

NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL

REPORT

To: BELLSHILL AND DISTRICT AREA COMMITTEE	Subject: BELLSHILL AND DISTRICT COMMUNITY FORUM
From: LIAISON DIRECTOR	
Date: 16 JUNE 2000	Ref: RM/ALT

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to update the Area Committee on the progress towards the re-establishment of the Bellshill and District Community Forum.

2.0 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 At the Bellshill and District Area Committee meetings of 23 March and 23 May 2000 Committee requested that the Liaison Director bring forward reports on the ongoing process towards development of the Community Forum.

3.0 PROGRESS

- 3.1 As a result of the Forum meeting of 4 May 2000 a number of matters have been progressed. All Forum members were written to and requested to give clear indication on whether they were in a position to continue involvement with the Forum. From eighteen letters sent, ten positive responses were received.
- 3.2 As a follow up, the Liaison Director placed a notice in the local press giving indication of the re-establishment of the Forum and the availability of places to local groups and organisations.
- 3.3 The Forum held its latest meeting on Thursday 15 June to which nine Forum members attended, as well as a representative of a local organisation, in response to the press notice.
- 3.4 A note of the Forum meeting is attached as appendix 1.

4.0 FUTURE DIRECTION

- 4.1 The Forum representatives again raised concern about the lack of representation from areas outwith central Bellshill, namely Holytown, Newarthill, Tannochside, Viewpark and Birkenshaw.
- 4.2 Direct contact with groups and organisations in these areas will be made by Community Services to encourage participants to attend the Community Forum.
- 4.3 To support this elected members for these areas are requested to highlight the role of the Community Forum to groups with whom they have contact.

5.0 FORUM ROLE

- 5.1 Agreement was reached at the meeting on the remit of the Forum and its role in raising issues and matters of interest with both the Area Team and Area Committee.
- 5.2 It is anticipated that, as was practice previously, notes of Forum meetings and Area Committee minutes would be exchanged. Forum members will attend Area Committee meetings on a regular basis and, it was suggested that the Forum should have a standing item on the agenda of Area Committee meetings.
- 5.3 Forum members have arranged a further meeting for Thursday 13 July at which matters relating to Forum membership, the draft constitution, future issues, for consideration by the Forum and office bearer roles will all be considered.
- 5.4 As a result of this meeting it is intended to present a note and a report to the next meeting of the Area Committee.

6.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6.1 It is recommended that Committee
- a) notify groups and organisations within the areas highlighted in para 4.1 of this report of the availability of places on the Community Forum;
 - b) consider the content of the attached note of the Community Forum meeting and comment as appropriate;
 - c) approve a standing item on the agenda of the Area Committee;
 - d) request that the Liaison Director produce a report on the ongoing development of the Community Forum to a future Area Committee; and
 - e) otherwise note the content of this report.



Liaison Director

Note of meeting of Bellshill Community Forum on Thursday 15 June 2000 at Bellshill Academy.

In attendance: T Leggate, J Gilmour, J Gardiner, G Williams, W Foy, S Toyer,
C Wotherspoon, M MacDonald, M Walker, R McHarg, A Law.

Introduction

Robert thanked everyone for their attendance and outlined progress since the meeting of 4 May 2000.

As instructed at the last meeting Robert had written to all on the Forum mailing list to request further information on whether members were in a position to continue involvement. Ten positive responses from eighteen letters sent had been received.

As a follow up to this the Department of Community Services placed a notice in the local newspaper indicating the availability of places at the Forum. This had resulted in the attendance of Mr Wotherspoon from Dual Tenants Association at the meeting.

Issues to be Clarified

The group agreed that there were two issues which require action before the Forum was in a position to progress, these were

- 1) Representation from areas beyond Bellshill i.e. Holytown, Newarthill, Viewpark, Tannochside.
- 2) Clarify on the role of the Community Forum and its relationship with the Area Committee.

The group expressed the view that unless the areas highlighted were represented there was a danger of only the central Bellshill area being represented and discussion being skewed. It was agreed that (a) Robert would make direct contact with groups and organisations in these areas to encourage representation and (b) as part of the report to the Bellshill and District Area Committee, elected members would be requested to encourage groups in these areas to participate.

The Group agreed that notes of meetings and agenda items should continue to be shared between the Forum and Area Committee.

Future Role

The suggestion was made that the Forum needs to have a number of issues of substance to 'get it's teeth into'.

Tom Leggate suggested that planning issues could be considered by the Forum, it was not felt that this would undermine the role of Community Councils.

Gary Williams highlighted an issue relating to the demolition and redevelopment of the Mossend Shopping area. It was suggested that the plans and proposals of this should be

considered by the Area Committee – the group agreed to this and Robert indicated that he would follow this up.

Robert reminded the Forum that at any stage members of the Area Team for the Bellshill and District could be requested to attend Forum meetings and give input on any Council matter.

Two further matters were raised which Robert will follow up on behalf of the group:

- a) Does North Lanarkshire Council have a legal obligation to maintain footpaths to a certain standard, and
- b) Can we request the attendance of the Sergeant responsible for community policing in Bellshill for regular updates.

It was also emphasised that it was important for the Forum to have a standing item on the agenda of the Area Committee, this will be highlighted in the report on the Forum to be presented to committee on 27 June.

The group agreed to meet again in four weeks at which time the following matters will be discussed:

- i) Wider membership of the Forum
- ii) Office bearers
- iii) Future issues for the Forum
- iv) Draft Constitution

The date, time and venue of the next meeting are:

Thursday 13 July
at 7pm
in Bellshill Cultural Centre, Multi-Purpose room.