

NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL

REPORT

To: NORTH AREA COMMITTEE	Subject: CUMBERNAULD COMMUNITY FORUM	
From: DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES		
Date: 13 JANUARY 2005	Ref: BP/MF	

1. PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to submit the minutes of the Cumbernauld Community Forum meeting to the Area Committee. The minutes of 25 October and 29 November 2005 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.

Paul Ginties

Cumbernauld Community Forum
Meeting held on Tuesday 25 October 2005

In Attendance	Hugh Gough	Carbrain Learning Centre Trust
	Alice Homer	Hillcrest and Carbrain Community Council
	Bill Inglis	Kildrum Community Council
	Ramsay Kyle	Balloch Eastfield Community Council
	John McCann	Carrickstone Community Council
	J McKechnie	Darroch Way Residents Association
	Sam Mitchell	JAG
	Chris Kay	Craigmarloch Community Council
	Ailsa Clunie	Craigmarloch Community Council
	Robert Towart	Senior Community Learning & Development Worker
	Martin Oliver	NLN CVS
	Reg Newton	CHOA
	Ann Newton	CHOA
	Mae Hardy	Kenilworth Patient Partnership Group
	Billy Lees	Westfield Community Council
	Pat Kelly	NLC
	Tom Reilly	CACE
	Cllr Bob Chadha	Elected Member
Christine McNeill	Women's Watershed Group	

Apologies	Angi Inch
	Yvonne McDermott
	Rose Bowie
	Stewart McCrae

2 Chair Opening Remarks

- 2.1 Tom welcomed everyone to the meeting. He particularly welcomed Pat Kelly Head of Planning and Development in North Lanarkshire who had come along at short notice to speak to the Forum on the process of the Local Plan. Tom intimated that he had invited David Jones to attend. David was unable to come along but will attend the next meeting if required. Tom also welcomed Cllr Chadha and Cllr Murray.
- 2.2 Tom stated that he has repeatedly asked for a contact person for the new shopping development to come along to the Forum to give information on the site development. So far he has no contact.
- 2.3 Tom thanked Westfield Community Council for inviting him to a monthly meeting. He intimated that the meeting was excellent and raised many good points with the MSP, Cllr Chadha and council officials.
- 2.4 The Local Public Inquiry into the M80 that has been taking place in the Westerwood Hotel has had a very good turn out each day. Tom stated that CCCG had made a fantastic case to the enquiry and he felt that it had all gone very well. The inquiry will finish on Thursday 27 October with final statements from both sides. Tom went on to say that NLC after refusing to appear at the inquiry submitted a letter giving information on the future use of the A80 when the bypass goes through the Kelvin valley. He indicated that the letter was intended to discredit the CCCG case. The CCCG now need to raise money to defray expenses incurred by the group.

2.5 Tom welcomed the appointment of Martin Dickson Regeneration Manager and hoped that this would help develop the role of the Forum.

2.6 Tom intimated that the item raised by Rose Bowie regarding a possible invitation at a future date to a representative from Community Scotland is still on the agenda.

3 Guest speaker – Pat Kelly Head of Planning and Development.

Tom invited Pat to speak on the Local Planning process and how the Forum can have some influence.

Pat began by stating that it is an early stage to be addressing the topic. There have been a series of workshop events held with elected members and community groups. In addition 650 representations have been made to the plan. The process of evaluating what the plan will look like is currently underway. Officers are looking to bring the key issues identified in the 6 Local Plans together.

The 5 key issues identified in the Cumbernauld plan are; business location and economic development, town centre development, housing development linked to provision of community facilities, environmental protection including development quality and design, improving transport and accessibility. The elected members, community groups and submissions have influenced the criteria for the formation of a draft plan. The Draft Plan will be completed by spring of 2006 and will go out to consultation for 1 year. Pat thought that the plan will go to an inquiry. Pat stated that the Local Plan is currently slightly behind the development of the Structure Plan. The Structure Plan has identified a localised general release for housing in 6 areas. One of the selected areas is South Cumbernauld, specifically Blairlin and Plalacerigg. This proposed site will be for 1500 houses but there will be an extensive consultation process prior to any final decision. There may be further information on the Local and Structure Plan available through an Internet link.

Pat then took questions.

Bill Inglis asked if the recently reported 2000 housing development in Kildrum was the development he was referring to?

Pat replied that he was referring only to proposals in the South Forest Road area.

Bobby Johnstone raised the question of lack of facilities within planned housing development and whether developers make enough of a contribution to this?

Ailsa Clunie supported this and raised the point of Health and Education facilities.

