

Northern Corridor Community Forum
Report to Local Area Partnership

Background

This paper aims to give LAP members an update on the Northern Corridor Community Forum activity over the past few weeks

Community Forum Update

Representatives of the Forum continue to attend meetings of NHS Lanarkshire Reference Group, North Lanarkshire Licensing Forum, The National Licensing Conference and the Forum Network meetings.

Issues for consideration at LAP

1. The last Forum meeting on 18th May 2010 heard with concern that the Council had reviewed and reduced the number and role of Community Engagement Officers to assist the Community Forums in North Lanarkshire. The Forum considers these cuts to be ill-judged and seriously detrimental to the effective operation of the Forums run by volunteers. The Forum believes the LAP should seek to have these drastic cuts reviewed by the Council with a view to reinstating some or all of the posts and the support given by the Council to Community Forums.

2. The Forum also considered projects for possible funding from LAP Regeneration Fund in 2011/12. It was felt that the projects for streetscape improvements to the main shopping areas in the local communities of Muirhead, Stepps and Moodiesburn, despite rejection last year were still appropriate given that a similar project for another North Area community had been awarded such funding last year. It is hoped that the Local Regeneration Manager will attend a site meeting with representatives of the Forum to hear about these proposals and offer advice on the proposals in meeting the criteria for regeneration funding.

3. The Forum took a sympathetic view of an issue raised by Stepps and District Community Council regarding the new housing development at Frankfield Loch. It is understood that this development was given planning approval subject to the safeguarding and creation of a nature reserve to protect and sustain the natural environment, wildlife and fauna located on and around the site location. There is a serious concern in the local community that the contractors are failing to

The forum would like it noted that it is not happy with the manner in which NHS Lanarkshire has carried out its consultation process with regards to the changes or removal of X ray facilities in the Cumbernauld and Kilsyth Area. Since the consultation NHS has changed the criteria for removing the provision by raising the number of patients accessing the service to 10,000 per year to make it viable. The forum requests that NHS now organise a further consultation with the forums to ensure that both communities affected by this reduction of service are fully aware of the reasons why they plan to remove this service.

St Frances's School

The forum has been advised that restrictions are being placed on transport provision to the other schools in the area that the children will now need to attend as a result of the St Frances's closure. The parents of the children were promised by Christine Pollok that transport would be provided to all children attending their new schools. The forum would like clarification of the situation and assurance that no child will be excluded from the transport provision.

Outstanding LAP Issues

Shop Mobility

Forum would like to know why the town Centre does not have shop mobility. This facility would enable people with mobility issues to make better use of the centre.

Future housing plans for the area

The forum would like a list of proposed housing development in the Cumbernauld area

New Link bridge between phase 4 and Tryst Road Can we please have a timescale for this work to be completed? Also can we have information on the proposed disability access to the bridge and the size of the proposed lift for wheelchair access?

St Enoch clock – Forum would like the centre to consider moving the clock to a more prominent place where it will be free from vandalism and people can see the workings of the clock the way it used to be displayed.

Community Forum Meetings

The date of the next Community Forum meeting is Tuesday 10th August at 7.00pm Venue to be confirmed.

The Forum AGM will be held on Tuesday 7th September at 7pm in the Muirfield Community Centre.

For further information on the Community Forum, or the contents of this report please contact: Billy Lees (Chairperson) 01236-736342