

NORTHERN CORRIDOR COMMUNITY FORUM

C/o The Pivot Community Education Centre, Glenmanor Avenue, Moodiesburn G69 0DX

Northern Corridor Community Forum

Minutes of meeting held 16th October 2012

at Steps Cultural Centre



No.	ITEM	ACTION
1.	<p>Attendance:</p> <p>Marvyn MacKay (Steps and District Community Council) Chair Cath Paton (Spark Initiative – Honey Pot Nursery) John Barr (1st Chryston Boys Brigade) Rosalyn Griffith (North Lanarkshire Council) Norman Lancaster (Muirhead Seniors) Alastair Moodie (Auchinloch Community Council) June McHugh (Pivot Writers Club) F. McGlinchey (NLC) P. Ferrie (St Barbara’s Youth Club) B. O’Neil (St Barbara’s Youth Club) E. Adams (Resident) Angus Yule (Resident) Fiona Yule (Resident) Peter Shalley (Resident) Debbie Kane (Resident) David Daugh (Resident) Gavin Whitefield (NLC) Jacqueline Marshall (Voluntary Action North Lanarkshire)</p>	
2.	<p>Apologies:</p> <p>George McArthur Bill Somerville (Steps & District Community Council)</p>	
3.	<p>Welcome & Introduction</p> <p>Marvyn welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending. Marvyn introduced Gavin Whitefield who was in attendance to give a presentation on NLC budget savings options and to take questions after the presentation. All questions which were asked are listed within item 5 of the minutes.</p>	
4.	<p>Minutes of Previous meeting:</p> <p>The minutes of the meeting held on 21st August 2012 were approved. Proposed: John Barr Seconded: Norman Lancaster</p>	

5.

Presentation on NLC Budget Savings Options:

Gavin Whitefield, Chief Executive, North Lanarkshire Council gave a presentation on the Budget Savings Options 2013/16 which were under consideration by the Council and were currently out for consultation to the end of October and into November possibly. No decisions would be reached until after the responses had been collated and analysed. A further Report would be submitted to Council at its December when then the decisions would be made.

After the presentation the following questions were raised by members of the Forum and local residents who were in attendance.

1. Why are NLC targeting vulnerable people, with the closure of two residential homes?

Gavin mentioned that this is not the Council's intention and all options discussed tonight are only recommendations. He added that the needs of every individual client will be assessed.

2. Closure of the First Stop Shop in Moodiesburn, this is one of the biggest villages in Scotland.

Gavin advised members that this is only an option and recognised that the closure of this will have a big impact on residents.

3. What population of residents have access to internet in North Lanarkshire?

Gavin replied that approximately 75-80% of residents have access to the internet. It was then asked how the NLC will monitor the process and if the Council will be holding public meetings in all areas. Gavin said that NLC will do its best to attend any group in North Lanarkshire which requested a presentation. Once consultations are complete in November, equality impact assessments and risk assessments will take place for the final Report and these will be made available. This Report will include a summary, collation and analysis from all consultations.

4. It is important to make this information more readily accessible. The Northern Corridor doesn't have a local newspaper. The Northern Corridor is losing out substantially, with the closure of the proposed closure of a care home. Suggested making the care home into sheltered housing. Discussed the closure of the First Stop Shop and the transport issues between Stepps and Moodiesburn. Also discussed the possibilities of children not getting to school and losing out due to the dreadful bus services within these two areas. What will be the consequences as an outcome of the proposals?

Gavin mentioned that £105.7million will be saved if the options go ahead and that all of the above will fall into the 36% savings for service

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prioritisation. Citizens need to make their voices heard whilst consultations are currently taking place, offices are within town centres etc.

5. Is there anyway council would collect payments and co-ordinate the provision of school buses if parents were prepared to pay for the service?

Gavin said that this suggestion had been considered previously and the Council had concluded it was not feasible or cost effective and that really such a solution should lie in the hands of community groups etc.