Pat indicated that there is a contribution made by developers but in smaller developments this would not be sufficient to generate facilities. He indicated that for larger developments Health, Education, Fire and Police are involved in discussion, but decisions regarding new or extended provision are the responsibility of each department.

Several members made the point that the history of the Town did not suggest co-operation between departments and that lessons should have been learned to avoid mistakes of the past.

Pat indicated that he would continue to liaise with departments but if people feel their views have been ignored objections could be lodged. He indicated that discussion would be held to try to eliminate objections. If the objections cannot be resolved the objection will go to the Reporter who will make a final decision.

Alice Homer asked if the new developments would be for private housing?

Pat replied that it may not all be private housing.

Tom asked how the Forum could have an influence on the Town Centre?

Pat referring to the 'Carbuncle' award indicated that response from the Director had had made the feelings of the Council clear. He stressed that the Council is not in control of the Town Centre and that the developer is making final decisions.

Several of the members indicated that the Forum should organise an event to bring all parties concerned together to look at this issue.

Pat stated that he would be happy to attend such a meeting.

Jim McKechnie asked a question regarding the lifting of slabs to be replaced by tar.

Pat will pass this on to Jim Watson.

Tom thanked Pat for his contribution to the meeting.

4. Town Centre.

Tom stated that in view of the recent negative award given to the Town Centre he is proposing a half-day seminar on the Town Centre.

Billy Lees agreed that it appears that no one is listening and it is time to get all parties round the table.

It was agreed that Tom and Bobby Johnstone will look at this and report back to the next meeting.

5. Local Plan.

Some points were raised further to the earlier discussion with Pat Kelly.

John McCann was concerned that the time-scale for the Plan is so long that in the intervening time the council will sell off land to developers to raise revenue.

Chris Kay made the point that it is too easy to write of many of the problems in the town as historical. These problems exist and the Local Plan should address them.

Cllr. Murray was concerned that the Plan does not contain provision for footpaths between north and south Cumbernauld.

6. Health

Several points were raised under this heading and it was decided to have a more focused discussion on health at the next meeting.

7. Date of Next Meeting.

The next meeting will take place on Tuesday 29 November at 7.30 in the District Court Room and tea and coffee will be provided.

Cumbernauld Community Forum
Meeting held on Tuesday 29 November

In Attendance	Gordon S Murray	Elected Member, North Lanarkshire Council
	Rose Bowie	Carbrain Tenants Association
	Mae Hardy	Kenilworth Patient Partner Group
	Ann Newton	Home Owners
	Reg Newton	Home Owners
	Ramsay Kyle	Balloch Eastfield Community Council
	Martin Oliver	NLN CVS, Health Development Officer
	David Jones	NLC, Planning Dept.
	Bill Inglis	Kildrum Community Council
	Hugh Gough	Carbrain Learning Centre Trust
	Alice Homer	Hillcrest & Carbrain Community Council
	Christine McNeil	C/nauld Women's Watershed Group
	Sam Mitchell	JAG
	Robert Towart	NLC, L&D Worker
	Alan J Sneddon	JAG
	Billy Lees	Westfield CC
	R Johnstone	Condorrat CC
	J McCann	Carrickstone CC
	Angi Inch	GMFRA
	Tom Reilly	CACE
	Cllr B Chadha	Elected Member, NLC
	Stewart McCrae	Cumbernauld YMCA/YWCA
	Reg Newton	CHOA
	John Sutherland	
	Christopher Kay	Craigmarloch CC

Apologies	Yvonne McDermott
	Lesley Fishleigh
	Bobby McBride
	Wilfred Archer

2 Chair Opening Remarks

- 2.1 Tom welcomed everyone to the meeting. He particularly welcomed David Jones NLC Planning who will speak about the Local Plan in relation to the Town Park and Cumbernauld House Park. Tom also welcomed Cllr Murray and Cllr. Chadha.
- 2.2 Tom stated that he had not forgotten the suggestion made by Rose Bowie to invite a representative from Communities Scotland to a future meeting.
- 2.3 Tom outlined action taken following the negative publicity identified at the last meeting. The intention was to present NLC with the Carbuncle award. Tom received a phone call from Gavin Whitefield Chief Executive of NLC setting up a meeting with Tom and Bobby Johnstone representing the Community Forum, Billy Lees representing the Association of Community Councils, Mary Castles, Sandie Mackay and Pat Kelly. The meeting reached agreement on a date for a seminar (13 Dec. at 6.00pm in the Cumbernauld Court Room) and a signed press statement on behalf of the Forum and the Association. Tom asked the Forum to endorse the action taken and to review the agenda for the meeting.

