

NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL

REPORT

To: NORTH AREA COMMITTEE	Subject: KILSYTH AND VILLAGES 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 Kilsyth and Villages Community Forum meetings to the Area Committee. The minutes of 5 September and 7 November 2005 are attached as Appendix 1 to this report.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

The Area Committee is requested to note the minutes of the meetings held by the Kilsyth and Villages Community Forum.

Paul Ginties

**KILSYTH & VILLAGES
COMMUNITY FORUM
5th September 2005**

PRESENT

Margot McMillan	Kilsyth Community Council
Derek Dillon	Superintendent Strathclyde Police
Bob Hope	Area Inspector Strathclyde Police
Lily Small	Kilsyth Old People's Welfare Committee
Councillor Griffin	North Lanarkshire Council
James Hunt	Croy Community Council
Hugh Service	Queenzieburn Community Council
Fiona McFarlane	Kilsyth District Guide Association
Harry Marron	Community Services – North Lanarkshire Council
Ros Montgomery	Justice & Peace Group
Rob Kay	Kilsyth International Carnival Society
Patrick Hunt	Croy Neighbourhood Watch
Jim Watson	N.L.C. Planning & Environment
Paul Carter	Canal Society
Sandra Wilson	Minute Secretary

APOLOGIES

Carol Carter	Banton & Kelvinhead Community Council
John McColl	Croy Community Council
Councillor Jones	North Lanarkshire Council
Ena Fleming	Kilsyth Senior Citizens
Ian Jarvis	Friends of Burngreen
Maureen Hendry	N.L.N.C.V.S.

Mr Service introduced our guests from Strathclyde Police.

MINUTE FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

Approved by Mr Hunt and seconded by Mr Carter.

MATTERS ARISING

N.H.S. leaflet drop. Contact had been made prior to the last meeting. It was stated that a meeting had been held in Croy. It was agreed that a letter from the Forum be sent asking why leaflet drop hasn't happened.

Full day conference to be discussed later in the meeting.

TREASURER'S REPORT

As of the 4th August 2005 the balance is £737.82
£1 interest added from last month.

STRATHCLYDE POLICE ALCOHOL POLICY

Superintendent Dillon and Area Inspector Bob Hope.

Alcohol abuse is a huge problem in the West of Scotland, we were given various statistics and how under age street drinkers can be as young as 9 years old. The policy aims are EDUCATION, DIVERSION & ENFORCEMENT. They are trying to change attitudes and are working with partners. The Health Service, Procurator Fiscal, Youth Court and the Licensing Trade as well as others. The police regularly take youths to hospital after drinking sessions.

There is a large police presence in schools trying to educate children about alcohol. There are full-time officers working in conjunction with North Lanarkshire Council. Every pupil has a Young Scot card and trying to encourage licensees to ask for this. Local licensees were invited to a seminar at Broadwood to highlight the effects of alcohol on youths.

Pub Watch Scheme – Posters are put in pubs about this issue as the police are aware that alcohol is purchased by adults and even parents for younger people.

Diversion - trying to give youths an alternative to drinking. The police rely on partner organisations to encourage the use of facilities that are available. Street League football is one way with some help from professional coaches. Youths need to participate in something and put some routine into their lives. An agreement with Career Scotland is in place as they have funding available for certain areas. This scheme is encouraging, as some youths have gone into full-time education, taking them off the streets.

Enforcement – street drinking, if arrested they go to court. A warning letter or a fine. An acceptable behaviour contact is the first option and then an ASBO. Police target premises and the Licensing Board is fully supportive.

A discussion took place and members had a variety of questions. The officers gave members an insight into what the Police Force, the local councils and the Scottish Executive are trying to achieve.

The officers left the meeting at 8.00 p.m.

Topic of half or one day conference. There was support for tourism as a topic. Mr Service asked if other topics and workshops had been talked about. Another suggestion was the Local Plan, the town centre regeneration and the environment. It was pointed out that the new part-time worker would be able to assist. Mr Watson suggested that a number of topics could be tackled.