6. It was suggested that strategic re-balancing is needed and NLC are not interested in Northern Corridor and its needs.

7. Collection of garden waste, recycling of food waste.

Gavin mentioned that food waste will be collected weekly and separately. The council has been given strict and challenging targets regarding recycling set by the Scottish Government and with penalties for not meeting these. .

8. Change to bin collections to a 7 day operation and the possible early morning times of collection particularly at weekends.

Gavin said that the change to times will be appropriate in relation to not causing noise at disturbance at such times.

9. In terms of property valuations, when will there be a re-calculation on the value of property?

Gavin said that this was matter for the Scottish Government and as mentioned in the booklet there was also the council tax freeze in place which affected the Council's income.

10. What percentage of people pay council tax?

Gavin replied that 98% of council tax is collected, 60% of residents have housing benefit and 40% of residents pay full council tax.

Marvyn Mackay said that he would like to clarify the statement that had

	<p>been made regarding the population of Moodiesburn since it was inaccurate. Moodiesburn is just one of a number of communities in the Northern Corridor which comprise Ward 5, Strathkelvin of North Lanarkshire Council. This Ward is by far the largest in North Lanarkshire with a population of 22,000 making it more than 10% larger than any other Ward. As far as he was concerned, it was unacceptable that local services were being removed and relocated out with the area since this was unfair and disadvantageous to such a sizeable population which required an investment in locally based services. Given the well-publicised difficulties of public transport it was unrealistic to expect local residents to have to travel to other centres. What was needed was a centre for all local services based in the heart of area such as Chryston/Muirhead which was accessible from all parts of the Northern Corridor and with all public service agencies working out of the same base, there would be economies of scale. In regard to Chiltern's Care Home, far from proposing to close this resource and relocating services for older people out with the area, there should be an investment by the Council and the NHS in a community hub of services for older people using the money that is available to both agencies from Reshaping Care for Older People.</p> <p>Gavin mentioned that the quality of community services would have to be looked at and analyse how people access these facilities and if they are being used appropriately or being disadvantaged. With so many more people now using computers and other forms of technology to access services through the internet, a physical presence in all areas was becoming less essential.</p> <p>Marvyn Mackay thanked Gavin for attending the meeting, giving a very detailed presentation of the Budget Savings Options 2013/16 and for answering all the questions raised.</p> <p>Gain Whitefield thanked the Forum for making the arrangements and said he would stay to hear the rest of the business of the meeting.</p>	
6.	<p>Matters Arising:</p> <p>(1) Re-Shaping Care for Older People:</p> <p>Marvyn said as Chair of the Forum he had been invited to be a member of the consortium which looks at bids/applications submitted by voluntary organisations for funding from the Reshaping Care for Older People Budget. The second round of applications are scheduled to be submitted by January/February 2013. Such applications are submitted to help enhance the well-being of older people and develop existing services, not to maintain existing services. Rosalyn discussed with members the lack of joint partnership in the first round of applications submitted. A discussion took place regarding the Beacon Bus and the lack of drivers which meant the bus was underused. The group could consider a bid for paying to have more persons trained as drivers.</p>	

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(2) Beautiful North Lanarkshire:

Marvyn reported that Bill has had difficulty contacting Keith Vernon. Rosalyn said that an Officer needs to be identified. A discussion took place regarding Gartcosh which seems to have more success in such enterprises, It was noted that it has more volunteers and community groups helping out than other parts of the Northern Corridor and it does not think it needs to be involved in the Forum.

(3) Local Area Team Action Plan:

A meeting requires to be arranged with representatives of the Community Forums since it a long time since the first meeting and the plan needs further input from the Forums.

(4) Health Funding 2012/13:

Marvyn advised that the progress report for the expenditure of the £5000 funding is required by Monday 22nd October. It was noted that the Forum are struggling to spend £5000 this time due to having no major events. A discussion took place regarding one off events which the Forum has previously funded. Cath referred to the Forum's contribution to allow a first aid course to be held. She asked if the Forum would be willing to donate £500 to enable another course to run this year. This was agreed.

