

## **Northern Corridor Community Forum**

### **Report to Local Area Partnership 18<sup>th</sup> October 2012**

#### **Background**

This paper aims to give LAP members an update on the Northern Corridor Community Forum activity since the last meeting of the LAP and highlight issues of interest and concern to the Forum and the local communities.

#### **Community Forum Update**

The Forum was represented at the meetings of NHS Lanarkshire PPF Reference Group, Beautiful North Lanarkshire Seminar, the Forum Network Meeting, Moodiesburn Community Development Trust, Voice of Experience, the North Locality Community Learning and Development Partnership, Community Forums Network Meeting, North Lanarkshire Partnership Consultation Event and Auchegheigh Miners' Annual Memorial Service.

The Forum will be holding a Fuel Poverty Event for all residents of the Northern Corridor on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> October in the new Chryston High School. Tom Clarke MP will open the event and give a keynote speech.

The Forum was disappointed to hear that North Lanarkshire Council had accepted the majority of the Reporter's recommendations in respect of the Draft North Lanarkshire Local Plan for re-zoning of greenbelt areas in the Northern Corridor. Many residents who lodged objections feel let down by their elected representatives and hope that if and when specific planning applications are submitted in respect of these areas, these will be rigorously scrutinised to ensure conditions are attached to ensure the minimum impact on the local natural environment and amenity of existing residential areas.

The Forum's commitment and involvement in Beautiful North Lanarkshire is progressing but due to unforeseen delays it will be 2013 before any visible impact is seen in local communities.

Following site visits for the Footpaths and Rights of Way Project with the Co-ordinator for Community Payback Scheme, the Forum was subsequently advised that the Scheme could not assist as none of the land was in the ownership of North Lanarkshire Council. This is a great disappointment and the Forum believes that the Council needs to review its policies and regulation for the operation of the Scheme. This constraint severely limits its scope and contribution to the wider community. The Forum is exploring other ways of taking this forward and would welcome any suggestions or involvement of the Partnership in helping to progress this project.

The Forum will meet with senior officers of North Lanarkshire Council on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> October for a consultation event on the Council's Budget proposals for 2013 – 2016.

## Issues for consideration of the LAP



### Outstanding LAP Issues

The Forum asked the Local Area Partnership to consider what could be done about the gradual reduction and removal of public services physical presence in the area by centralisation of such services in Cumbernauld or further afield. With a population of 20.000 +, Strathkelvin Ward is the largest in North Lanarkshire and seems to have the least locally located services. The Forum asked the LAP for a Report from partner agencies on ways to reverse this trend and to investigate the feasibility and viability of the development of an integrated services' centre located in the Muirhead/Chryston area as the historical and geographical centre of the area.

The Forum awaits a response to its request for an allocation of regeneration funding for street realm improvements to pavements and pedestrian access areas at the main shopping centres in Moodiesburn and Stepps as currently programmed for Muirhead. In this and in relation to the first issue above, the Forum is acutely aware that there is no access to other funding such as the Town Centres fund for improvements to the local infrastructure and believes this should be a factor in decisions relating to the allocation of mainstream and local regeneration budgets.

Concerns remain regarding the safety of pedestrians and road users in Glenmanor Road, Moodiesburn and Chryston Road, Muirhead due to bus stops located opposite junctions, not set back in laybys and one in Chryston Road being used as a terminus opposite a junction.

The Forum awaits a response to its request that the LAP initiates a meeting of all public transport operators in the area and Strathclyde Partnership for Transport to prepare a Public Transport Development Plan for the North Area of North Lanarkshire.

### Community Forum Meetings

The next Meeting of the Northern Corridor Community Forum is on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> November at 7.30pm in the Pivot Community Education Centre, Moodiesburn

**For further information on the Community Forum, or the contents of this report please contact: Marvyn Mackay on 07795 362697 or e-mail:- [secretary.sdcc@gmail.com](mailto:secretary.sdcc@gmail.com)**