

NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL

REPORT

To: NORTH LOCAL AREA PARTNERSHIP	Subject: KILSYTH AND VILLAGES COMMUNITY FORUM
From: DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES	
Date: 1 March 2007	Ref: BP/MF

1. PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to submit the minute of the Kilsyth and Villages Community Forum meeting to the Local Area Partnership. The minutes of 26 June, 4 September and 6 November 2006 is attached as Appendix 1 to this report.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

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

Paul Ginties

**Minutes of the Meeting of Kilsyth & Village Community Forum held in Carrel
Vale Community Centre on the 26th June 2006 at 7pm**

Present: Jean Jones, Harry Marron, James Hunt, Paul Carter, Ian Jarvis, Margot McMillan, Charlie Waddel, Cathrine Martain,

Apologies: Patrick Hunt, Vickie Palethorpe, Mary Cassidy NLNCVS

Previous Minute: Proposed James Hunt, Seconded, Margot McMillan

Matters Arising: The proposed community forum remit was again discussed the issues of the ten point plan for forums, concerns again were raised regarding monitoring groups and setting up a data base it was recognised that some forums don't want to get involved in these issues, the 14 hr administration assistance assigned to each forum to address community engagement in the way of consultation on issues such as Community Planning and issue around C.H.Ps was welcomed but more information on the mechanism is required. The secretary to contact officer involved. The proposed youth conference, it was agreed that a steering group should be set up from as many of the youth organisations in the area as possible to discuss the main issues that concern young people in to-days world and liaise with the forum on the structure of the conference.

Reports: The consultation on Core Path Planning Network is going out to tender it is perceived to last nine months before issuing a draft plan, the forum agreed to invite the consultant for a presentation when draft plan is released

The forum welcomed the news that Community Wardens have started working in Kilsyth on Mondays and Tuesdays.

Financial Report: a balance of £519. 59p

A.O.B: (what's your beef) The Chairman requested members to bring local issues to the table for discussion that affect the communities of the living and working environments of their area.

Date of next meeting: 4th September 2006 A.G.M

Minutes of the meeting of Kilsyth & Villages Community Forum held in the Old Library in Kilsyth On the 4th September at 7pm.

Present: James Hunt, Paul Carter, Fiona McFarlane, Margot McMillan, Catherine McGrath, Charlie Waddell, Vickie Palethrope, Bob Chada, Mary Cassidy, Harry Marron.

Apologies: Rob Kay, Ain Jarvis, Enna Flemming, Hugh Service, Councillor Jean Jones

Previous minute: Proposed, Margot McMillin, Seconded, James Hunt

Matters Arising: Forums remit, the secretary phoned Buccannan House and was informed new remit for forums are being sent out for consultation shortly, on progress regarding the Youth Conference, due to unforeseen circumstances, very little progress had been made to date an update will be given at next meeting.

A.G.M: it was proposed, that if no one was putting their names forward and members present had no objections, that the present office bearers remain in office, this was unanimously agreed

Financial Report: balance £520. 82.

Reports: Councillor Bob Chada reported that the development of Cumbernauld Town Centre was well underway and was looking forward to the new shops and retail outlets being opened, although some concern was raised regarding the amount of parking spaces available, He also informed the forum that the new Sports Academy Facility at St Maurice School was being formally opened the following Wednesday at 2 O'clock and invited everyone to attend if possible. He also stated that the many local community projects throughout the North Area had benefited from the Small Communities Grant Scheme and urged the forum to continue to put ideas forward that would enhance their local areas. Paul Carter informed the meeting of a consultation on urban features and design being carried out by Selby Richardson on the Forth & Clyde Canal he said that all relevant community groups would be contacted in the near future.