The membership after some discussion fully endorsed the action taken. Stuart McCrae suggested that the agenda for the meeting should include an input by the Forum expressing the views of the Forum.

Billy Lees stressed the importance of having a representative from the developer in attendance.

2.4 The Local Public Inquiry into the M80 is awaiting a decision. In the meantime lobbying and letter writing will continue. Tom advised the Forum that a fundraising dance is scheduled for 10 December in the Cumbernauld Village Hall.

2.5 Tom highlighted the good work being done by Community Councils in relation to the siting of phone masts.

2.6 Tom, Ailsa Clunie and a good number of members attended the last Area Committee meeting.

3 Guest Speaker – David Jones NLC Planning.

David Jones thanked the Forum for invitation to speak about the Local Plan in relation to the Town Park and Cumbernauld House Park.

David began by giving an overview of progress to date. The Local Plan is nearing the end of the first phase. Extensive consultation has taken place with elected members, representatives from the commercial sector and community and voluntary groups. There have been over 500 submissions with suggestions coming in almost daily. It is hoped to have the draft plan completed by Easter. This Plan will then be subject to consultation for 1 year. The final Plan will be complete by Easter 2007. David saw a significant role for the Forum during the consultation period.

In relation to the Town Park and Cumbernauld House Park David stated that many suggestions have been made and new proposals are being considered and assessed. Land use zoning has to be secured. Boundaries have been drafted for 'Open Space'. Local Plan projects should involve voluntary and public sectors. Projects may benefit Town Park.

David was not sure of current position regarding the refusal of planning permission within Cumbernauld House Park. He will notify Forum if an appeal is lodged.

David then took questions.

Bobby Johnstone and Tom asked questions relating to boundaries.

David stated that boundaries will be established in the first draft. The position will be subject to consultation. Certain uses will be permitted inside boundaries subject to consultation. There will be an audit of open space. The importance of open space to the community is acknowledged.

Alan Sneddon asked if there will be safeguards in the Local Plan to ensure no housing will be built in Cumbernauld House Park.

David that there needed to be an assessment of the quality of the developer.

Tom asked if money was being set aside for the park.

David there may be direct funding from NLC or through joint schemes.

David highlighted that in August 2005 the Council approved plan for urban expansion in south of Cumbernauld.

Bobby stated that a development plan is what people want to see.

David said that the Master Plan will show planning up to 2020. The Local Plan is a staging post in the process and consultation will begin on draft after Easter 2006.

Tom thanked David and stressed that the Forum would like to keep dialogue open.

4 Adoption of Previous Minute

Minutes were proposed by Bobby Johnstone and seconded by Billy Lees.

5 Matters Arising

- 5.1 Rose suggested that this was not an appropriate time to invite Communities Scotland. Tom said that this issue can be looked at a future time.
- 5.2 Town Centre: Cllr Chadha thanked Tom for his quick response regarding the switch on of the Christmas lights in the Town Centre.
- 5.3 Shop mobility in the Town Centre - Tom highlighted the lack of shop mobility provision within the Town Centre.

6 AOCB

- 6.1 Alice Homer highlighted the successful programme of events organised by the Cumbernauld Cultural Forum that took place throughout November. A number of the members of the Forum had attended and praised the initiative. Tom welcomed the work of the Cultural Forum as a positive development for the town.
- 6.2 Stewart McCrae gave a brief report on the 'Hope in Carbrain' event that was held on 26 Nov. Most of the groups and organisations involved had seen this as a successful event that continued the work of the Carbrain Regeneration Group.
- 6.3 Stewart went on to raise the question of letting charges for sports groups. It seems that there has been an increase of around 400% imposed without any notice or consultation. Stewart thought that the Forum should look into the issue. Cllr Chadha indicated that the Chief Executive was looking into the matter. Stewart asked if Robert could provide any further information for the next meeting.
- 6.4 Martin Oliver gave dates for health related events and meetings. The Carbrain Community Learning Plan planning group are hosting a Health and Fitness open day in the Link Community Centre on 6 Dec involving local Primary Schools. The Community Health Partnership are holding a meeting in the Town Hall on 8 Dec. The meeting will focus on smoking. Martin also intimated that the Health Board 'Picture of Health' consultation will take place in Feb/March 2006.
Martin expressed the view that the Forum should look at setting up sub groups to look at issues such as Health.

7 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will take place on Tuesday 17 January at 7.30 in the District Court Room and tea and coffee will be provided.