

REPORT

To: BELLSHILL AND DISTRICT AREA COMMITTEE	Subject: BELLSHILL AND DISTRICT COMMUNITY FORUM
From: DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES	
Date: 1 SEPTEMBER 2000	Ref: CS001\040\001

1.0 INTRODUCTION

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

2.0 BACKGROUND

2.1 At previous meetings of the Bellshill and District Area Committee on 23 March, 23May and 27 June 2000, members were updated on progress towards the establishment of the Bellshill and District Community Forum.

2.2 At the meeting of the Area Committee of 27 June 2000, members agreed that the Community Forum would be a standing item on the agenda of future Area Committees.

3.0 PROGRESS

3.1 The Community Forum held its latest meetings on Thursday 13 July and Thursday 24 August 2000, and made progress on a number of outstanding matters. A copy of the minutes of these meetings are appended as Annex 1. Attention is drawn to items 3, 4, and 5 of the minute which may be of particular interest to members.

3.2 The Forum has now redrafted and adopted its constitution and elected a number of office-bearers.

3.3 The forum has agreed to meet on a six weekly cycle, two weeks prior to Area Committee meetings and to share notes and agendas of meetings with the Area Committee.

3.4 As was previous practice the Forum has requested that members continue to receive agendas and minutes of Area Committee meetings

3.5 The Forum has identified a number of agenda items which will be actioned in the coming months

4.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

4.1 It is recommended that the Committee note the contents of this report, consider the issues raised and comment as appropriate.


LIAISON DIRECTOR

AMENDED NOTE**Note of meeting of Bellshill Community Forum on Thursday 13 July 2000 at Bellshill Cultural Centre.**

In attendance: Robert McHarg (Department of Community Services), Colin Wotherspoon, John Gilmour, Alex Law, Mary Hendry, Gary Williams, Ken Ryan, Willie Foy, Sandra Toyer, Tom Leggate MBE, Rosemary McCarey.

1. Introduction

Robert thanked everyone for their attendance, and welcomed Ken Ryan from the Thorniewood Credit Union, who was new to the Forum and Mary Hendry, who had missed the last few meetings.

Robert outlined progress since the last meeting as follows:

- a) All community and voluntary groups covering the Holytown, Newarthill, Viewpark and Tannochside areas had been contacted and requested to participate as part of the Bellshill and District Forum. Only one response had been received which has resulted in the attendance of the Thorniewood Credit Union.
- b) The role of the Community Forum was clarified as being as wide as the group wished. A few examples of potential issues were highlighted, including the proposed development of the Mossend Shopping area, national matters that had a local impact and proposed developments or initiatives by the local authority.
- c) At the Area Committee meeting of 27 June 2000 Elected Members had been requested to contact groups within their wards to encourage participation at the Forum.
- d) Mossend Shopping Centre – Proposals for redevelopment. Robert was able to inform the group that following the last Forum meeting at which the above matter had been raised he had received some information from the Planning and Environment Department. This would be copied and distributed to all Forum members (attached).
It was suggested that an input from the department would assist in clarifying the matter. The group agreed and Robert indicated that he would raise the matter with the Liaison Director, Mr Jukes.

2. Draft Constitution

Following some discussion on the membership of the Forum the group considered the draft constitution and any amendments required.

Under sections 1, (Name of Group) and 2, Objectives of the Forum no changes were made.

At Section 3, Membership the group clarified who was representing which particular aspect as follows:

- Young People – Gary Williams
- Elderly – Tom Leggate

- Pre-5's + Children – No representative
- Disabled People – Mary Hendry
- Community Safety – John Gilmour
- Community Development Organisations – Rosemary McCarey
- Community Councils – Jim Gardiner
- Women's Groups – Sandra Toyer
- Churches/Religious Organisations – Margaret Walker
- Information and Advice – Stephen Rees
- Organisations for people from Ethnic Minorities – No representative.

It was suggested that in the absence of Stephen Rees the Bellshill C.A.B. should be contacted and asked to nominate another representative – Robert will follow this up.

Three places were still available for local people who were not associated with any particular member group, organisation or area. The suggestion was made that if members knew of interested individuals their name, address etc. should be passed to Robert who would send appropriate information to them.

In terms of area representation one representative from the West area has been identified – Ken Ryan from Thorniewood, from Central Willie Foy and Margaret Walker fill the places and at present there are no representatives from the East following the resignation of Mrs Wotherspoon.

The group agreed to add a final sentence to this section which states that;

“Membership will be reviewed on a regular basis.”

All other sections of the constitution remained unchanged, except for Section 9, Finance where an amendment was made to the sentence relating to signatories. This sentence will now read;

“Money may be withdrawn from the account on the signature of two of the four Office Bearers.”

A copy of the amended constitution is enclosed.