What's your Beef? Concerns were again raised regarding litter not being picked up properly, recycling issues were raised that there was no provision for plastic containers and bottles, some members felt that the redevelopment of Kilsyth Town Centre was being spoiled by litter around the R.B.S, and the cleanliness of the new stone surfaces, It was agreed that the executive committee should meet prior to the full Forum meeting to discuss issues and ideas to be debated at forthcoming meetings Margot McMillan informed the meeting that the access issue linking Stirling Road to the Colzium had been finally resolved and is now open to the public.

Planning With People: The Secretary attend a Planning Aid workshop in the Cumbernauld Collage on the 3rd August present were MSP Cathie Craigie representatives from the Scottish Executive and Community Councils and forums throughout the area the format of the meeting was to discuss the forthcoming Planning Bill and to discuss The Community Engagement document "Planning with People" consultation draft the outcome of the meeting was very positive with everyone having an input about their experiences with the planning process almost everyone had a negative story to tell mainly about the total lack of outcomes on consultations, that already seemed decided upon, the repetitive of refused applications

reappearing time and time again with no reasons given, not listening to communities views on Telephone Masts, fast food Take-A- Ways and licensed Premises.

Three main questions were asked

1. have you every been involved in the planning system
2. what would make it easier to have your voice heard
3. What do you think would encourage you and others to get involved?

On all three questions there was a unified consensus of answers on the main themes being. The consultation process was a sham, only paying lip-service to the communities, not being in on the process at an early stage with planning and developers, the belief that you views are not listened to or taken onboard. The current consultation process is deeply flawed, the impression given of just ticking boxes for the benefit of a higher authority. The appeals procedure to the Scottish Executive when the local authority has refused Planning and then being overturned by a suit in Edinburgh who knows very little about the circumstances and area involved. On larger developments more emphasis should be given to Planning Gain for the communities involved. As some of the members had not seen the consultation document Harry Marron suggested that he would copy the document and sent it out to the members concerned for comments.

The secretary attended a meeting held in the forge rooms in Eastfield Cumbernauld regarding Anti Social Behaviour, the justice minister Cathy Jamieson was in attendance with MSP Cathie Craigie as were member of the police, members A,S,B task force and NLC council officers the purpose of the meeting was to take the views of the community on how to tackle this problem it was pointed out that it was not just some young people that were a problem in the NLC area that ASBOs have also been given out to a number of adults. The main concern was the easy availability of drink and drugs this was believed to be a major contributor to the problem the police and council will be monitoring the situation regarding alcohol licensing. Other main concerning issues involved, noisy and disruptive neighbours, youth disorder and vandalism it was also confirmed that no parental orders had been issued in N.L. The Minister stressed that the Executive are giving Councils resources to tackle the problem throughout Scotland and a tool box of recommendations of how to tackle them its up to each local Authorities to tackle the problems as they see them. Member of the ASB team from NL present stressed that there were certain barriers that currently prevented them from doing their jobs properly, the minister asked for detail after the meeting.

A.O.B: Alan Barr is holding full or half day Community Conferences on Planning Priorities anyone wishing to attend was to email John Barton. The forum received a letter from NLNCVS requesting support for their memberships right to remain an Independent Voluntary Organisation within North Lanarkshire North, some forum member were unfamiliar with the current situation and requested more information, the secretary was instructed to write to the Council and SCVO.

Date of next meeting:

Monday 6th November 2006 at 7.00 p.m. in the Old Library, Burngreen, Kilsyth.

Minutes of the meeting of Kilsyth & Villages Community Forum held in the Old Library in Kilsyth on the 6th November 2006 at 7pm.

Present:

Paul Carter	Friends of Kelvin Valley Park
Rob Kay	Kilsyth Music Festival
Councillor Jean Jones	North Lanarkshire Council
Margot McMillan	Kilsyth Community Council
Vicki Palethrope	Kilsyth Community Council
Councillor Bob Chada	North Lanarkshire Council
Ena Fleming	Kilsyth Senior Citizens
Harry Marron	NLC – Community Learning & Development
Hugh Frew, Andy Mackenzie	Cleansing Services

Apologies:

James Hunt, Ian Jarvis, Willie Small, Catherine McGrath

Cleansing Services

See attached Kilsyth Chronicle report.