Discussion took place covering a few issues. Councillor Griffin suggested that tourism would highlight all the good things but also the local issues like Cavalry Park, which have not gone away. The Local Plan, the community should have a say in this. Mr Watson suggested it could be part celebrating what has already happened in the area, and what the future should hold.

Mr Kay commented on how we wanted things that would help revitalise our area. The Kilsyth Carnival had a £30,000 to £40,000 turn over that day. This was encouraging groups and people to develop. It was suggested that the list of agencies used should be included, as this would allow them to see how all the parts came together.

Mr Service felt that we should have information on what is available. Councillor Griffin commented that the final draft of the Local Plan should be out in about a year and this would give information but having something about the Local Plan would give us the opportunity to have some input.

It was suggested that the Local Plan be the topic and keep other issues for a later date. Mr Watson said that he would contact Mr David Jones and the Forum would then be in contact.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Re-election of office bearers.

Mr Carter and Mr Hunt proposed Mr Service as Chairperson. In the absence of other nominees Mr Service accepted.

Ms Wilson and Mr Service proposed Mr Carter as Vice-chairperson. In the absence of other nominees Mr Carter accepted.

Mr Service and Mr Kay proposed Mr Hunt as Secretary. In the absence of other nominees Mr Hunt accepted.

Mr Hunt and Mr Carter proposed Ms Palethorpe as Treasurer. As Ms Palethorpe has made her willingness to fill this position known to the Forum, this was accepted.

Mr Hunt and Mr Service proposed Ms Wilson as Minute Secretary. In the absence of other nominees Ms Wilson accepted.

On behalf of the Forum Mr Marron thanked members for last year's service.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Mr Marron distributed leaflets for a new low level walking group he is organising for the area. The group will use paths throughout the town, which lead into the countryside very quickly. It is hoped to encourage people to get out and walk with company, as lack of exercise is considered responsible for many health problems. Aspects of this were discussed.

A Learning Show was organised in Motherwell Concert Hall on Tuesday 6th September 2005. A bus would be available and would pick people up in Kilsyth, Queenzieburn, Banton and Croy.

Mr Carter said that he would put an item about the meeting in the Chronicle.

The Local Area Committee is expanding to include Police, Fire Service, Job Centre Plus and others. It will be known as the Local Area Partnership. The Forum would still have a voice in the new organisation. The Regeneration Officer is Mr Martin Dickson.

Mr Watson will no longer be the Lead Officer, so he will not be attending the Forum meetings. Mr Watson wished to thank everyone for the courtesy extended to him.

over the years.

A new Community Services person will have 2 full days and his area will include Kilsyth and Villages. Mr John Barton will be the link for the Forum and the Area Committee.

A question was asked about the hearing aid clinic no longer being available in Kilsyth. People now had to go to Cumbernauld Central for batteries or other needs. Councillor Griffin told the meeting that this matter had been handed over to Mrs Cathie Craigie MSP and that it was in hand.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Monday 7th November at 7.00 p.m. Venue to be decided.

Meeting finished at 9.05 p.m.

**KILSYTH & VILLAGES
COMMUNITY FORUM
7th November 2005**

PRESENT

Ena Fleming	Kilsyth Senior Citizens
Hugh Service	Queenzieburn Community Centre
Martin Dickson	NLC Chief Executive's Office
Councillor Bob Chada	North Lanarkshire Council
Margot Macmillan	Kilsyth Community Council
Jim Watson	Planning and Environment
Ian Jarvis	Friends of Burngreen
Councillor Jones	North Lanarkshire Council
Harry Marron	Community Services – North Lanarkshire Council
Vicky Palethorpe	Treasurer
Sandra Wilson	Minute Secretary

APOLOGIES

Lily Small	Kilsyth Old People's Welfare Committee
Carol Carter	Banton & Kelvinhead Community Council
Paul Carter	Canal Society
James Hunt	Croy Community Council
Catherine Martin	Queenzieburn Community Council.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Amendments – Councillor Chada was present but not on the attendance list.
Vicky Palethorpe's apology had not been noted.
Treasurer's Report should have read £1.86p interest paid.

