

Northern Corridor Community Forum

Report to Local Area Partnership 17th January 2013

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, Moodiesburn Community Development Trust, Voice of Experience, Reshaping Care for Older People Consortium 'SeeMe' Campaign and the Community Forums Network.

At the meeting of the Forum held on Tuesday 16th October, Mr Gavin Whitefield, Chief Executive gave a presentation on the Council's Budget proposals for 2013 – 2016, heard the views of local residents and answered questions relating to these proposals. The Forum subsequently submitted its comments as part of the consultation process expressing its opposition to the proposed closure of Chilterns Care Home, the One-Stop Shop in Moodiesburn, the changes in the rules regarding free school travel, the charging for the community alarm service and the ending of the provision of Festive Lights in local communities.

The Forum agreed to sign up to the national 'SeeMe' Campaign which seeks to end the stigma attached to people with mental ill health by hopefully working with local businesses and employers to promote fair and equal treatment of such people in recruitment and in the workplace. The Forum, along with the Cumbernauld and Kilsyth Forums, will be signing up to the 'SeeMe' pledge at a Ceremony to be held in Cumbernauld Town Hall on Tuesday 29th January 2013 at 7.00pm. Local partners are invited to attend his event.

The North Lanarkshire Access Forum has offered the Forum assistance and support with the mapping of the public rights of way and footpaths in the area. These maps and descriptions would then be published and distributed in the local area to encourage greater use of these paths and their upgrade and maintenance by local landowners

Issues for consideration of the LAP

For the past year the Forum has experienced considerable difficulty in engaging with and becoming involved in the Beautiful North Lanarkshire initiative. It would welcome suggestions and support from its partners as to how the Northern Corridor might be enabled to participate more fully in the programme for 2013.

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 22,000+, 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.

Community Forum Meetings

The next Meeting of the Northern Corridor Community Forum is on Tuesday 15th January 2013 at 7.30pm in the Chryston Cultural Centre.

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