

Northern Corridor Community Forum Report to Local Area Partnership 31st July 2014

1.0 Background

1.1 This Report provides the LAP with an update on recent activities undertaken by the Northern Corridor Community Forum and highlights issues of interest and concern to the Forum and the local communities it serves.

2.0 Community Forum Update

2.1 The Forum was represented at the meetings of NHS Lanarkshire North PPF Reference Group, the Community Forum Network, Moodiesburn Development Trust, Muirhead and Chryston Gala Day Committee, a LAP arranged Meeting with FirstBus, North Area Crime Prevention Panel and the North Area Voluntary Sector Forum.

2.2 The Forum was pleased to see that the environmental and street realm improvements in Muirhead and Chryston funded through the North Area Local Regeneration Fund completed in June which have made a substantial impact on the general appearance and amenity of the public space in the area, particularly the Moor Park. The Forum appreciates the investment in the area by the LAP and the time and commitment of the officers of the Council who assisted in bringing this project to a successful conclusion.

2.3 As part of its contribution to the Council's hosting of some of the events for the Commonwealth Games and the NL stage of the Queen's Baton Relay passing through the area, the Forum used some of its funds to purchase Games' Bunting and Handheld flags for children. These were donated to local primary schools to promote these events and encourage the pupils to come out to spectate and support the participants and competitors. The support for the Queen's Baton Relay was tremendous and some schools additionally used the Bunting at their own Commonwealth Games' themed activities and Sports' Days. The Cycling Road Trials will have just taken place on the day of this meeting of the LAP at which an equivalent turnout and support is expected. The Forum supported locally organised activities arranged to coincide with this event.

2.4 The Forum has given financial support to the Moodiesburn Gala Day providing two very popular and health promoting activities by way of a Climbing Wall and Smoothie Making Bike. The same support and activities will be provided for the Muirhead and Chryston Gala Day which is to be held on Saturday 30th August in the new-look Moor Park, Muirhead.

2.5 In partnership with NHS Lanarkshire and the other Forums in the North Area, the Forum has produced and published a second edition of 'NorthSee'. This is a newsletter which is funded by the NHS 'SeeMe' Campaign to mitigate the stigma and discrimination of those who suffer from mental ill-health. The newsletter highlights the work of the Forums in general as well as ensuring the issues associated with mental ill-health are publicised and promotes what the 'SeeMe' campaign is doing in the North Area. Copies of the newsletter are available for members of the LAP at this meeting.

2.6 The Forum is aware that the Council is currently engaged in the preparation of the statutory Local Development Plan for North Lanarkshire

which when completed will replace the current Local Plan. As with the previous Local Plan, the Forum is monitoring with concern the significant and substantial number of submissions by housing developers to have huge tracts of land in the Strathkelvin Ward, 35 at the last count, re-designated for residential developments. If included in this Plan this would allow subsequent planning applications for residential developments which would forever change the fine balance of urban and rural mix in the Ward to the great detriment and loss of amenity in the area. As previously, the Forum will be campaigning to ensure that these submissions are thoroughly scrutinised and where appropriate seek to have them rejected for inclusion in the Plan on the basis of them being undesirable, unnecessary and detrimental developments for the area which in addition does not have adequate infrastructure to support any additional residential developments.

3.0 Issues for consideration at LAP

3.1 Following the inconclusive and generally unproductive meeting with FirstBus, the Forum believes the LAP should be meeting again with SPT to raise the need for more a review of and consideration of additional subsidised bus services in the area. There is a need to enhance the provision of public transport services in the area and reduce the areas which have no such provision leaving vulnerable older people and those without access to private cars and unable to afford taxis, isolated and stranded in their local communities without ready access to vital services and amenities.

4.0 Outstanding LAP Issues

4.1 There are two longstanding items regarding road safety and amenity for which the Forum and subsequently the LAP have requested reports and or action to resolve. These are the need or otherwise for a pedestrian controlled crossing on Lindsaybeg Road at the junction with Main Street, Chryston. The existing junction layout with a mini-roundabout and incomplete pavements, together with the increased pedestrian use associated with the Jamieson Medical Centre, the new High School and Cultural Centre all suggest the need for a pedestrian controlled crossing at this location to be re-examined. Secondly, the need for bus bays outside the Nicolson Recreation Centre which is used by the 38C Service as a terminus opposite a road junction. Thirdly, the provision of bus laybys on Gartferry Road, Moodiesburn, where buses stop on the main carriageway creating a hazard to other vehicles trying to pass due to these stops being on blind summits.

5.0 Community Forum Meetings

5.1 The next Meeting of the Northern Corridor Community Forum is on Tuesday 2nd September 2014 at Auchinloch Community Centre, Langmuirhead Road, Moodiesburn, Auchinloch.

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