 5.1 Tom reminded the Forum that at the last meeting it was agreed that this meeting would concentrate on developing an overall plan for the Forum. He went on to say that David Jones who is currently working to produce the Local Plan has been invited to speak to the Forum to clarify the process and give a context for our discussion. North Lanarkshire Local Plan progress report was circulated prior to the meeting to give members a chance to read it and make informed comment.
- Tom invited David Jones to speak to the report.
- He began by stating that the report is a starting point and that local planning is a process and not a single event.
- He circulated copies of the power point slides he is using during the presentation.
- He said that the report is a position statement.

Slide 1

Plans in the Northern Corridor and Southern Area (Motherwell and Wishaw) are moving to a final stage.

His intention in talking about the N.L. Local Plan is to cover:

- The process
- How the Council is responding
- How the Forum is involved

The Plan is Council wide and is set out in three geographical areas.

Planning and environment has involved 6 Area Committees.

Area Committees have a vital role

Various Departments make up the Policy Working Groups.

Workshops for elected members have taken place and have been very positive.

In terms of sustainability legislation has been set out at a European level in relation to land use.

Issues regarding requirements for transport, roads etc. have to be considered under this heading.

A consultant has been engaged to look at sustainability.

Slide 2

Currently there are 12 Local Plans that are all distinct because they have a local focus. A North Lanarkshire Local Plan will bring about a more Council wide approach.

The Plan will comprise of a Policy Document, three Area Action Plans (South – Motherwell/ Wishaw, Central – Coatbridge/ Airdrie and North – Cumbernauld/ Northern Corridor) and Proposal Maps.

A series of three Workshops (topic working groups) were organised for: Council Officials; Community Plan partners; and Elected Members respectively.

An additional four workshops have been scheduled for Elected Members. These Workshops will consider options for development in relation to economic development; retail and Town Centres; and housing and environment.

Slide 3

Topic Working Groups (T.W.G.'s) will progress plan strategy.

Member's Workshops will consider outcomes of TWG's.

Area Committees will bring forward specific site development proposals for inclusion in the plans three Area Action Plans.

Area Forums will have the opportunity to review progress regarding planning updates within first 6 months of 2005.

Timescales are as follows:

Publication of 1st Consultative Draft NLLP Nov.2005

Publication of Final Draft NLLP Sept 2005

NLLP Public Inquiry 2006/07

Adoption of NLLP 2007

Monitoring.

The Plan will be reviewed 2 yearly and updated on a more regular basis.

At this point David Jones concluded.

5.2 Tom Thanked David Jones and asked for questions.

Q. - How is Forum involved?

DJ. - Different models are operating across the area but Community Forums should work with the Area Committee.

A point was made from the floor that David Jones has attended Community Council meetings to talk about the Local Plan and that this option is open to other groups. Cllr Chadha stated that the bus tours highlighted issues that can be picked up as part of the process of engagement with the Local Plan. The Members Workshops provides a mechanism to discuss these issues. He went on to say that the Forum can have an influence through lobbying individual Councillors.

DJ - An open door policy exists and he will be happy to speak to any group.

Q - Is the A80 taken into account?

DJ - The Plan will not determine routing. The executive will determine routing. The Plan will recognise final decision.

Q - Will Plan influence routing?

DJ - Does not think so.

From floor - M 80 issue is very important. It is agreed that the M80 is currently inadequate but the people of Cumbernauld are not happy with the current route. The consultation in 2005 should take this into account and Plan should be altered if M80 is re-routed.

From floor – The Forum should discuss the 4 headings mentioned for Members Workshops and outcomes signalled to Members.

DJ – Section 6.2. specifies Member Workshop headings.

Members particularly expressed concerns regarding housing without facilities. The Plan is being modified to look at housing in the round regarding community facilities.

From floor – Housing is currently being built without facilities.

Areas designated for facilities are being sold off to private developers for housing.

Dullatur originally had a site scheduled to be a retail park. This has been sold for housing

Existing facilities are deteriorating and are not being upgraded.

It seems that Planning and Education do not talk. Are they talking now?

DJ – Local Plan is a corporate plan and all Departments are included. Contributions from developers are also included within Plan.

DJ – Timescales given earlier are markers. Plan is constantly moving. The process will not finish until 2007.

Q - Should the statistics department not determine school requirement?

DJ – This changes as a result of developers market conditions.

Q – Should play areas not be part of each development based on number of houses being built.