Previous minute: Accepted.

Matters Arising

A.G.M. – Hugh Service has declined re-election as Chairman. Paul Carter elected Chairman, proposed Vicky Palethorpe and seconded Rob Kay. Hugh Service thanked for his dedicated service to the Forum as Vice Chairman and Chairman and wished all the best for the voluntary work with the Queenzieburn Hall Committee and the Boys Brigade. There were no takers for Vice Chairman and the position of Minute Secretary remains unfilled. Payment for Minute Secretary was discussed but noted that other organisations, e.g. Banton Community Council had failed to recruit a Secretary despite offering payment.

Planning with People – Margot and James had responded. Proposal to put minute of Local Area Partnerships in libraries ‘had not gone down well’.

Treasurer’s Report

Balance £521. 97p. No grant requested for more than a year. Agreed to request annual grant, as the present funds are likely to be exceeded by future planned activities

Forum Remit

New draft constitution proposed by North Lanarkshire Council. James Hunt reported some concerns by letter – he had attended the NLC workshop. Agreed the draft constitution was mainly ok and remitted to Executive for further discussion and action. Draft included, opening all meetings to public, agreed unanimously to adopt this as our policy from now on.

Correspondence

Letter plus copies of Kelvin Valley Park News received from Friends of the Kelvin Valley Park and handed round. Noted that the Friends had grown out of a Forum sub committee. Letters from CVS requesting North Lanarkshire North – no further action. Letter from Land Use Consultant on access roadshow for North Lanarkshire Council – remitted to Executive to reply.

Councillor Chadha's Report

Draft North Lanarkshire Local Plan had been seen by Councillors that morning – an important document – full participation by Community Forum in the consultation was encouraged. The next Area Partnership meeting was to be held on Thursday 9th November 2006 and all Forum members were invited. Bob encouraged the Forum to reach out to the public by articles in the local newspaper (see attached article).

What your Beef?

Left for future meeting, but noted that September's discussion had led to tonight's interesting meeting on cleansing services.

Community Health Partnership

Correspondence circulated to all Forum members, but no response, hence no action. (Later phone call from Harry Marron, Forum needed second nominee to partnership in addition to James Hunt. Paul Carter agreed his name goes forward meantime as a 'stop gap' but a volunteer for this position is requested).

Ideas for Future Meetings

Proposed Youth Conference had fallen by the wayside as the member mainly organising it had left the Forum. Agreed to support Harry Marron's action for youth involvement. A public meeting would be held on the Local Plan when it is issued for consultation, probably our next meeting. A major conference on 'Planning Ahead for Kilsyth and the Kelvin Valley' would be held next year in late May / early June, after the elections but before Kilsyth Civic Week. All the agencies involved in the area e.g. North Lanarkshire Council, Forestry Commission, SNH, SEPA, Historic Scotland etc would be invited to speak / exhibit and all organisations in, or working in, the area would be invited to attend. This would get valuable synergy between all the various agencies and involve / inform local people in important planning ahead for the area. A Saturday was preferred to weekdays to encourage public participation, although this could be more difficult for the agencies. Colzium, Burngreen and The Coachman were suggested venues. A 'ball park' figure of £1000 was budgeted. Remitted to Executive to prepare detailed proposals.

Any Other Business

Foul drains in Kilsyth, remitted to Chairman to write to Scottish Water.

Date of Next Meetings

The next Forum meeting will be Monday 5th February 2007 at 7.00 p.m., venue to be decided.

The next Executive meeting will be Monday 4th December 2006 at 5.30 p.m. in Garrell Vale Community Centre.

Forum meetings in 2007 are planned for February, April, June, September and November, mainly on 1st Mondays of month.

Executive meetings to be held on the months between full Forum meetings, mainly on 1st Mondays of month at 5.30 p.m. in Garrell Vale.

The next Annual General Meeting will be held at the June