

NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL

REPORT

To: BELLSHILL & DISTRICT AREA COMMITTEE		Subject: COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES WITHIN THE BELLSHILL & DISTRICT AREA
From: AREA TEAM LEADER		
Date: 5 NOVEMBER 2001	Ref: KF/MB	

1.0 PURPOSE

1.1 The purpose of this report is to advise the committee of community initiatives, projects and events which have been undertaken and supported by Community Services within the Bellshill & District Area Committee area.

2.0 BACKGROUND

2.1 Free Swims Initiative

Free swims to juniors (under 16's) was held at the Sir Matt Busby SC, as well as all the other pools throughout North Lanarkshire, over the 9 day October school holiday period, similar to that held throughout the summer period. Junior swims during the October period rose by over 100% attracting over 1,000 more juniors to the pool when compared with the same period last year. Similarly, adult swims during the October period rose by 25% attracting over 300 more adults to the pool when compared with the same period last year. This scheme is likely to be repeated during the Christmas holiday period.

2.2 Bellshill Maternity Doll Collection

Bellshill Cultural Centre has recently been given the display case of dolls that many will remember situated in the front hall of Bellshill Maternity. Generations of families, their friends and other visitors have admired and appreciated it, using it to identify the different members and grades of staff working within the hospital.

The dolls were brought from Poland by Miss Sheelagh Bramley, who was Matron of the hospital when it was opened on 2 July 1962 by her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. The costumes were made by Mrs Margaret Milroy, who was the sewing room lady, using material from the actual uniforms worn by the staff. Mr Henning, who was the hospital joiner, made the hospital furniture in miniature. The dolls were dressed by Miss Bramley herself.

This is a fascinating collection and has already generated lots of interest.

2.3 Family Fun Days

Tuesday 16th and Thursday 18th October – Burnhead PS, Viewpark
 Sunday 21st October – Viewpark Community Education Centre

These family fun days gave parents the opportunity to bring their child and or children along to an activity and work together. Parents and children had the opportunity to take part in three different workshops, during the family fun days. The workshops offered were beginners sign language, arts and crafts, making big art games, dance, sports, fitness, cookery and team games.

Evaluations completed by participants indicated that both parents and children thoroughly enjoyed the experience.

2.4 Healthy Lifestyles Course

Tuesday Evenings	-	7.00pm – 9.00pm (2.10.01 - 21.11.01)
Wednesday Mornings	-	9.30am – 11.30am (3.10.01 - 22.11.01)
Wednesday Afternoons	-	1.10pm – 2.50pm (3.10.01- 22.11.01)

This seven-week course is running for parents of children attending Hozier Nursery School, Viewpark. The course is facilitated by the Home School Community Worker and the Community Nutritionist. This course identifies healthy lifestyles for parents and children. The topics covered are:-

- Nutrition
- Hygiene and food safety
- Importance of physical activity
- Stress and relaxation techniques

At present the course has around 15 people taking part.

2.5 'Talk While You Walk'

International Walk to School day – 2 October, 2001

A highly successful joint project was held on the above date to encourage children at Christ the King Primary, Holytown to walk to school, and to promote the benefits of doing so among local families. Christ the King Home School Link group (voluntary parent helpers) planned the project entitled 'Talk While You Walk' for which they received a small grant of £250 from the Health Promotion Department. Everyone worked together to achieve the final aim of encouraging as many people as possible to walk to school on October 2nd, and to think about changing to walking at least 2 days per week over the following term. School teaching staff, road safety department raised awareness of the health benefits and information leaflets were sent to parents. Children were asked to design a poster and parent helpers made bright fleece scarves for each child. Large banners for the playground gates were also made and cereal bars and drinks purchased. The response on the day was so positive that every child in the school walked all day was so positive that every child in the school walked all or part of the way that day!

A total of 150 scarves, drinks and cereal bars were handed out by enthusiastic parent helpers. The children loved the scarves, which hopefully will encourage them to wrap up and walk in colder weather. A full evaluation is currently taking place of this enjoyable day and parents and staff aim to work together to encourage the children to continue to walk at least twice a week to school. This was a day where partnership between home, school and local agencies really worked to achieve a very worthwhile aim.

2.6 Best Kept Gardens Competition

A total of 66 entries were received from within the Bellshill & Area Committee area and 9 Gold, 8 Silver and 9 Bronze Winners all received awards and were invited to attend the Award Ceremony at Civic Centre on 11 October, 2001. 15 of these award winners went forward to the Area Competition and Mr & Mrs Wilson of 32 Holmbrae Road were the South Area winners and attained the runner-up award in the Overall Competition.

2.7 Historical Gardens Foundation Prize 2001

In March, 2001 the Historic Gardens Foundation launched their United Kingdom competition for the restoration of an historically significant built structure in a Scottish Garden completed in the last five year.

A submission was prepared and submitted into the competition for the restoration work carried out at Viewpark Gardens, Uddingston by the Department of Community Services.

Following the judging process, the judges determined to award two 'Highly Commended' prizes additional to the first prize and the Council's submission achieved one of these. North Lanarkshire was the only local authority to win an award.

2.8 Carers' Resource Collection - Bellshill Cultural Centre

In recognition of their valuable work, a roadshow was recently organised for carers in the Bellshill area. As a special treat, carers were invited to indulge in a number of activities including aromatherapy, manicures, reflexology and relaxation techniques - and men could even get their hair cut! A number of advice clinics on welfare benefits were held as well as access to computer training. These free events were made available to carers at various venues in Orbiston, Mossend, Bellshill, Holytown and Tannochside, and have proved to be very popular with everyone who took part.

North Lanarkshire Provost Barry McCulloch launched the road show and opened a new Carers' Resource Library in Bellshill Cultural Centre, which contains a wide range of books and information for carers. It also includes books and guidance for children and young people who help care for close relatives. Subjects covered include most major illnesses such as caring for someone with cancer, Parkinson's, dementia etc and also practical advice and information such as how to obtain equipment and resources. Almost all of the collection is available for loan, with only a few titles being for reference only. All titles are accessible through the library catalogue. The Resource Library and Roadshow were funded from some of the monies allocated to the Council from the Scottish Executive to develop services for carers.

Bellshill Area Social work Team, in consultation with carers locally, decided to run the roadshow to thank local carers for their efforts and to set up the Resource Library as a permanent facility to support carers.

3.0 **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 3.1 That Committee note the content of this report.

