

Cumbernauld  
Community Forum  
Minutes

AGENDA ITEM No. 3(a)

**Date of Meeting:** 9<sup>th</sup> October 2012

**Venue:** Cumbernauld College,  
Cumbernauld

No.	Item	Action
1.	<p><b>Present:</b></p> <p>Billy Lees – Cumbernauld Community Forum (Chair)            Christine McNeil – Women’s Watershed Group            Elizabeth Dunphy – Unemployed Workers            David Cooke - Y.M.C.A.            John M King – Etive Neighbourhood Watch            Donald Masteron – Diabetes Group            Alex Clark – Seafar &amp; Ravenswood Community Council            Carol Robb – Carbrain Learning Trust            Gerald Murphy – NLAP            Peter Murphy – NLAP            Maureen Davidson – FOC            Iain Davidson – FOC            R. Lees – Westfield Community Council            Jackie Cowx – FCC            Alan Sneddon – Condorrat Community Council            Alice Homer – Carbrain Hillcrest Community Council            Iain Sinclair – Cumbernauld YMCA            Wilma Knox – CHP Tenants Forum            Lesley Anne McHale – Woodlands Parent Council            Christine Nevitt – Woodlands Parent Council            B. Chadha            P. Miller – Resident            Pamela Smith – Cumbernauld Food Co-Op            Lesley Davidson – Resident            Lisa Scott – Resident            Marion Cochrane – Resident Kilsyth            Margaret – Resident Kilsyth            Mary Quinn – Resident Kilsyth            Michelle – Resident Cumbernauld</p> <p><b>In attendance:</b></p> <p>Gavin Whitefield – NLC            Pauline Nicholas - NLC            Rosalyn Griffith - NLC            Jacqueline Marshall - (Minutes) V.A.N.L.</p> <p>The Chair welcomed all members to the meeting. A presentation was presented to members from Chief Executive Gavin Whitefield regarding NLC budget saving options. The Forum postponed its ordinary agenda until next meeting.</p> <p><b>Apologies:</b></p> <p>R. Cadden Westfield Community Council            G. Cadden – Westfield Community Council            David McArthur – Now Your Talking</p>	

Liz Graham  
Janice Crawford  
Robert Johnston  
Jack Banks  
Cllr Hogg  
Cllr Goldie  
Adam Smith  
Barney Kinsler  
Mike Ogden

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## 2. **Presentation: Gavin Whitefield**

Presentation was presented to attendees, which was followed by a question and answer session. Please find below the questions and answers which members asked Gavin Whitefield after the presentation.

- Alan – discussed the concerns with two proposals, one being the charge for blue badges and community alarms. Alan thinks that £3.50 per week is more reasonable than £5 per week. Alan also thinks that NLC are targeting the vulnerable.  
Gavin mentioned that he will take these concerns back, and make the appropriate staff aware of these concerns for feedback before final decisions. Gavin also mentioned that the majority of councils already charge for community alarms. The proposal for charging for blue badges is to help recover the cost of processing such badges.
- Iain – Closure of Abronhill High School, meeting to be held on 24<sup>th</sup> October where a bigger venue is required as the meeting could receive approx 500/600 people, however the venue only holds 400.  
Gavin mentioned that these concerns will be taken back to the Education department.
- Iain Sinclair – discussed supporting accommodation and how it cost £150k to make Cumbernauld YMCA safe, also the building was rated, Two, when NLC Health & Safety carried out its checks of the premises.  
Gavin advised Iain that there are ongoing provisions which continue to be adequate and that the best option is for Cumbernauld YMCA premises to be brought back to NLC. Gavin mentioned that Cumbernauld YMCA provides an excellent service and that the concerns regarding the premises are currently in the hands of Stuart McCrae and that legal matters are ongoing.  
Iain mentioned that Cumbernauld YMCA helps approx 70 people, and is aware that NLC send potential clients out with Cumbernauld area. The level of service in which the YMCA provides will be unable to continue if the cuts to voluntary organisations go ahead. Also Iain thinks that the YMCA is being punished for its success. It is nationally proven that the Young Achiever of the year is from Cumbernauld.  
Gavin mentioned that it is important that potential

clients receive local care.

- It was asked if the proposals shown in the presentation are decide proposals or is the council open to ideas/opinions from residents?  
Gavin mentioned that the council are open to ideas and opinions.  
Residents are concerned that it's the lower end of the spectrum that's being targeted and suggested the council should find organisations/ people at the higher end to target.
- Alice mentioned her concerns with homecare and how she doesn't qualify for homecare as he son lives at home with her, even although she depends on family and friends for help.  
Gavin mentioned that a review on homecare took place a few years ago, once a care package was in place, fair assessments of the requirements of the clients is required to be carried out before leaving the hospital.
- One resident discussed the help the YMCA provided to him 20years, and if it wasn't for the YMCA he wouldn't be here today.
- Gordon Wright discussed his concerns with Council tax and how it seems that presentation is only referring to council houses and not private. Also discussed how the infrastructure does not support the new 400 houses in Westerwood.  
Gavin mentioned that planning processes consider all factors; there will be a saving of £1.2million over three years, which will effect all accommodations, not only council property. Gavin also mentioned that 1000 new houses will be built between now and 2020, plus 2900 new private houses are being built at Ravenscraig.
- Billy discussed the amount of new houses being built around Cumbernauld, but the reductions are being made to schools, where are children meant to go?  
Gavin advised members that a lot of work is carried out to look at the capacity of schools before decisions are made.
- Lesley Davidson discussed her concerns with the merge of Cumbernauld and Abronhill High School and asked why this being carried out as soon as August 2013, she feels that the decision has already been made. Lesley also discussed concerns over the disruptions this will cause, e.g. moving into a new school, introduction of new teachers, new exams and new curriculum.
- Concerns with Cumbernauld primary school and how the premises are not big enough and how porta cabins are still being used nine years on. The school is over crowed and due to this the children are allocated 15mins lunch break due to 3 dinner services.

	<p>Gavin mentioned that lessons have been learned and hopes such issues will not be repeated.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Donald discussed his concerns over the proposal for 600 new building; Donald would like the figures to be looked at and also the amount of young families moving in Abronhill. Why can't both North &amp; South Lanarkshire come together to provide stationery etc to help save money. Gavin mentioned that there are systems in place and Scotland Excel provide the best services for providing stationery for schools.</li> <li>• A discussion took place regarding the consultation document, where it was asked what happens if the new build doesn't go ahead, giving the impression that the schools are currently in-adequate, unsafe and not fit for the purpose for current curriculum. Gavin mentioned that the council has had to prioritise throughout the process and there are no intensions on calling a halt or to leave any schools not benefiting from what newly built schools have achieved.</li> <li>• Allison asked what the absolute key services are that will be effecting every day to day life. Gavin mentioned that the key services were mentioned within the presentation and that the council needs to consider either reducing services or stopping services altogether.</li> <li>• Billy mentioned that he hopes the planning proposals for Morrison's goes ahead and hopes the plans don't get scrapped.</li> </ul>	
3.	<p><b>Chairperson's Remarks:</b> Due to the time taken to discuss the consultation the rest of the agenda will be carried forward to the next meeting</p>	
15.	<p><b>Date of next meeting:</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> November @ 7pm Cumbernauld College</b></p>	