(5) Paths and rights of way project:

The paths which had been identified for upgrade by the Community Payback Scheme had not been on Council land and therefore the scheme could not undertake the work. Gavin suggested that the Council's Greenspace Team might be able assist with the work on the paths and the Access Project with the work on the maps.

(6) Crime Prevention Panel:

The Panel has not met for many months, however information was provided at the last Local Area Partnership meeting that a new crime prevention officer has been appointed and that information regarding a meeting date would be sent out in due course. .

	<p>(7) Fuel Poverty Event 06-10-12:</p> <p>Marvyn reported that the event was poorly attended; however there were plenty of stall holders which included NHS, NLC, Police and Scottish Hydro. Rosalyn said that she had received information from Scottish Hydro to the effect that one resident who attended the event is now on a better tariff and saving money. Norman suggested that short notice was provided about the event and that Saturday morning wasn't a good day or time for holding such an event. It was noted that the Forum lost two weeks of publicity due to the printers not delivering the leaflets on time. The Forum agreed to consider hold a similar event again and will look at holding the event in the Cultural Centre.</p> <p>(8) Local Area Partnership:</p> <p>The report submitted to the last LAP was circulated to members. It was mentioned that Regeneration projects are being reviewed. SPT have been invited to attend the next LAP meeting to discuss wider transport issues. Rosalyn to contact First bus again regarding attendance at a meeting of the Forum. Rosalyn added that at the last Community Forum network meeting it was suggested that all community forums should produce a report on the transport issues in its area to enable a fuller picture to be presented to the relevant authorities and service providers. Gavin suggested that such a Report should be submitted to the North Lanarkshire Partnership Board which could consider what action to take.</p>	
7.	<p>Chairpersons Report:</p> <p>Marvyn reported that Bill Somerville had attended a seminar organised by the NLP regarding "Making Consultations Work" in September and found the event very useful and informative.</p> <p>Health Managers have asked the Forum to be part of the "See me Pledge" to help reduce the stigma attached to mental health. The Forum would engage with at least one local business which would be invited willing to take part in the pledge. The Forum agreed to become involved and to sign the pledge. John suggested that Alistair should be involved in the approach to Devro.</p> <p>Marvyn mentioned that he and Bill had attended the launch of the North Lanarkshire Annual Performance Report on 4th October in the refurbished Motherwell Concert Hall.</p> <p>North Lanarkshire News is now available in local Libraries, thanks to the community engagement team.</p> <p>A leaflet had been received from the police regarding unsafe Fireworks which were being sold in the area.</p>	
8.	<p>Treasurers Report:</p> <p>£1329.74 in account as of 7th October</p> <p>The position of treasurer remains vacant.</p>	

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	<p>It was noted that training is provided via VANL for any member who wishes to take the position of treasurer.</p>	
9.	<p>Secretary's Report:</p> <p>Norman reported that on the Moodiesburn Development Trust and how the village park design is now complete and work is scheduled to begin in Spring. Norman also attended a meeting a Voice of Experience.</p>	
10.	<p>Report from NHS Lanarkshire PPF:</p> <p>No Report available.</p>	
11.	<p>Report on Community Forums Network meeting:</p> <p>Next meeting is scheduled to take place in November. The main issue discussed was Community Transport.</p> <p>LAP Regeneration Fund are considering on providing £11,500 from NLC towards the play park at Stepps. Marvyn said that £200k has been raised by a local group over two years. Designs for the play park are currently being considered by NLC for a start in 2013.</p>	
12.	<p>AOCB:</p> <p>No matters raised</p>	
13.	<p>Date of next meeting:</p> <p>Tuesday 27th November 2012 @ 7.30pm venue TBA</p> <p>It was suggested that the Forum should consider holding meetings in Chryston and Auchinloch. Roslyn was asked to check availability of Auchinloch for the next meeting.</p>	Rosalyn