

NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL

REPORT

To: Bellshill and District Area Committee	Subject: Bellshill Community Forum Minute
From: Chief Executive	
Date: 27 November 1998 Ref: CE012/023/004B	

1.0 Purpose

1.1 The purpose of this report is to submit the minute of the Bellshill Community Forum meeting 15 October 1998 to the Area Committee. The minute is attached as Appendix 1 to this report.

2.0 Recommendation

2.1 Bellshill and District Area Committee is requested to note the Bellshill Community Forum minute.

P. Sandie Meekay

Chief Executive

**MINUTE OF MEETING OF BELLSHILL COMMUNITY FORUM HELD IN
BELLSHILL ACADEMY ON THURSDAY 15 OCTOBER 1998**

PRESENT: J Gardiner, Community councils' representative;
S Toyer, Women's groups' representative;
I Wotherspoon, East area representative;
C Kennedy, East area representative; and,
J McLellan, East area representative.

IN ATTENDANCE: J Lees, Chief Executive's Department.

APOLOGIES: T Leggat; E Davidson;
W Foy; M Hendry;
D Robertson; J Gilmour;
K MacPhee; Councillor K McKeown;
C Crawford; and, G Holland.

1) WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

Miss Lees opened the meeting, welcomed those present and thanked everyone for attending. Given that this was the first meeting attended by Mrs Wotherspoon, Mrs Kennedy and Mr McLellan, founder Forum members introduced themselves and Miss Lees explained the background and aims of the Community Forum in some detail.

2) APPROVAL OF MINUTE OF MEETING OF 27 AUGUST 1998

The minute was proposed as correct by Ms Toyer and seconded by Mr Gardiner.

3) MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTE

i) Database of Bellshill Community Organisations

It was agreed to defer this item to the end of the meeting.

ii) Public Footpath: Cairnlea Gardens to Sapphire Road

Miss Lees circulated a briefing note prepared by the Planning and Development Department and outlining the reasons behind the closure of the former public footpath in Orbiston and the consultation undertaken by the Department prior to closure of the footpath. After discussion Forum members agreed that the path had been closed after adequate public consultation and it was agreed not to pursue this matter further.

4) COMMUNITY FORUM MEMBERSHIP

Miss Lees advised the Forum that she had received three further Nominations from local people interested in serving on the Community Forum :

Ms Gladys Cunningham; Mrs Margaret Macdonald; and Ms Rosemary McCarey.

Community Forum members agreed that all Nominees should be invited to join the Forum and Miss Lees agreed to contact them.

5) MINUTE OF BELLSHILL AREA COMMITTEE MEETING OF 10 SEPTEMBER 1998

i) Area Committee Title

The Community Forum agreed to change its name to Bellshill and District Community Forum in recognition of a similar decision taken by the Area Committee. Thereafter the Area Committee minute was noted.

6) INDICATION OF AGENDA ITEMS TO BE CONSIDERED BY AREA COMMITTEE

The Community Forum noted those items likely to be considered by the Area Committee at its meeting on 29 October 1998.

7) NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL REVIEW OF DECENTRALISATION SCHEME

Miss Lees informed the Forum that the Council was currently undertaking a review of its Decentralisation Scheme after its first year of operation. She advised that the Council would welcome comments from the Community Forum members on the progress to date in establishing the Community Forum and links with the Area Committee.

After discussion members agreed that they would wish to emphasise the following points:

- i) The Community Forum had been successfully established with sufficient members to ensure its momentum and continued progress;
- ii) It was recognised that there was an open invitation for the Community Forum members both to attend Area Committee meetings and participate in the discussion on Agenda Items. Members highlighted that the Forum required greater publicity in order to bring it to the attention and knowledge of local people who could in turn use the Forum as a channel to bring issues and suggestions to the attention of the Council.
- iii) The Forum emphasised that effective and open consultation should be promoted between the Community Forum and Area Committee. In particular it was suggested that the Forum should have clear information on Council budgets and resources deployed within the Bellshill area to enable them to make informed and meaningful suggestions and recommendations.
- iv) Members agreed that the Community Forum should not be allowed to develop into merely a "talking shop" and it was recognised that the Forum will require to earn recognition and credibility within the wider community once it has proven its effectiveness and worth.

8) DATABASE OF BELLSHILL COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS

Miss Lees circulated copies of the database of community and voluntary organisations within the Bellshill area and she requested members to advise her of any amendments including details of any new organisations to be included or former organisations to be deleted. Miss Lees requested members to maintain the confidentiality of those organisations listed on the database given that many of the contact addresses were office bearers' home addresses.

It was agreed to continue this item to the next meeting for further action.

9) TIMETABLE OF FUTURE MEETINGS

The following timetable of Community Forum meetings was agreed:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Venue</u>
Thursday 26 November 1998 at 7.30pm	Bellshill Academy Staff Room
Thursday 21 January 1999 at 7.30pm	Bellshill Academy Staff Room
Thursday 4 March 1999 at 7.30pm	Bellshill Academy Staff Room
Thursday 15 April 1999 at 7.30pm	Bellshill Academy Staff Room