DJ – Council has policy but ratios can be affected by needs and opinions of market. It is also the case that everyone wants play areas but no-one wants to live right next to them.

Q – What about outside agencies e.g. Post Offices and issues such as flooding, climate change etc?

DJ – Agencies and services are part of the statutory planning process. Plan is taking account of some of the issues raised e.g. low lying sites will not be considered if there is a risk of flooding.

Q – Is there a problem regarding synchronisation of planning between departments, as it appears that schools just built are not adequate for the communities they service.

DJ – This may be the perception but not the reality. Placing requests are also causing problems regarding school roles.

From floor – Mistakes of the past are in the past and will not be altered after the fact. Issues being tabled now are what the Forum should concentrate on.

Q – Town Centre Regeneration should be the focus for development and should encourage retailing into town centres. There is a particular need to secure the revitalisation and environmental improvement of Cumbernauld Town Centre.

Will this be affected by the development of Ravenscraig?

DJ – Ravenscraig is subject to challenge. Currently Council has set a sealing on the floor space for any Ravenscraig development. Planning considers that Ravenscraig will not have any affect on Cumbernauld Town Centre in relation to retail issues.

Q – How will the development of sports facilities at Ravenscraig benefit Cumbernauld?

Would it not be better as the Plan suggests to revitalise existing facilities.

DJ – Ravenscraig will be a centre for excellence.

A brief discussion followed regarding the 'Master plan' for Cumbernauld.

DJ – In conclusion it should be stated that the development of the Plan is a process and that this is a starting point. The Plan will continue to be reviewed and refined as it develops. Tom thanked David Jones for attending, providing up to date information and answering questions from the Forum members.

6. Community Forum Planning Strategy

- 6.1. Before discussion under this heading began Stephen Keegan intimated that due to circumstances outwith his control he has had to leave the Association of Community Councils. He hopes to be re elected to the Carrickstone C.C. in the near future and re take his place on the Association of C.C. He stated that he is happy to contribute to tonight's meeting but will not vote.
- 6.2. Rose Bowie asked for clarification regarding monies administered by the Forum. Cllr.Chadha stated that the money allocated to the Forum is for running costs only. Jim Watson informed the meeting that two small sources of funding; Small Budgets and Small Housing Budget are being combined and decisions regarding this funding will be made through the Area Committee. Tom asked if items highlighted during the bus tours could be addressed through this budget? Jim Watson stated that the budget is for reasonable sized projects between £40,000 and £50,000. Any schemes groups wish to be considered should be forwarded to Jim at Planning and Environment.
- 6.3 Stephen Keegan suggested a starting point to the discussion on the Community Forum Planning Strategy could be the issues for discussion at the Members Workshops i.e.

Economic Development, Retail and Town Centres and Housing and Environment. He went on to suggest that 5 additional items considered to be of high importance to the Forum could be selected for discussion. He gave three examples; A80, Kelvin Valley Country Park and outside influences.

The Forum accepted this suggestion.

6.4. The following points were raised regarding Cumbernauld Town Centre.

- Council should subsidise or reduce rates to encourage and attract new businesses.
- Deterioration of Town Centre and lack of quality shopping e.g. Marks and Spencers.
- The domination of the Town Centre by the two supermarkets has led to a lack of choice.
- Lack of signposting or mapping signage.
- Town Centre is not attractive.
- Forum should invite Campsie Centres representative to future meeting.

6.5 The following points were raised regarding access.

- Local Plan does not clarify movement around Cumbernauld in relation to linkage between footpaths, roads etc.
- Difficulty of access to Health Centre from Town Centre during current construction work.
- As part of construction work temporary arrangements regarding landscaping not completed to an acceptable standard.
- Inadequate signage.
- Temporary work to a poor standard.

6.6 The following points were raised regarding facilities.

- Retail Parks should be integrated with Town Centres.
- Plans should be made to regenerate buildings previously used for entertainment.

6.7. At this stage Stephen Keegan suggested that members review and determine the additional headings for discussion within their own group or association and bring a list of issues under each heading to be discussed at the next Forum meeting. The Forum agreed. A final decision regarding the choice of additional headings and the list of issues under each can be discussed at the next meeting and a planning strategy for the Forum developed and where appropriate sub groups established to assist with the development of a strategy for the Forum.

7. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will take place on Tuesday 11 January at 7.30 in the District Court Room Cumbernauld and tea and coffee will be provided.