3. The matter of office bearer roles was considered, and the following agreement reached;

<u>Chairperson</u> Tom Leggate	<u>Proposer</u> Willie Foy	<u>Seconder</u> Alex Law
<u>Secretary</u> Sandra Toyer	<u>Proposer</u> Willie Foy	<u>Seconder</u> Rosemary McCarey
<u>Vice Chair</u> John Gilmour	<u>Proposer</u> Colin Wotherspoon	<u>Seconder</u> Alex Law
<u>Press and Publicity</u> Gary Williams	<u>Proposer</u> Colin Wotherspoon	<u>Seconder</u> Alex Law

As was previously agreed Margaret Walker was elected as Forum Treasurer.

It was agreed that an agenda will be drafted and distributed in advance of the next

Forum meeting but would include input on:

- Mossend Shopping Centre
- Policing in Bellshill
- Litter Collections
- Weeds in Roadways
- AOCB

4. **Date of Next Meeting**

Thursday 24 August 2000 at 7.00pm in Bellshill Cultural Centre.

BELLSHILL AND DISTRICT COMMUNITY FORUM

Note of meeting held on Thursday 24 August 2000 in Bellshill Cultural Centre.

PRESENT Tom Leggate; Colin Wotherspoon; Margaret Walker; Margaret MacDonald; Rosemary McCarey; Mary Hendry; Sgt. D Callander; Constable Carson; Ken Ryan; Willie Foy; Sandra Toyer; and, Robert McHarg.

APOLOGIES Gary Williams; John Gilmour; and, Alex Law

1.0 ADOPTION OF CONSTITUTION

Tom Leggate as chair thanked everyone for attending and opened the meeting by inviting forum members to adopt the 3rd draft constitution.

Mary Hendry requested a minor amendment to the wording used - shall being replaced by will, throughout the document as appropriate.

This was agreed to and with this change the adoption of the constitution was moved by Sandra Toyer and seconded by Margaret MacDonald.

The requested changes will be made and signed by the relevant office bearers at the next forum meeting.

2.0 POLICING IN BELLSHILL AND DISTRICT

Tom welcomed Sgt. Callander and Constable Carson resplendent with the new police mountain bikes purchased by the local crime prevention panel. The officers had been invited to attend this and future meetings of the forum to update on policing matters in the area.

Sgt. Callander reported that there was a continuing downward trend in crime in the area, a drop of 10.3% on the same period last year.

With reference to the mountain bikes Sgt. Callander informed the forum that there were now 6 in operation throughout the area in Newarthill, Bellshill, Viewpark and Holytown. New shift patterns had brought more officers onto the beat between the peak hours of 6.00pm and 3.00am, and the police were currently working with local licences to draw up a set of working practices for Bellshill.

The officers then answered some general concerns raised by forum members in relation to disturbances and sectarian graffiti.

3.0 MOSSEND RETAIL DEVELOPMENT

Robert circulated copies of a recent report and plan that had been considered at the council's planning and environment committee and detailed proposals for the redevelopment of the Mossend shopping centre. In the absence of a relevant officer

from the planning and environment department, Robert gave brief details based on a recent meeting with the planning officer responsible.

Although the proposals, in the main, are welcomed the main concern of forum members was that there was no prior consultation on this matter and the local community was finding out most information from the local press.

It was stressed that if there was to be a meaningful partnership between area committee and forum then any proposals or plans that service departments had for Bellshill should be remitted to the community forum for consideration and comment.

The chair agreed to write to the liaison director to raise this point and request that the matter is discussed with the area committee and area team members.

It was felt that proposals were at a stage that meant the forum still had an opportunity to comment on the relevant development stages, in particular traffic implications in the area. Robert will inform the liaison director – Paul Jukes of the chair's intention to write to him.

4.0 STRATHCLYDE COUNTRY PARK – STRATEGY REMIT

Amongst papers distributed in advance of the meeting was a report that had been considered at both the community services committee and Bellshill and District area committee. The papers had been remitted for information of the forum members and to offer the opportunity for comment.

A number of matters were discussed and clarity sought on geography and proposals. It was suggested that any issues could be raised at the area committee with the liaison director who had overall responsibility for the strategic development of the park.

5.0 LITTER COLLECTIONS\WEEDS IN ROADWAYS

Robert reported no progress in gathering information requested at the last forum meeting. He suggested that in addition to the issues raised above matters such as illegal dumping and dealing with broken glass should be considered.

Robert will attempt to have the relevant information in time for the next forum meeting.

6.0 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

The chair raised this subject as one which should be considered on a regular basis by the forum. A lengthy discussion ensued on this matter and Robert agreed to speak to the relevant manager within the planning section about this.

The discussion moved on the present situation with the erection of telephone masts across the area. Clarity was sought on the council's responsibilities and rights in this matter. Robert will follow this up and report to the next forum.

7.0 AOCB

Mary Hendry raised the issues of traffic management in North Road, which led to a length discussion on the matter. Sgt. Callander informed the forum that he is currently awaiting a traffic review for the area that would help to determine future priorities. As there was no other business the meeting was concluded.

8.0 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date and venue for the next meeting of the forum will be Thursday 12 October 2000, at 7.00pm in Bellshill Cultural Centre.