Approved by Ms Macmillan and seconded by Mr Service.

MATTERS ARISING

Local Plan meeting was held the previous week. It was agreed that it was very informative. The final draft should be ready by March 2006 and any comments to be in by the end of December 2005.

Mr Carter had composed a letter, which the Forum members read, and after some discussion it was decided to send this.

TREASURER'S REPORT

As of the 31.10.2005 the balance is £739.56 pence.

The Garrell burn has been raised on various occasions.

Mr Watson explained that there is a small team in place to look at flooding matters. The Council budget has been increased to £3,000,000 and it is hoped to have a further increase next year.

A consultant will look at both burns and decide what will make them efficient. It is advisable not to remove all the vegetation but to keep it fish and environment friendly. They will look at the summer and winter pictures and will also consult with

S.E.P.A. on issues.

The issues of whose responsibility it is to clear rubbish from burns. Since 1996 local authorities have responsibility for watercourses. Various groups have been set up to look at the legislation concerning responsibility.

Serious work that needed to be done would be the responsibility of the landowner.

The new team will eventually put a maintenance scheme in place. The team also looks at culverts under ground in order to maintain efficiency above.

Some of the work of clearing burns will be helped by Community Services. A possibility of planned planting to keep the growth under control. It is fortunate there is no Japanese Knot weed in these two burns.

Mr Watson told the meeting that he is shortly to retire and that the new person is Mr Graham McKay, Drainage and Flooding Unit.

Mr Service thanked Mr Watson for all his help in the past and wished him well in his retirement on behalf of the Forum. Mr Watson left the meeting at 7.30 p.m.

Mr Service introduced Mr Martin Dickson – N.L.C. Community Partnership and Local Regeneration.

Mr Dickson explained that Area Committee would become a partnership with other agencies. They will try to stop smaller issues becoming major issues, they will be discussed and services will be delivered.

Local Area Forums will feed into this structure and staff will work with Forums.

Local Neighbourhood Plan – community engagement – has met with elected members. They will speak with groups and agencies about issues and hope to make improvements to the Plan.

Address issues in this area – reports on Kilsyth Town Centre, try to move forward with issues that people want. Co-ordinate all issues for various departments and gather as much information as possible.

Get representation from all services that work in N.L. to sit round a table and discuss what is happening.

Mr Dickson was asked about bus passes changing in 2006. It was stated that Falkirk is in the process of change at the moment.

Mr Dickson will look into this matter.

Area Committee Rep. – Mr Hunt has always filled this position and he is not present this evening. Mr Service will look into this.

Mr Dickson has a 3-year secondment and N.L. is the only Council with this facility.

Looking at investment planning and co-ordinating partnerships. He is trying to make sure that all areas know and are joined up.

Community Regeneration Funding.

Small Community Funding.

£33 million over 3 years, it is hoped that some original funding may be available to filter down to other issues.

Councillors make many calls to get small issues dealt with, it is hoped that one call should be enough to put action in place.

Mr Marron to feed any information from forum on to Mr Dickson.

It was asked if N.L.C. Policy areas are working and Mr Dickson agreed that some may need reviewing.

Councillor Jones informed us of a group trying to take over the lease of St. Patrick's Football area. This is an independent group trying to keep the sportsfield. She suggested a meeting with Mr Dickson.

WORKSHOP DATE – The draft comes out in the spring but it was agreed that only

small alterations are made after that.

It was agreed to ask Mr Chisholm and Mr Jones if they could come and set up the exhibition done previously. If the presentation could be repeated to a public gathering, including some open discussion and workshops if necessary.

It was also suggested that an early start in the evening would be good. People could come from work and food and drink could be provided.

People could have something to eat and see the exhibition before the meeting began.

It was agreed to try for the week beginning the 5th December. Councillor Jones will try to fix dates with gentlemen involved.

Dates for next meetings to be decided.